

issue 3 - 2009

# cord news

 toilet from CORD  
twinning.org



inside...  
**help flush  
away poverty!**

[www.cord.org.uk](http://www.cord.org.uk)





# welcome...

to our summer edition of CORD News. It's been a busy time across the organisation as you will find reported here.

Managers met for CORD's International Conference which strengthened our commitment and purpose as a global organisation; vital support and work with our partners came to fruition; our Community Ambassadors completed their training - and we launched the World's First Global Toilet Twinning - a unique and fun CORD fund raising campaign with a deadly serious message.

Twinning your loo with a latrine in Burundi is more than a gimmick - it can help to flush away poverty and save lives. You will forgive us the puns as you discover how you and your smallest room can support a family who are striving to rebuild their lives from scratch - beginning with the bare necessities of life. We hope you will find it an engaging idea!

[www.cord.org.uk](http://www.cord.org.uk)



# reflections

## Just how do we learn?

**I asked this question at the UK Away Day recently and again at the International Programme Conference in Burundi and yet again when I spoke at the Global Connections conference!**

I asked people to reflect on how they had learnt a particular household skill. Then to think about what motivated them to learn the skill in the first place and finally how they would recommend someone else could learn it too.

It's an interesting exercise if you have 15 minutes...

The main learning methods were through observation and doing - trial and error (getting your hands dirty) and becoming more ambitious the more proficient people became.

People were motivated by need - necessity being the mother of innovation, to paraphrase Plato - and inspired by someone they trusted who encouraged them to have a go, allowed them the space to make mistakes and ultimately learn how to do it themselves.

This simple reflection really gets to the heart of why CORD invests in staff who know their role is to create an environment of trust where learning can take place. It is why investing time in developing strong two-way relationships are important so we learn together. It takes time, energy and emotion and vulnerability, but is the only way lasting peace can be built. Quick fixes don't work.

**Brian Wakley**  
Chief Executive

supporting refugees from Darfur

Join CORD for...   
**A FAMILY DAY AT  
THE RACES**

Warwick Race Course, 31 August Bank Holiday Monday

call Kit Lawry on 01926 315301

## CORD International Conference Outlines Way Ahead

**CORD management teams from the UK, South East Asia and Africa gathered in Burundi for the organisation's first International Conference.**

The week long gathering, held in Bujumbura which is home to CORD's main country office, was a chance for staff from Cambodia, Chad, Northern Uganda, Burundi and the UK to meet face to face and review CORD's five year strategy as well as its vision for the future.

*'The conference gave us a real opportunity to recognise our global impact and share each team's best practice'* said Chief Executive Brian Wakley. *'It*

*was also a chance to reflect on our commitment as individuals to the peace building process which is core to all we strive to do as an organisation.'*

*'As a result in the next few months we will be announcing plans to extend CORD's work in both Africa and South East Asia,'* he added.



# TACKLING TRAUMA THE DARFUR LEGACY

**Distressed, living in constant fear, unable to sleep, helpless and isolated, lacking in self-worth, feeling rootless and vulnerable – that’s the reality of daily life for Sudanese refugees in Chad as revealed to CORD partners Network for Africa (N4A), who have begun a two year programme of training refugees to become counsellors in Gaga and Farchana camps.**

*‘It became immediately apparent that the men, women and children were still severely traumatised as a result of the violence they suffered in Darfur and the situation in the refugee camps’ said Sophie McCann, N4A’s Project Coordinator for the team of professional psychologists.*

*‘Most of the people we taught said they had experienced flash backs, nightmares, insomnia, depression, feelings of worthlessness and frustration - all of which are clear signs of trauma. If they are to rebuild their shattered lives in a positive and beneficial way it is essential that they can heal their psychological wounds,’ she added.*

Even after living in the camps for up to five years, many of the women drew pictures depicting the atrocities they had witnessed, including fighter

planes, villages being burned, children running away and men with machine guns.

N4A found that one of the most challenging aspects of the training was to explain that peoples’ nightmares, sickness and depression were linked to what they have endured and witnessed. And to realise that by talking and listening to one another they could better understand each other’s feelings and give mutual support.

The programme builds on N4A’s work in Rwanda and Uganda and the team plan to return to Chad in November for the second phase.

