

VineTrust

Connecting People to Change Lives



CONNECTIONS

Issue 39 - Winter 2021



Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

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Welcome to Connections 39!

I never fail to be amazed at the pace of change that we find ourselves experiencing in our ever fast moving, inter-connected world that we now routinely accept as everyday reality. As we go to print, COP26 is taking place in Glasgow where even more detail and understanding is being shared around the climate emergency we now find ourselves in and the call for everyone to play their part in doing something meaningful about it.



As a Trust we are particularly aware of those being most affected by climate change in the countries where we work and further afield, quite apart from the impact our activities have here in the UK and how we can mitigate our carbon footprint.

We've also launched a crowdfunding appeal to help support Amazon Hope 2's deployment in rolling out COVID-19 vaccines in 2022, along with fitting a replacement engine that emits less CO2 and will help extend the vessels service life for a further 10 to 15 years.

To this end we will shortly be reaching out to seek pro bono support from specialists to help us assess our current footprint across all our programmes and how to reach carbon neutrality by December 2025 or sooner. **If you can help, please get in touch.** All our overseas travel has been offset by us since January 2020 and our UK energy supplies have been green since 2016, but that is no more than a first step.

The big news however is that overseas medical volunteering is now re-opening and we very much look forward to welcoming volunteers to Peru and Tanzania in the first quarter of 2022 assuming, of course, it is safe to do so.

Enjoy the update and best wishes at this time.

Kind regards,

This edition is also sharing good news from Peru and Tanzania where both our medical programmes have extended or entered in to new strategic partnerships for the years ahead. The development of a new mental health component in the medical work on the Amazon is particularly encouraging, along with a new five-year partnership for the Jubilee Hope Project in Tanzania.

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Willie McPherson".

Willie McPherson
Chief Executive



Christine John

2nd November 1953 -
17th September 2021

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of Christine John's passing on the 17th of September.

Christine, or CJ as she was widely known, played a huge part in the development of Vine Trust particularly in the South of England and in Gibraltar, as well as helping to establish the Jubilee Hope Medical Project in Tanzania.

A remarkable lady who, first and foremost was a people person, led school expeditions and work parties to Peru

and Tanzania, and even organised a Kilimanjaro trek alongside numerous events with our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal.

We are immensely grateful for her warmth, friendship and professionalism along with the immeasurable impact she had on the lives of so many people in Peru, Tanzania and here in the UK.

Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes are with her husband Robert and their family at this time.

Willie McPherson



How we Do What we Do

I'm sure you'll have heard the phrase *"the ends justify the means"*.

It's a phrase to rationalise the fact that there may have been wrong actions along the way, but these don't really matter because you achieved something good out of it in the end. You've got what you wanted, so it doesn't matter how you achieved it, right?

For Vine Trust, the answer is an emphatic, 'no!' In fact, for us, how we do our work is just as important, if not more, than what is actually achieved in the end.

In fact, our strapline of *'connecting people to change lives'* is a clear expression of a key process (connecting people) being sought to achieve an objective (changed lives).

Whilst charitable organisations play a fundamental role in communities around the world, making a huge impact on the lives of millions of people, there is no doubt that accusations can be rightly made of harm that has sometimes been caused.

So often this has happened when the outcomes have been the primary focus of the activities to the detriment of the lives

and communities these same projects were meant to be helping.

To help us avoid making these same mistakes and to provide a clear framework to guide all aspects of the work, Vine Trust has established a set of 5 guiding principles. These have been developed through in-depth discussion within Vine Trust as an organisation and informed through dialogue with our partners in Peru and Tanzania.

You can now find details of these 5 principles at our website: bit.ly/VT5Principles

We encourage you to also keep an eye on our social media for blog articles that will look at each of the principles and what this means for our partnerships, programmes and volunteering opportunities.



NEW AGREEMENT FOR JUBILEE HOPE

Since its launch in October 2014, the success of the Jubilee Hope Medical Programme has been built upon the hard work and dedication of the team as well as an emphasis on strategic collaboration between a wide variety of partners and supporters.

