

# NEWSLETTER

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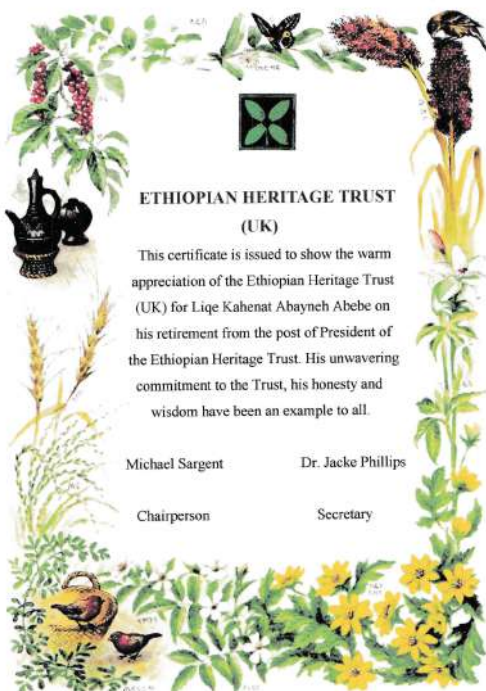
October 2023

Issue No. 7

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## A TRIBUTE

It is appropriate to start this Newsletter with a salute to Liqe Kahenat Abayneh Abebe, who has been President of the Ethiopian Heritage Trust for six years. We are very sad to see him go. He is an exceptional person, whose commitment and rock-solid honesty helped the Trust through many difficult moments. Without him the Trust would have been lost.



Certificate designed by Eric Robson



From left to right: Jacke Phillips, Alula Pankhurst and Liqe Kahenat. Ethiopia, August 2023

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## NEW PRESIDENT

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At the same time we warmly welcome Dr. Tsedeke Abate as the new President of the Trust. He is an agricultural expert with a national and international reputation. His posts include Director of the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research 2003-7, the leadership between 2008 and 2012 of the Tropical Legumes II project which was implemented across Africa and India and the leadership of the Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa 2012-17, working across Africa from a base in Nairobi. He is also the founder of the non-profit independent think tank on agricultural research and development, Homegrown Vision.



From left to right: Dr. Tsedeke Abate and Jacke Phillips, Ethiopia, August 2023

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## A BUSY TIME

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The Trust in Addis Ababa now has four projects in hand.

The focal point of course remains the Entoto Natural Park on the hills above Addis Ababa.

The Ankober-Zego Natural Forest was acquired last year, some 170 kilometres north-east of Addis Ababa.

And there is the guardianship of the Trust's headquarters building, a rare survival from the 19th century.

To this list was added this year a role in the project to restore the Dessie Museum, a three year-project being led by the British Council with the UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and with appropriate Ethiopian government bodies.



Entoto Natural Park



Ankober-Zego Natural Forest



Dessie Museum



Trust's headquarters building

# PLANTING 2023

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## ENTOTO NATURAL PARK

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The number of seedlings planted this year was down on the two previous years, both of which saw 24,000 seedlings planted. This year 13,000 were planted, which was below expectation, but still a worthwhile number.

Trees planted included the African Olive (*Olea europaea*), African Acacia (*Acacia abyssinica*), Sycamore Fig or Werka (*Ficus sycomoros*), Kosso (*Hagenia abyssinica*) and *Millettia ferruginea*.



As usual there was good support from a variety of Ethiopian businesses, particularly banks and hotels including The Dashin Bank, the Ethiopian Development Bank, BGI Ethiopia (a brewery), the Sheraton Hotel and the Hilton Hotel. Support also came from government bodies such as the Ethiopian Heritage Authority and the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority.



# PLANTING 2023

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## ANKOBER-ZEGO NATURAL FOREST

