



Supporting livestock farmers in the Developing World

The VIVA Wheelers

The VIVA Wheelers are a group of cyclists of all ages and abilities who have raised over €220,000 for VIVA's projects worldwide with fundraising cycles in Vietnam (2005), Morocco (2007), the Burren (2009), Bantry (2010), Westport (2011), Dungarvan (2012) and the Glen of Aherlow (2013)

Join us on Facebook – just search for “VIVA Wheelers” and “like” us!



The Glen of Aherlow Bike 'n Hike

For 2013 the VIVA Wheelers headed for the beautiful Glen of Aherlow and the Galty Mountains. Our base for the weekend was the Cahir House Hotel in Cahir. On a beautiful sunny morning the cyclists cycled westwards through the Glen returning eastwards before breaking for lunch in the Aherlow House Hotel which offers panoramic views of the Galty Mountains.



The hikers climbed Galtymore, Ireland's highest inland mountain and enjoyed spectacular views of the Comeraghs, the Knockmealdowns, Sliabh na mBan and the Glen of Aherlow.



A well-deserved dinner in the Cahir House Hotel sponsored by Zoetis Animal Health rounded off the day.

A special mention also for Veterinary Instruments Ltd. (VIL) who sponsored the roadside snacks. The support of XL Vets is also much appreciated.

The 47 cyclists and 8 hikers raised almost €13,500. Since their inception in 2005 the VIVA Wheelers have now raised just under €224,000 which is an amazing achievement. Over the next two cycles we have set a target of taking that sum to €250,000 which would be a remarkable way to mark our 10th anniversary in 2015.

Next year we head to Leitrim to tackle the Tour de Breffni route so why not make joining the VIVA Wheelers your New Year's resolution for 2014? To join our mailing list contact Mike Burke on 086 – 2568257 or mike@viva.ie

“Univet” and “C & M Vetlink” Golf Classic

The 2013 VIVA golf classic returned to Tullamore Golf Club's mature 18-hole parkland championship course on July 12th. VIVA would like to thank Tony McManus for organising the event and to all the competitors who played on the day. Thirty five teams competed for a beautiful array of prizes. Once again the VIVA classic was sponsored by Univet and C&M Vetlink. Without their valued support it would be very difficult to stage this most successful annual competition that has raised in excess of €70,000 for VIVA's projects. Special thanks also to Liam McElDowney (VS), Letterkenny for his continued support.



L to R - Jim Spratt (C & M Vetlink), Brendan Mimmagh (VIVA), Tony McManus, Brendan Crowe (Univet)

Midland Showjumping continue their support

Midland Showjumping, based in Granard, donated €1,000 in fees from their summer events to VIVA. In all, this brings to €9,000 the support they have given to VIVA over the years.



VIVA in Prison.

VIVA spearheaded a novel training programme in 2013 with Bothar and the Irish Prison Service. Prisoners at Loughan House in Co. Cavan have begun rearing 31 Irish dairy calves that will be airlifted next year to Rwanda for Bothar. The calves were donated by individual farmers, business people, schools and community groups across the country who responded to Bothar's 'Spring Calf Appeal' earlier this year to donate or raise money to purchase the calves. Shelton Abbey Open Prison near Arklow, Co Wicklow have been rearing calves and goats for Bothar for a few years now and are also part of this Prisoner Rehabilitation Programme. VIVA provides training at both locations. The training comprises 5 modules encompassing animal health, calf care and animal welfare and care across all the animal species.

Speaking at the launch of the programme in Loughan House on September 12th, VIVA founder Brendan Mimmagh said “that the project was a coming together of many groups, VIVA, Irish Prison Service, Bothar, the prisoners and the donors”

Bothar patron Nevin Maguire, who is from nearby Blacklion, also attended the event and was very impressed by the health of the calves and the work that the prisoners had put into rearing them. Nevin



L to R: Ethel Gavin (Governor Loughan House Prison), Peter Ireton (Bothar), Brendan Mimmagh, (VIVA), Nevin Maguire (Bothar Patron)

complemented VIVA volunteers for their voluntary efforts in prisoner rehabilitation.