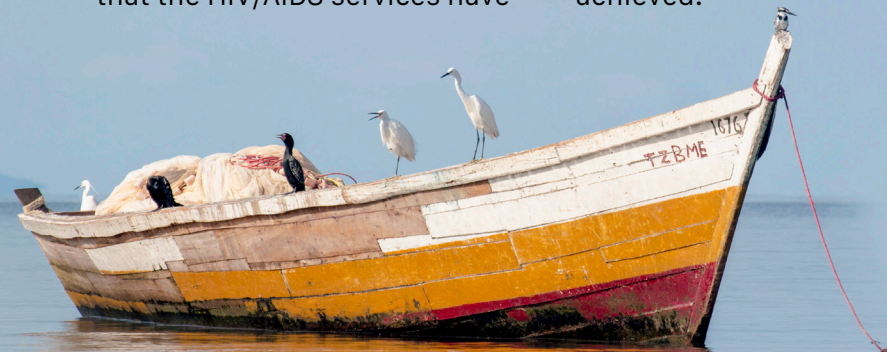
Community groups, government departments, corporate entities, NGO's, universities and church organisations have come together to support the Jubilee Hope Programme, to coordinate activities and share resources to create, what has become, the largest health service to the islands of Tanzanian Lake Victoria.

This collaborative effort is most clearly seen in the way that the HIV/AIDS services have

developed. With HIV infection rates estimated to be as high as 30% on some islands, the Jubilee Hope Medical Programme was identified by many different stakeholders for the important role that it could play in meeting the demand for HIV services.

Not only has the programme helped link and support existing government and community efforts, it has also introduced new services such as CD4 testing, capacity building, HIV support groups and microenterprise initiatives.

Given the intrinsic value of collaboration, the Jubilee Hope Medical Programme has been working tirelessly to strengthen ties which can build upon the work that has already been achieved.





As a result, at the beginning of September a new cooperation agreement was signed between the Kagera Region, Anglo Gold Ashanti Ltd, Africa Inland Church Tanzania (AICT) and Vine Trust to support the development of the medical services to the islands for another five years.

Over the next few weeks, the Jubilee Hope team will be working with the Kagera regional health department and the island communities to recommence services which had been impacted, directly and indirectly, by the pandemic.

With this exciting development coinciding with travel restrictions

being reduced, Vine Trust will also be working with AICT and other local partners to discuss opportunities for overseas medical volunteers to return in 2022.



KEEPING THINGS SHIPSHAPE

The successful delivery of over 2 million medical consultations in Peru and Tanzania has been achieved through the hard work of many people.

Dedicated teams of health professionals, both national and overseas volunteers, have used their skills and expertise to provide medical care to so many remote and isolated communities.

However, this work wouldn't be possible without the regular maintenance of the ships, organised and carried out by the administrative and marine personnel.

More often than not, this work entails minor repairs and the following of the appropriate maintenance schedules, however, it sometimes requires larger pieces of work to be carried out. During the past few months, in both Peru and Tanzania, this has been the case.

In Tanzania, the Jubilee Hope entered a floating dry dock for repair work to the fore peak, replacing of anodes and repainting of the hull.

Careful coordination by the local team, and supported by the Vine Trust Marine Committee, saw the ship return to the North Port a few days later in readiness for its annual seaworthiness certificate survey, which will take place before the first expedition scheduled for November.



In Peru, the Amazon Hope 2 is currently undergoing a much more significant repair, which will see the removal of its original Blackstone engine, and the installation of a new, more fuel efficient model.

We look forward to seeing the Amazon Hope 2 back in service at the beginning of 2022 once this work has been completed.

MEDICAL VOLUNTEER EXPEDITIONS 2022

How do you fancy waking up each morning at a different Amazonian community aboard the Forth Hope medical ship? How about working under the guidance of experienced Peruvian healthcare workers, learning from them about the local health needs and culture? And also get the opportunity to use and develop your own skills and expertise?

Find out more about applications for 2022 Amazon Hope Medical Programme expeditions via the website:

www.vinetrust.org/trips



KAZUNZU VILLAGE OF HOPE

As reported in the previous version of Connections, the first 8 homes have been completed and occupied. Sixteen guardian parents, along with their own children and 37 orphaned children from the islands or lake zone make up the almost 60 residents now living at Kazunzu. Everyone has settled in well and the community spirit within the village continues to grow.



The latest development at Kazunzu is the completion of the Community Hub (or 'Boma' as it is better known locally). This multipurpose building (photo above) will be a focal point of the village for our first 8 families and for future families as further homes are constructed.



HOPE IN TH

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that the past 18 months have been the most challenging for the Amazon Hope Programme in its 20-year history. The fact that so much has still been achieved despite all of the difficulties makes it all the more remarkable, and brings great encouragement for everyone involved.

For a few months in 2020, the medical ships were not permitted to travel to the communities due to lockdown restrictions in the region. Unable to provide their services to the communities, the Amazon Hope medical team worked tirelessly in the city of Iquitos instead,



Ronald and Melisa delivering medical care to a patient who couldn't leave their house due to flooding

supporting the local efforts in response to the pandemic.