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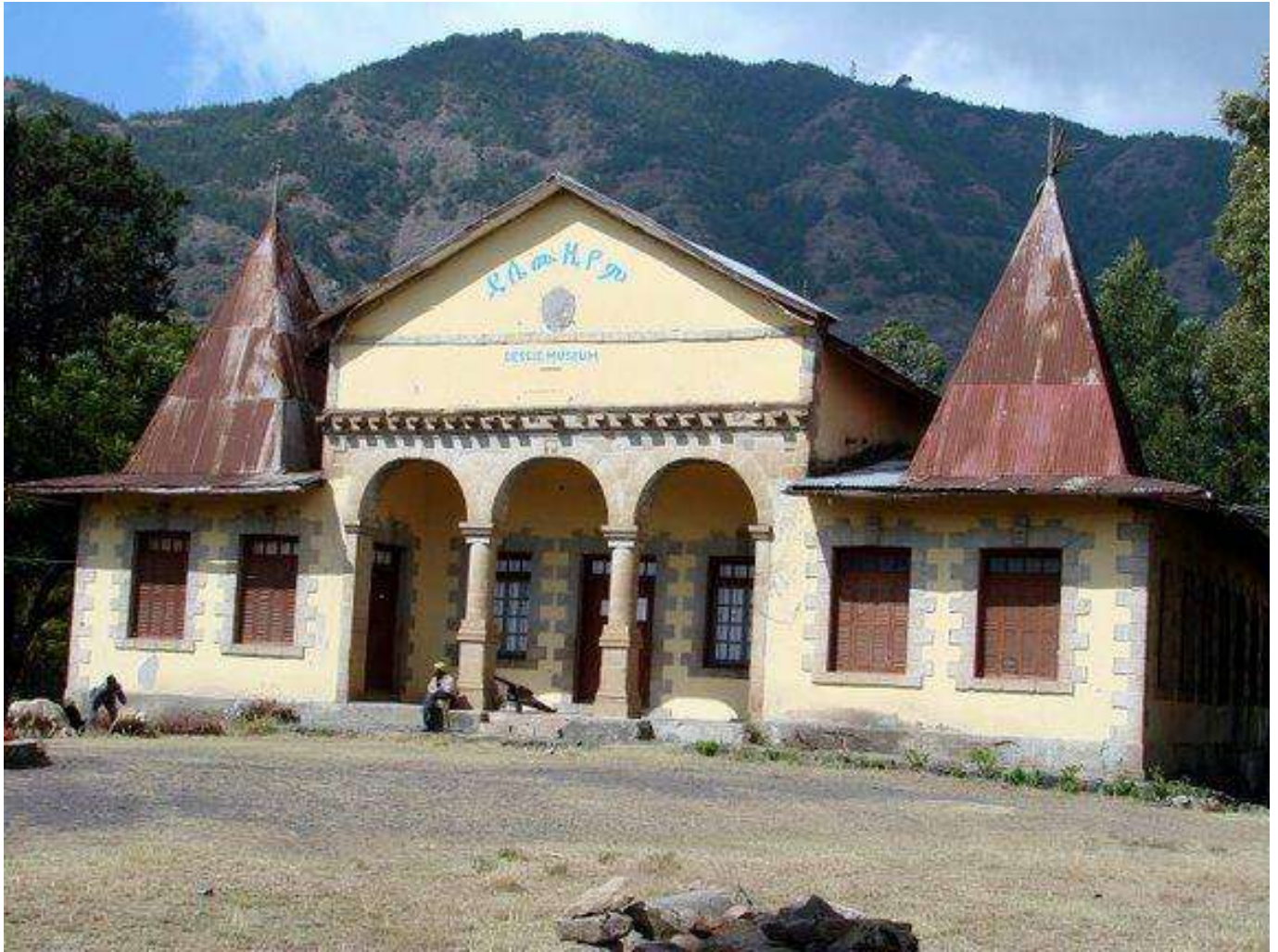
A reminder that this area - one square kilometre of badly eroded land - was given to the Trust last year on a 99 year lease. The site is being developed with the cooperation of local farmers.

This year with the aid of 51 local famers 3,800 indigenous seedlings were planted, which included the African Cherry (*Prunus Africana*) and Juniper (*Juniperus procera*).

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## DESSIE MUSEUM

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This is a 3 year project to renovate the Dessie Museum. The town of Dessie lies some 400 kilometres north of Addis Ababa.

The Museum is one of the oldest buildings in the town, being built in 1916 by a local aristocrat, Dejjazmach Yosef Biru. The building and its contents were damaged during fighting in 2021.

The project began in 2022.

The Ethiopian Heritage Trust is one of the partners for the project. Other partners include the Ethiopian Institute of Architecture and the Ethiopian Heritage Authority.

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## 66 YEARS ON

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The need for the Entoto Natural Park is clear and obvious.

The population of Addis Ababa in 1967 was 632,000.

The population now is 5,461,000.



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## TRUCK

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Last year we collected funds to help purchase a working vehicle for the Trust – a Toyota LS 79 DS to be precise.

Since then the Trust has been making every effort to persuade the authorities to allow duty-free import (duty is around 200%).

However we have now heard that that door is finally closed. So the only feasible option will be to buy a second-hand car and good quality second-hand cars do not come cheap.



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## FUNDRAISING HELP

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We would welcome any offer to help with fund-raising. There is much that we would like to help the Trust with in Addis Ababa but we need your help!

### DONATIONS

1. £10 will pay for two tree seedlings to be grown, planted and nurtured for 5 years.
2. £40 will pay for the growing, planting and care of 20 rosa abyssinica bushes (an indigenous Ethiopian rose).
3. £60 will help the establishment of an environmental club in a primary or secondary school.
4. £100 will help with the establishment of a new tree nursery on the slopes of Entoto.

### MEMBERSHIP

Per Annum

1. Student  
£1 per month, £10 per year
2. Individual  
£2 per month, £20 per year
3. Family  
£3-4 per month, £40 per year
4. Life  
Life £250, Silver Life £450, Gold Life £650

**Every pound donated helps - and please remember that no funds collected are spent in the UK. The Trustees pay all the administrative expenses.**

If you are willing, a Standing Order for monthly payments (much beloved of our Treasurer) or annual payments are greatly appreciated.

And if you already pay by Standing Order perhaps you might consider a slight increase in the amount?

**Donations and memberships can be paid:**

- Online, on our website: <https://www.ethiopianheritagetrustuk.org> via Paypal

- By bank transfer:

Lloyds Treasurer's Account: The Ethiopian Heritage Trust (UK), Sort Code 309192, Account Number 61464068.

Please let us know at [finance@ethiopianheritagetrustuk.org](mailto:finance@ethiopianheritagetrustuk.org) when you have made a payment; it helps us identify payments.

### Gift Aid

We are registered with HMRC for Gift Aid.