

Vine Trust

Connecting People to Change Lives



CONNECTIONS

Issue 41 - Winter 2022



Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

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Welcome to Connections 41!

As I write, COP 27 is underway in Egypt and, like many others, we are becoming increasingly aware of significant seasonal changes in our weather. We've just had our warmest November night in Scotland and our warmest ever Armistice day across the UK. In the Peruvian Amazon, some communities are experiencing little or no rainfall, and in East Africa, drought conditions are resulting in famine for many communities, not least in Somalia.

Like many others, as a Trust we are concerned and eager to do all we can to reduce and mitigate the carbon footprint of our projects and operations at home and abroad. As part of this, Climate Stewards will be providing a detailed report on our carbon footprint along with detailed plans for us to implement as part of our 2023 activities.

As part of our post-Covid recovery and planning for the next four years, we are hosting our first ever Stakeholders Conference in Edinburgh from the 8th to 10th of March which will coincide with our 5th Medical Conference on Saturday 11th aboard our barge in Leith. This will be the first time that our partners from both continents will have the opportunity to meet together and share their plans and working practices collectively and meet the Vine Trust staff and Board.

One area I am particularly looking forward to hearing about is how our partners from the Jubilee Hope Programme can inform the team from the Amazon Hope Programme on how best to address the growing incidence of HIV in some of the communities served by the ships in the Amazon. The conference and all travel associated with it will, of course, be fully carbon offset!



Other news in this edition includes:

- a call for interested volunteers to sign up for our 2023 home-building expeditions to Tanzania.
- Latest news from our medical ships and volunteering opportunities in 2023.
- Update from Kazunzu Village of Hope and the new school currently being built.

I hope you enjoy the read and sincere thanks also to everyone who supported our summer "I can see clearly now appeal" which raised funding to support some 10,000 + pairs of glasses for distribution.

With every best wish for the festive season and the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Willie McPherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. Willie McPherson

Chief Executive

Kazunzu Village of Hope Powers Ahead for 2023

Sometimes in life we really don't 'see the wood for the trees' and can miss all sorts of inspiring events, images and transformational experiences. Being too busy or over focussed on micro details, rather than the big picture, being but two of the reasons why this can happen.

At Kazunzu Village of Hope we don't have too many trees, though our volunteer work teams added a good deal more in 2019. That being said, all sorts of remarkable things have been taking place over the last four years despite Covid-19 and the absence of our volunteer programmes since 2019.

Some 60 people, including 39 orphan children, now live in eight individual foster family homes, which are the first of up to 40 homes envisaged by our partners, Africa Inland Church Tanzania.

A community hub which serves a focal point for village life and activity has been constructed along with ancillary buildings.

A set of four buildings providing the base for a Kindergarden, staff housing and a home for the head teacher for the Kazunzu Primary School are now complete.



Construction of the primary school is well underway



A new 8 classroom school for up to 320 primary school children is scheduled for completion in time to begin enrolling children in January for the 2023 academic year, and the second fish harvest from the Kazunzu Fishery Project is scheduled for early December 2022 – in time for Christmas celebrations!

Opportunity abounds, alongside the everyday challenges of developing a project which, in our terms, feels like the middle of nowhere but to our partners is simply part of rural Tanzania.

Self-sufficiency is becoming a reality for the existing families alongside wider community support for the orphan children, and plans are being progressed for the next stage of the project which will include a vocational training centre, medical post, and dormitory accommodation for school children and vocational training students.

Seamless? absolutely not! The project is still wrestling with a sustainable long-term water supply for the village which will probably be based around solar pumps and reservoirs dotted across the 53 acres, drawing water from Lake Victoria which will be treated to become safe and potable. If you can help, please get in touch - it is likely to cost around £20,000.

We are also seeking support for solar panels for the village school along with solar batteries for computing and wider community benefit and, of course, equipment for the vocational training



A real sense of community has developed amongst the foster parents and the children since moving into Kazunzu Village of Hope.

centre when it is built later in 2023, funds permitting.

“Connecting people to change lives” is at the heart of all we are seeking to support as we accompany our local partners in realising their dreams and vision for Kazunzu Village, and all the hope and opportunities it will provide in the years ahead.