Loughan House Open Prison Governor Ethel Gavin said “looking after the animals is a very responsible job and teaches the prisoners a strong work ethic and helps them foster a sense of personal responsibility which is what an Open Centre is about”

The Director General of the Irish Prison Service Michael Donnellan said that he was delighted with the continued success of this practical initiative and congratulated VIVA's on its commitment to this unique project as it encourages positive development in prisoners and prepares them for re-integration into society on release.

ALBANIA – Rural Support

Albania, one of Europe's poorest countries is highly dependent on agriculture. Farmers there farm to feed their families and then sell excess produce on the open market. Albanian farmers receive no farm subsidies. Farming practices are traditional and animals are not very productive.

VIVA has completed many training courses in Dairy Cow Management and Artificial Insemination in Albania. VIVA was requested by a local Albanian NGO (non-governmental organization) BOFAK (Bashkimi Operatoreve te Fekondimit Artificial te Kafsheve) to source bovine semen for them to improve they provided to local farmers. According to BOFAK Director, Dr. Andrea Trajani, BOFAK's mission is to provide these small herders and their animals with an AI service that is both affordable and of a high quality.

With the help of the National Cattle Breeding Center in Enfield, Co Meath (formerly Progressive Genetics) who generously gave us 4165 straws of semen, we now have these Albanian AI workers on the road.



L to R: Robert Monahan (Lab Manager - National Cattle Breeding Centre) and staff Rosemary Gleeson, Rita Lynch, Gemma Dunne with the donated supplies.

The Heifer Draw 2012

Our third annual “Heifer Draw” raised almost €4,000 with the winners listed below:

- The winner of the Limousin heifer is Andrew Doona, Athy, Co. Kildare (Seller – Andrew Doona)
- The runner-up prize of a holiday voucher was won by Julieanne Kost, Dublin. (Seller – Sean Coffey)
- The mountain bike was won by John Henry, Westport, Co. Mayo

A special thanks to everyone who sold tickets and in particular, Rachel Burgess, who sold the most tickets.

Check out our website (www.viva.ie).

There, you can read about our projects, make a donation and register for regular email updates. Have a look!



Viva News

Volunteers in Irish Veterinary Assistance
13 Abbeycartron, Longford | Tel: (043) 33 47869
Mobile: 086 – 2568357 | Email: mike@viva.ie | Web: www.viva.ie

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Phase 2 of VIVA's Ugandan Animal Traction Project is under way. By 2015, 100, 000 people will be food secure thanks to your support.





1

The story begins with a farmer receiving an ox. He shares a plough with his neighbours and now can plough an acre of land in a few hours instead of a back-breaking two weeks with a hoe.



2

With the speed of ox ploughing the farmer can now take proper advantage of the rains by planting as soon as the rains arrive and also seeds can be planted at a deeper level. She can also till a larger area. The overall result is that crop yields per family are tripled or quadrupled.



3

Now that the farmer is producing a surplus instead of just enough to feed his family he can use the extra cash generated to pay school fees, access medical care and to invest in his farm. In Phase 2 the farmers coming together to form a co-op which is building a premises to process and market their produce. For example, their cassava will be milled and bagged for sale in the urban areas

How can oxen and ploughs transform the lives of 100,000 people?



7

The sustainability of the project is ensured by the Passing on the Gift (POG) mechanism. After two years farmers who receive an ox have to finance the purchase of an ox for another farmer in their community.



Mike Burke (Viva) makes a presentation to Irene Muwanguzi, Country Director of Heifer Uganda, VIVA's partner in the project.



6

The rains have become more unpredictable in recent years therefore in Phase 2 there is a major emphasis on the cultivation of drought resistant varieties of cassava and groundnuts, the major crops grown in the region. 5 multiplication centres for these varieties have been established.

5



Once the farmer begins to generate a regular cash income she can invest in innovations like a small biogas digester. The waste from 2 oxen can generate enough methane gas to give a family 4 hours of light a day or 2 hours of light and 2 hours of cooking on a small gas ring. In this photo Jane Opolot demonstrates her light. One of the major benefits is that her children can study in comfort.



4

The project doesn't stop at ploughing. Our partner, Heifer Uganda, provides training to farmers in everything from vegetable growing to family planning. The vegetable growing, in particular, has led to more varied and nutritious diets and also generates a surplus for sale. In this picture Jane Opolot demonstrates her vegetable grow-bag with its magnificent cabbages.