*‘In both camps, all the refugees responded positively and enthusiastically, but training people to be lay counsellors is a slow process that requires practice, dedication and hard work,’ said Sophie.*

*‘We hope that after two years our trainees in Gaga and Farchana camp will offer counselling services to their community and eventually be able to train others. If the programme continues to be successful and sustainable, we hope to introduce it into other Darfuri refugee camps,’ she added.*

**[www.network4africa.org](http://www.network4africa.org)**



# Charter for African Youth gets a Dusting Down



BY DENNIS BAILEY, CORD UGANDA

**The twenty page booklet was languishing on dusty shelves in the reception of the Youth Social Worker Association in Kitgum.**

*'It's The African Youth Charter!' I said to the receptionist. 'You are quite possibly thinking – I didn't know there was one.' I wouldn't either, had I not had a part in word-smithing the final draft that was ratified by the African Union last year.*

*'So what is YSA intending to do with it?'*  
*'It's one of our resources.'*

I tried not to count the thousands of pounds it had cost to print thousands of copies, and launch it country by country across the continent.

*'So you've read it then?' I pressed. 'Not yet.'*

She was right, of course. Why should anyone read twenty pages of densely worded script wrapped in a boring dust jacket courtesy of the UN? That was the question I asked the YSA programme manager, Patrick Mugisha. *'I haven't actually read it yet myself,'* he replied.

If two youth activists found The African Youth Charter inaccessible, how likely was it that young people whose rights it seeks to protect would read it let alone digest and apply it?

It took us two hours to decide what needed to be done. I relayed our thoughts to their boss in Kampala, who tested our idea on the UN Population Fund. The UN boss was immediately enthusiastic and in turn sent him to see the Minister of Gender and Social Development, with the promise that if the ministry gave our idea its blessing the UN would find a budget to support us.

What we are proposing is that YSA pilot The African Youth Charter by training youth activists and social workers to use it as a syllabus for reconstruction and reformation wherever young people meet. They, especially young women, have an immediate heritage of violence and violation, plus the transition from adolescence to adulthood to deal with in one of the poorest contexts in the world. It's small wonder that our proposal was so well received. It met an immediate need - and illustrates how CORD believes it will accomplish more by mentoring local organisations like the YSA to develop opportunities for themselves, so that they can achieve lasting change.

At CORD we call this capacity development. Watch this space....



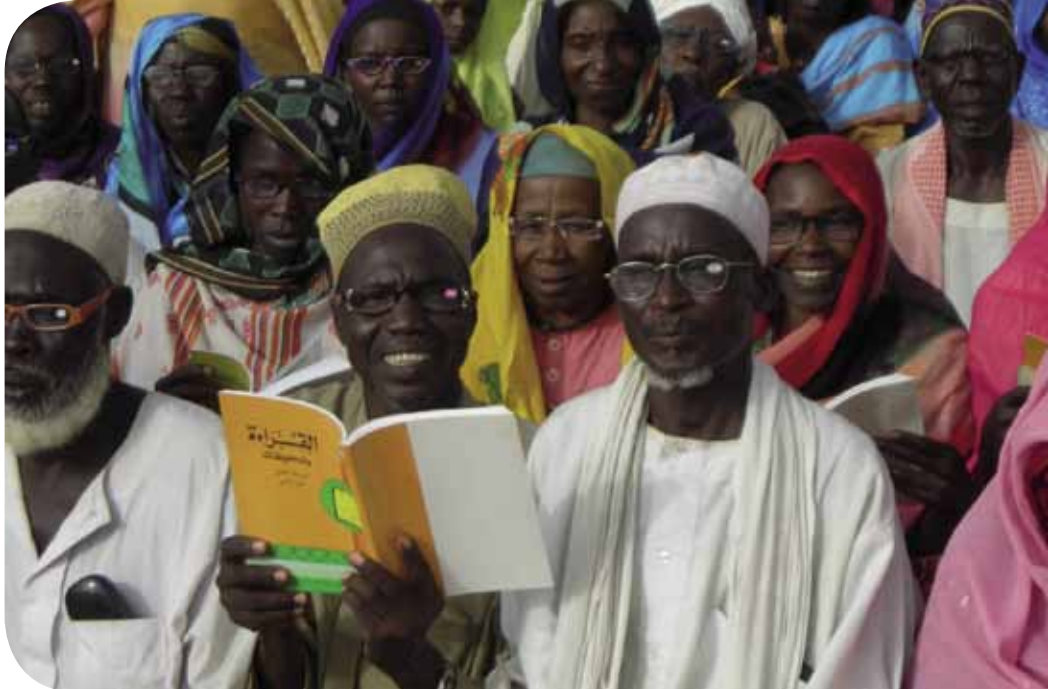
# THE EYES HAVE IT!