Upon the restart of the expeditions to the communities later that year, they dealt admirably with the challenges of providing medical care in such remote and isolated settings with all the new COVID protocols. The team were delighted to be back out on the rivers attending patients, even helping with the delivery of three babies and providing life-saving care to a young man suffering from a poisonous snake bite.

If a pandemic wasn't enough to deal with, the team have also faced providing services in the extreme flooding, which was then followed by some of the lowest river levels in living memory.

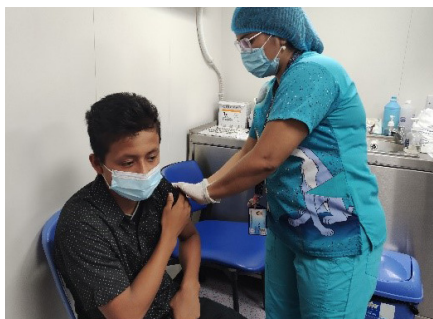
However, with the challenges also came opportunities, thanks to the Programme's strong links to the riverine communities and its long history of service in the region. In early 2021, a new collaborative project with Peruvian charity, CEDRO and USAID was established. As well as providing mental health services to patients, this new initiative has also been working

THE AMAZON



directly with communities to help them identify and address some of the root causes behind the wider health challenges that they face. We are delighted to report that funding for the project has now been extended to the end of 2022.

Most recently, during the October expedition, Ministry of Health personnel joined the ship to support the programme's general vaccination activities, which will now also include access for remote communities to the COVID-19 vaccine as part of the national roll-out strategy.



COVID-19 vaccines are now available alongside the programme's general vaccination services.



VineTrust GIFT AID CARDS

As Christmas approaches, why not consider giving friends and family a Vine Trust Gift Card and support the on-going work in Peru and Tanzania.

There are 3 cards available to support the development of ***Kazunzu Village of Hope***:

- Sustainable Agriculture
- Education
- Skills

To support the work of the ***Amazon Hope Medical Programme*** in Peru:

- Mother and Child Services
- Dental Services
- Reaching Remote Communities

And the ***Jubilee Hope Medical Programme*** on Lake Victoria can be supported by:

- Medicines
- Child Services
- HIV Support

A description of each gift card and a suggested donation for each can be found on our online shop at: www.vinetrust.org/store or call the office on **0131 555 5598**.

Your support for these programmes are much appreciated and the gift you give will be greatly valued by the recipient.



Kazunzu Fisheries Project



As part of the plans to develop self-sufficiency at Kazunzu Village of Hope, a fish farming project has been established.

Recently harvested were the first 20,000 Tilapia fish which were sold successfully in to the fish market in Mwanza.

The income sadly has fallen a bit short due to some of the fish not maturing adequately in the first month or so of their development, however important lessons have been learnt and we very much hope to see the fish cages being restocked and the issues learnt from this first attempt put in to practice for the next harvest in around eight months.



If at first you don't succeed, try and try again. We intend to do just that!



HELP US ROLL OUT COVID-19 VACCINES IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON

£30,000 target

As part of our Amazon Hope Medical Programme, we are seeking to ensure full deployment of both our ships in 2022 to spearhead COVID-19 and wider vaccine distribution to isolated river communities, in partnership with the Peruvian Ministry of Health in the Loreto Region.

Alongside our plans, we are also replacing the main engine on Amazon Hope 2 with a new, more fuel efficient engine which also emits less CO2.

Your support will enable us to install our new engine and ensure that our available funds can be used in the full time deployment of both our ships in 2022. Our target is to carry out 250,000 consultations during the year, including vaccinations.



Go to bit.ly/VTAppeal2021 or use the QR code for more information



Your Details	
Title:	First name(s):
Surname:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone No:	
Email:	

**Help us roll out
COVID-19 vaccines
on the
Peruvian Amazon.**

DONATION

£ _____

Standing Order	
Bank:	
Bank Address:	
Sort Code:	Account No.:
Please pay Vine Trust the sum of £ _____ on the date of _____	
And (please circle) monthly / quarterly / annually thereafter until _____	

I would like my Standing Order to support (please tick one):

- General Operations
- Peru Medical Programme
- Tanzania Medical Programme
- Kazunzu – Village of Hope
- Where the Need is Greatest

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate!

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. In order to Gift Aid your donations you must tick the box(es) below:

- I want to Gift Aid all of my Standing Order / Donations and/or
- any donations I have made in the past 4 years

'I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.'

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Thank you!

We couldn't operate our programmes without you.

**Please send this form to The Vine Trust Barge,
Prince of Wales Dock, Edinburgh, EH6 7DX.
We will register the standing order in our records
and then forward the form to your bank**

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration - change your name or home address - no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains
If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Patron: HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL

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VineTrust



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