

# Press Release

1 June 2011

XC2011/009 (SH)

## **CROSSCOUNTRY IN SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN WATER CHARITY**

Train operator CrossCountry has announced the sponsorship of five Zimbabwean 'Elephant Pump' water wells as part of the Company's partnership with water cooler suppliers Aquaid and global water charity, Pump Aid.

The sponsored wells, which have been installed near five rural villages across Zimbabwe, are now helping to provide clean drinking and washing water for villagers while also assisting farmers with crop irrigation. The wells, which are relied on heavily by remote villages across Africa, have the ability to pump water from depths of 50 metres and can produce one litre of water per second.

Pump Aid developed the award-winning Elephant Pump technology, a low cost, community centred approach to sustainable water production. The technology has been so successful that Pump Aid has provided a lifetime's supply of clean water to over one million people across Zimbabwe and Malawi.

Andy Cooper, Managing Director at CrossCountry said: "Aquaid supply the drinking water for all of our offices and service centres across the UK and as part of that deal, we were delighted to have the opportunity to sponsor the five Elephant Pumps. It's well-documented how tough life is in certain parts of Zimbabwe and we have been touched by several heart-felt letters we have received from villagers and children who have directly benefited from the scheme. It's not only lack of water which affects people, but it's estimated that 4,000 African children die every day from poor sanitation. The whole scheme is a brilliant idea and lets businesses here in the UK lend their support to meaningful projects in poorer countries – projects which directly benefit those in need. We're glad to be doing our bit and hope to do more."

Scott Barnbrook, Branch Manager at Aquaid's Birmingham and Midlands Central office added: "Aquaid have now managed to topple the £6 million mark in donations to both Christian Aid and Pump Aid. This is with the help and continued support of morally aware companies such as CrossCountry who have helped via Aquaid."

For more details please visit the **How We Help** link at [www.aquaid.co.uk](http://www.aquaid.co.uk)

Pictured (left to right) with one of the official 'Elephant Pump certificates' are: Andy Cooper (Managing Director, CrossCountry), Andy Porter (Contracts Manager, CrossCountry) and Scott Barnbrook (Aquaid)

**CrossCountry facts and figures below. For more information feel free to contact us on 0121 200 6115 or by email to [communications@crosscountrytrains.co.uk](mailto:communications@crosscountrytrains.co.uk)**

CrossCountry is now live on Facebook [www.facebook/crosscountrytrains](http://www.facebook/crosscountrytrains)

Follow us on Twitter via [www.twitter.com/crosscountryuk](http://www.twitter.com/crosscountryuk)

**CrossCountry facts and figures:**

STATIONS SERVED: 118

ROUTE MILES: 1,478

WEEKDAY SERVICES: 295

PASSENGERS CARRIED: Over 30 million passenger journeys a year

ANNUAL TRAIN MILEAGE: Approximately 16 million

EMPLOYEES: Approximately 1,600

LONGEST TRAIN SERVICE: 08.20 Aberdeen to Penzance (774 miles)