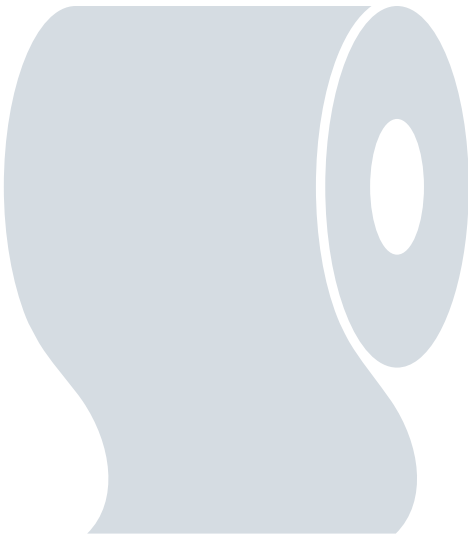
**It was a gathering like no other when 1,750 pairs of designer reading glasses and specs cases from the Book Wish Foundation were distributed to Sudanese refugees in Bredjing camp, Eastern Chad.**

Sight tests are underway for the men and women, many of them elderly, who are experiencing glasses for the first time. Laughter turned to joy as CORD staff began fitting and allocating the fancy spectacles donated by eleven major US optical companies and freighted to Chad by Air France.

'It was an amazing atmosphere,' said CORD Education Programme Manager Anne Goddard. Once people realised the difference the glasses made to their sight they were thrilled. For many on our literacy programme this will transform their ability to progress; it has given everyone involved a real and lasting boost.

'I can't thank Book Wish and the optical companies enough for their generosity - this is reading relief at its most practical,' she added.





# CORD Launches Global Toilet Twinning

**Over 2.6 billion people,  
40% of the world's  
population, are without  
a clean and safe place  
to go to the loo**

**Every day 5,000  
children under 5  
die needlessly from  
diarrhoeal diseases**

**CORD is launching an innovative campaign linking toilets around the world with those being built in Burundi by families returning from exile in Tanzania.**

**For just £60 you can exclusively twin your toilet at home, at your office or school with one deep in the African bush of Rutana Province - and track it down to its exact location via Google Earth.**

Improving water and sanitation is key to CORD's programme in remote Giharo Commune. Over the past 18 months we have helped local returnees to build 870 pit latrines, each benefiting a family of six. That's 5,220 people who can now go to the loo in a safe, private and hygienic place. We plan to double that number.

Blocks of toilets have also been built at 3 primary schools, alongside water points - all part of our hygiene and sanitation training.

*'At current rates of progress the Millennium Development Goals for sanitation will not be met until the 22nd century, over 80 years too late,' said Jasmine O'Connor, CORD's Regional Director for Africa.*

*'Our work in Giharo is going to be duplicated in the coming year and the Toilet Twinning is a novel but vital way of lending your support to people who have returned home and are rebuilding their lives from scratch.'*

As a Twinner you receive a special one off certificate to display in your smallest room picturing your twin, its exact location and Google map reference.

**The first 500 Twinnings are on sale now at [toilettwinning.org](http://toilettwinning.org) or by calling us on 01926 315301.**

**Keep up to date on [twitter.com/corduk](https://twitter.com/corduk)**



# the World's First Toilet Twinning

In Africa an estimated 5% of GDP is lost to illness and deaths caused by poor sanitation & water (UN)

More than 433 million school days are lost each year because of water-borne disease



*'This is a fun idea with a very serious message. 2.6 billion people around the world are coping without a toilet, so it's no surprise that 60% of all rural diseases are caused by poor hygiene and sanitation.'*

*'It's the children who suffer the most with shortened life spans, missed schooling and illness due to living with untreated sewage. For the women and girls using the bush, instead of a safe toilet, is degrading, embarrassing and can leave them vulnerable to attack. In Burundi having a toilet is literally saving lives. I would urge everyone to get twinning!'*