We look forward with great anticipation as plans continue to unfold, and congratulate our partners AICT on their vision and the progress they have achieved in these first four years of construction and planning for the future.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

We are now well into the second year of our 3-year Partnership Project with the Church of Scotland Guild.

During the course of 2022, Vine Trust has attended 102 Guild meetings to deliver a presentation about Kazunzu Village of Hope to groups all over Scotland. A further 37 speaking engagements have already been scheduled between New Year and Easter 2023. Amazingly, we also have a talk in the diary for 2024.



Samuel Limbe with some of the children now living at Kazunzu Village of Hope

These presentations have been well received, and groups have enjoyed updates on the 8 completed homes, the 16 guardian parents and especially the 39 orphaned children who now live in the village. As Rev. Samuel Limbe, Kazunzu Project Director recently reported, these children are *“enjoying the mother/father love they are now experiencing”*.

Vine Trust, along with the other five partnership Guild partnership projects, attended the Annual Gathering in the Assembly Hall in Edinburgh on the 8th of October. Attended by almost 1000 Guild members, all six organisations were able to provide an overview of the progress on their respective projects. The Guild’s theme for this year is *“Wee Seeds, Big Trees”* - quite appropriate for Vine Trust!

If you would like to arrange a speaker from Vine Trust to visit your Guild and give a presentation of the project, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0131 555 5598 or email admin@vinetrust.org



LEGACY GIVING

LEAVING BEHIND HOPE FOR CHILDREN, COMMUNITIES AND THE FUTURE

Our Christian ethos shapes how we work. We welcome everyone without discrimination regardless of faith, colour, race, sexual orientation, gender or any other distinction.

- Vine Trust originated from a church fundraising response (St Andrews Church of Scotland Bo'ness) to the famine in Ethiopia in 1985.
- These same values of action, empathy, fairness and respect still motivate the activities of Vine Trust today.
- All aspects of Vine Trust's work, including its partnership programmes in Peru and Tanzania, take place without discrimination of any kind, either on race, colour, language, ethnicity, religion, political, disability, age, marital status, family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, or any other distinction.

In recent years we have received kind gifts in wills and legacies in memory of loved ones, to continue supporting others for many years to come. Through our medical work in Peru and Tanzania, we now enable around 250,000 medical consultations per year. Our volunteering programmes have connected over 4,000 participants in our home building and medical programmes, all with the aim of connecting people to change lives.

Over the last 20 years, 10 large orphanages have been built, 140 individual family homes and a new Village of Hope is under construction on the shores of Lake Victoria, Tanzania, which aims to accommodate up to 320 orphan children in the years ahead.

We are indebted for all our supporters and for legacies that have formed a key part of our overseas funding.

If you would like to explore further the possibility of including Vine Trust in your will, please complete the response form and we will be in touch.

ANOTHER BUSY YEAR ON THE AMAZON

Amazon Hope Medical Programme closes in on 200,000 consultations in 2022!

After two particularly challenging years with the Covid-19 pandemic impacting the work of the Amazon Hope Programme, 2022 has been an incredibly busy period, with both ships back out serving communities in the Loreto Region.

National Director, Elena Pila has sent us the following update as she looks back on the year so far:

“Greetings from the Amazon Hope Medical Programme!

We aimed at finishing the year reaching 200,000 total medical consultations, and, on October 31st, we had already achieved the 92% of our goal. We expect to complete the year, finishing very close to our target after the November expedition.

Part of our success this year has come from two important collaborations.

The first of these is with USAID (United States International Development Agency) and its Peruvian partner, CEDRO through the ‘Alliance for the Amazon against Covid-19’, which was an initiative to mitigate the adverse social and



economic impacts of the pandemic on vulnerable populations in Peru, particularly within indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon.

As well as access to vital medical services, the members of the Amazon Hope and CEDRO personnel have been working closely with individuals and community leadership in the villages to provide orientation and counselling services, taking into account their particular needs and cultural characteristics. CEDRO’s expertise in mental health issues has proved crucial. This year, our new team of clinical psychologists delivered support to 5,250 people through individual consultations and workshops for children, teenagers and adults.

