

Letter from James Colquhoun

WVP's 2.6 challenge in support of *Just a Drop*

Dear Friends and Supporters of Winsley Village Project,

First, we do hope that you and your friends/family are keeping well during these extraordinary times.

Secondly, as you know, we have had to cancel events on our fundraising programme but we have been in contact with our two charities - *Jamie's Farm* and *Just a Drop*. It is a particularly tough time for them and so I am taking the 'pop up' opportunity to engage in the 2.6 Challenge:

The 2.6 Challenge

To mark what would have been the London Marathon's 40th anniversary on Sunday linked to a massive fundraising moment, charities have come together and created the 2.6 Challenge as an alternative opportunity for the public to get involved.

WVP Funding Gap

Winsley Village Project has been supporting local charity **Jamie's Farm** and global charity **Just a Drop** for a while now and has recently made donations to both charities - £2,500 to the former, resulting in the addition of match funding and gift aid, and £2,600 to the latter. Unfortunately the Village Project has no more reserves in the bank and so is falling short by £500 for the hand dug well project in Las Jaguas, Nicaragua. The charity, however, in partnership with local agencies and government policy, very much wants to proceed as soon as possible with the scheme so that a new well with associated training and hygiene education can still be completed over the next few months - if funds permit.

Just a Drop

This charity is small and concentrates its effort on just 6 developing nations including Nicaragua. Its mission is to "deliver accessible, clean, safe water where it is needed most". It makes the point that the Coronavirus is "affecting everyone, everywhere, but imagine trying to defend yourself against the virus when you don't have access to hand-washing facilities or adequate sanitation". It explains how "if people already have long walks to fetch water for cooking, drinking and cleaning, they are unlikely to have enough water for regular hand-washing as well. A reliable source of water, close to people's homes, is therefore more essential than ever".

The WVP Challenge

At 11.00am on Sunday 26 April, I plan to walk up and down the public footpath adjacent to my house - 26 times and carrying 26 pints of water. It means that I will walk a total of 2.6 miles – not uncommon for those in the world searching out water - and hopefully raise some funds for the Nicaragua project. Social distancing and all current restrictions will of course apply.

Invitation to Sponsor

As a friend and supporter of WVP, I invite you to get involved with this particular challenge although I do understand that many calls are being made on everyone at this extremely difficult time. The fundraising page can be found on Just Giving by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/james-s-2-6-challenge506>

Further news will be shared in due course. Thank you for any support you would like to give.

Finally, we do look forward to resetting the Village Project once we get into new-normal times and ideally seeing you again at one event or another in the autumn.

Best Wishes,

James Colquhoun
Chair of Winsley Village Project Committee

24.04.2020