**Corinne Bailey-Rae, CORD  
Ambassador**



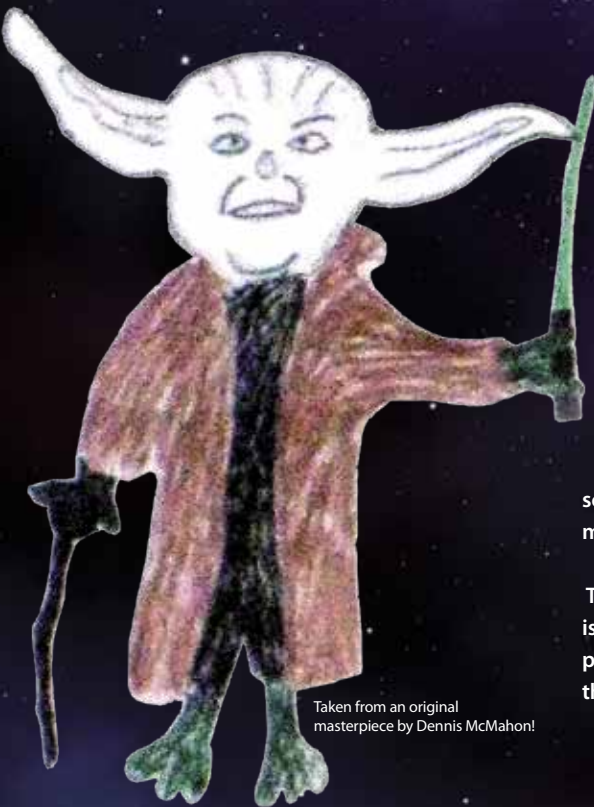
toilet **from CORD**  
twinning.org

# STAR WARS TO THE RESCUE

**Dennis McMahon of CORD Asia turns to Hollywood for inspiration.**

**The team in Cambodia were asked to each draw a picture that represented CORD and its work. I struggled with this for a while, and not just because my artistic skills put me in league with the average Neanderthal cave painter.**

Rather, it was with the challenge of visually representing the practice of capacity development, which is the foundation of our work to help build a sustainable peace here.



Taken from an original masterpiece by Dennis McMahon!

In Cambodia, as in much of CORD'S work in Africa, we are helping to develop the capacity of civil society and government institutions in ways that enable them to address the underlying causes of conflict, and so prevent it recurring in the future.

We do this by entering into long term partnerships with organisations and institutions, recognising that they are the custodians of the country's future.

One of the best ways to contribute to peace and stability is to invest in people's ability to learn from their experiences, so that they can creatively adapt to the rapidly changing conditions in their country, and play an active, dynamic and constructive role in rebuilding their society.

So how do you represent this in a drawing?

THE FORCE BE WITH YOU...

In a moment of either desperation or inspiration the image of Yoda, the great Jedi master from the Star Wars movies, flashed across my mind and I hastily scribbled my feeble rendering of the little green man with long ears and a cane.

This has meaning for me because while Yoda is a teacher, he doesn't so much lecture or tell people what they should do. Rather, he helps them to tap into their own hidden potential and

to use those abilities in service to mankind and to promote peace and justice.

Yoda doesn't force his teachings on anyone or pretend to have all the answers. Instead he tries to keep himself in a constant state of awareness of the changing circumstances and of his student's need for learning.

In saying this, I certainly would not want to compare myself as a capacity development advisor to the wise old Jedi Master - well at least not for another 750 years or so!

But I had to ask myself, what is this "force" that we use in our work as capacity development advisors?

I guess the FORCE is that of hope, possibility and innovation.

In societies where education systems have been disrupted or destroyed, it takes careful guidance and support to help cultivate critical thinking skills and creativity; to recognise the vast range

of possibilities for new ways of addressing conflict and promoting peace.

In a way, the "force" we are connecting Cambodians with is their innate capacity to be actively engaged in their own learning, growth and development.

Receptiveness to new possibilities emerges through sustained mentoring, guidance and mutual exploration of the ever-changing problems and challenges that the country faces as it recovers and rebuilds itself.

But the learning does not flow just one way. I am reminded of how much I need to continue learning so that I can support our partners effectively and serve as a role model for adaptability and creativity.

Perhaps Master Yoda expressed it best when he said: *'when the day comes that even old Yoda does not learn something from his students-then truly, he shall be a teacher no more.'*



CORD'S Charity  
**Golf Day**  
In aid of Education for the Children of Darfur

Take part in CORD's Charity Golf Day at the beautiful Stoneleigh Deer Park golf course on 17 September 2009. Play golf, network with businessmen and women from the West Midlands and further afield - while you're supporting CORD's education programmes in refugee camps for the children of Darfur. Call Kit Lawry on 01926 315301 or e-mail [klawry@cord.org.uk](mailto:klawry@cord.org.uk)

Thursday 17 September 2009 - Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club

# Final camp to close

**The UN is to close the last refugee camp for Burundians in western Tanzania.**

*'A new page will be turned for Burundi; this will certainly boost its development,'* said Bo Schack, the

UNHCR representative speaking in Bujumbura. 50,000 people will return home this month after years in exile.

He said the government and its development partners were preparing for the challenge of ensuring the returnees could access education, health services and land.



## Stand and deliver...

**Steve Newton explains why he signed up to a CORD standing order**

**'When it comes to supporting a charity, there are so many causes needing help as well as situations and people that you become involved with personally, that one ends up choosing to help those that you feel are right for you.'**

For me this was made easier when going on a Charities' research trip. This led to my wife and me

working with CORD for two years in Cambodia and then in Tanzania with Rwandan refugees.

Since then we have wanted to support CORD and to try and do so financially. It's a pleasure knowing that you are helping people in a real way. It also helps me to know that this continues despite our own fluctuations of circumstance.

Without setting up a Standing Order, I know that many times I would have used that money elsewhere. It has created a continuation of support that needs more than a whim of 'something more important has cropped up' to change.

It also makes it much easier to tell all those people who phone at any time of the night or day that you have already decided who you are supporting - and then gives you the opportunity to tell them all about CORD!

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# Meet CORD's Community Ambassadors

**CORD has recruited 14 Community Ambassadors from across the UK to promote our fundraising, and peace-building advocacy to a wider audience.**

The Ambassadors, who met for training at CORD's Leamington office, have all volunteered their services and will represent the organisation in their area as part of our Supporter Relations Team.

'The breadth of experience and enthusiasm everyone brings to CORD is extraordinary,' said Richard Dickson, Head of Supporter Relations. 'Several have worked in the charity sector for many years, both here and in the field; others are young professionals wanting to make a difference in the developing world.

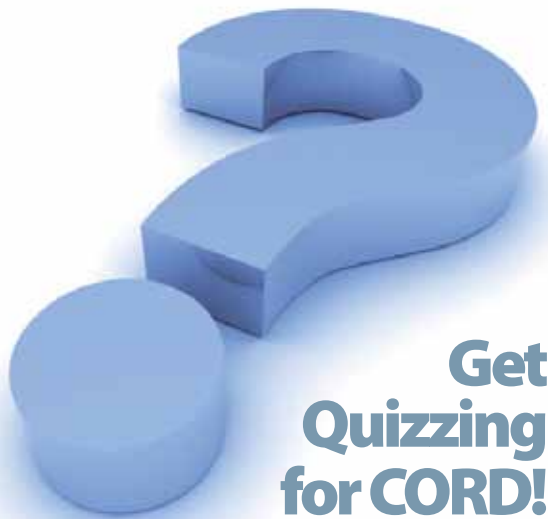
'As a team they will make a huge difference in helping to spread the word about what CORD does to schools, businesses, churches and other groups.'

To book a visit or talk from a CORD Ambassador, or to lend your support through fundraising email Kit Lawry : [klawry@cord.org.uk](mailto:klawry@cord.org.uk) or call 01926 315301

*'I discovered CORD's work a couple of years ago and was instantly impressed. The mission of the charity is inspirational and the work they do is so important. Being a Community Ambassador I can join with others to find the most useful ways to support CORD and further their important message.'*

Lucy Barbour, Community Ambassador





## Get Quizzing for CORD!

**In which occupation would you rotate the gog at the end of your nose? How many pips are there in the Greenwich Time Signal? And who lives at 4 Privet Drive, Little Whinging?**

Just some questions to test your brain cells from the CORD QUIZ PACK which is available now with all you need for a fun night's entertainment. The added bonus is that it's an easy way to raise money for our work with some remarkable people. We guarantee it will get contestants laughing with amusement - and frustration.

To order your pack contact Angie Archer on 01926 315301 [aarcher@cord.org.uk](mailto:aarcher@cord.org.uk)

## We would like to thank...



500 students of the **Leamington and Warwick Academy of Dance** who donated a record £4,000 from their Toad of Toad Hall extravaganza

**Richard Young** who raised £1,620 for CORD cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats via Britain's extremities

**John and Ann Whitehouse** for a gallon of coins totalling £48.00

Year 7 at **King Henry VIII School Coventry** for £500 from their mammoth Spellathon, **King Edward VI Five Ways Birmingham** who donated £1,255 from a non-uniform day and **Warwick School** for £1,700 given since March

**Rebecca Fahy of Jigsaw CCS** for pro bono marketing advice

**Wendy Green and DHL** for £1,500 from a concert for CORD

**St Nicholas Church Kenilworth Bellringers** who collected £300

**Dunchurch Boughton CE Junior School, St Margaret's School, Whitnash and The Ferncumbe School** who all gave generously this term

**Churches in Southam, Coventry, Northfield, Wootton Wawen, Claverdon, Lillington, Henley, Ullenhall, Epsom and Godalming, Bedworth Inner Wheel Club and Warwick School** for welcoming a speaker from CORD

**Staff at TQ Training** who are trekking around the coast of the Isle of Wight in support of CORD as their Charity of the Year. To donate visit [www.justgiving.com/tqtraining](http://www.justgiving.com/tqtraining)

**Julie Wakley** who ran the London Marathon raising £1,260

# regular giving - making your giving effortless!

By giving regularly to CORD, you can help us to be even more effective in the way we plan and manage our work. With a Standing Order, you can make regular payments to CORD direct from your bank account. If you are a taxpayer, please also complete the Gift Aid Declaration bellow to make your gifts worth even more! Please send the completed form back to us at the address below and we will forward it on to your bank. **NB: A standing order is an instruction from you to your bank. Please contact your bank in the first instance if you have any queries about your payments.**

Title ..... First name ..... Surname .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Your Bank's name .....

Your Bank's address .....

..... Postcode .....

Sort Code ..... / ..... / ..... Account Number .....

Name of Account Holder(s) .....

Please pay £.....

( ..... amount in words) every Year/Quarter/Month (delete as appropriate)

starting on the ..... day of ..... 20 .....

to CORD at Barclays Bank plc, 150 The Parade, Leamington Spa, CV31 4AZ Sort code: 20-48-08 Account N°: 60258466

*giftaid it*

**Gift Aid is worth an extra 28p on top of every pound you give to us - and it costs you nothing!** To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year. Please inform us if you change your address or name, or if you cease to pay enough tax to cover your donations.

**You must provide your name, address and postcode for us to be able to claim Gift Aid on your donation.**

Yes, please treat all donations I have made to CORD in the last 6 years AND all future donations as Gift Aid

Signed ..... Date ..... (office use only)  
Ref: .....

\*\* FSC Mark  
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Written and designed by CORD's Supporter Relations team in the UK. Please either pass this newsletter to a friend or recycle it!

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[www.cord.org.uk](http://www.cord.org.uk)

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...yes I'd like to help!

For Internal Use Only

ID
CODE
DATE CN-3w/09

Please accept my gift of £ [input] [input] Tick if your gift is to twin your toilet (Gift of £60)

Name
Address
Postcode
Telephone e-mail
Church Attended (if applicable)

giftaid it Gift Aid is worth an extra 28p on top of every pound you give to us - and it costs you nothing!
Yes, please treat all donations I have made to CORD in the last 6 years AND all future donations as Gift Aid

To save costs, please don't send me a receipt. Please send me regular e-mail updates about CORD's work

Credit/Debit Card, CAF Charity Card or Sovereign Gift Card\* - fill in the amount above and card details below or call us 01926 315301 (Sorry, we can't accept card donations of less than £10)

Card type [input] [VISA] [MasterCard] [Maestro] [Switch] [VISA Electron] [CAF]
Name [input] Start. date [input] Exp. date [input]
Card No. [input] Issue number (Switch only) [input]
Security Number (Last three digits on the signature strip) [input]

\*Account Code (Sovereign Gift Card only) [input] thank you! (Please make cheques payable to "CORD")