The second collaboration is a long-term relationship with the Regional Ministry of Health (DIRESA) in Loreto, the area of Peru where our ships deliver primary health care services. The aim of this particular cooperation in 2022 was to provide access to people in the remote communities to the national Covid vaccination programme.

DIRESA supplied the vaccinations and two nurses to inoculate patients, whilst the Amazon Hope Programme, with the support of the Alliance for the Amazon against Covid-19, placed both vessels at the disposal of DIRESA and housed and supported the nurses throughout the campaign. The happy outcome has been that together we have managed to vaccinate 8,058 people, some for the first time and many others with their second or third shot.

This same partnership also facilitated the progress with the national vaccination programme against the Human Papilloma virus, Tetanus and Hepatitis B, with 6,629 vaccinations delivered.

In addition, this year has also been marked with some particularly wonderful achievements, including the delivery of close to 24,000 dental care consultations, strengthening our family planning and pre and post-natal (almost 20,000) gynaecological consultations, as well as providing ophthalmic consultations and glasses to more than 6,000 children and adults! We want to thank everyone who has supported through donations to make this possible.

We finish 2022 with huge satisfaction and a rewarding sense of duty fulfilled!"



JOIN A HOME BUILDING EXPEDITION IN 2023!

Lend a helping hand, supporting our partnership programme which is bringing about sustainable change for children in Tanzania!

At the end of November 2022, our long-term partnership with Tanzania Women's Research Foundation reached the incredible milestone of handing over the keys to the 140th family home.

We'd love for you to be involved in helping provide even more families with this life-changing help in 2023!

A new home is a life-changing gift for children and families in rural Tanzania, providing them with safety, security and a sense of hope.

Our home building project is run through collaboration with Tanzania Women's Research Foundation (TAWREF), who use research and work closely with local communities and stakeholders to identify those most in need.

By joining one of our home-building expeditions, you'll not only get to see this life-changing process in action, but also gain a greater understanding about the communities in the Kilimanjaro region face, as well as gain a unique insight into Tanzanian culture and environment.





The TAWREF-Vine Trust partnership opens the door for volunteers to play an active role in helping to build the new homes.

Working under the guidance of the Tanzania builders, you'll be part of a team, getting your hands dirty, working together, and helping to make a difference.

Vine Trust has expedition opportunities available during June and July 2023.

If this sounds like the kind of experience you'd love to take part in, then please get in touch with the Vine Trust office so we can share with you more details about how we can connect you with this amazing partnership project to change lives. Contact us by email (admin@vinetrust.org) or call 0131 555 5598.



If you're unable to join a trip but would still love to support this building project, please see page 14 for more details.



“NOW I BELIEVE!”

THE IMPACT OF THE JUBILEE HOPE

It's hard to believe that 9 years have passed since, on the 7th of December 2013, the MV Jubilee Hope was waved off from Glasgow as it began its long voyage to become the first ever medical ship on Lake Victoria!



After a journey of over 10,000 miles, it arrived to a warm welcome in Mwanza, it's new home and base for the work bringing vital medical services to many remote island communities, saving lives in the process.

When the ship made its first ever expedition to the islands, a lady exclaimed “Now I believe! Now I believe!”. When asked what she meant, the lady said that so many promises had been made by so many people but no one had ever kept their word. That was, until the Jubilee Hope ship arrived. “Now I believe that what I was told is true this time”, she noted.

From that first monumental step of getting a ship on to the Lake, and through collaboration with Africa Inland Church Tanzania (AICT), Anglo Gold Ashanti, the Kagera Regional Ministry of Health and Vine Trust, the programme has since become the largest healthcare provider to the islands, with over 55,000 consultations provided on average each year.

A key element in the success of the work has been its focus on community engagement and participation right from the very start.

Not only are people living on the islands able to access healthcare services, but community leaders have rallied around the work to ensure cooperation and facilitate support to help bring the maximum impact from each of the ship's visits.

This year was the first of a new 5-year collaboration agreement, with plans to expand services and reach more communities in the coming period. A particular focus will be to build on the HIV services that the ship provides, which include testing, counselling and treatment.

Supporting the national HIV strategy, plans are being drawn up to increase access to HIV services for expectant mothers to reduce the likelihood of the virus being passed on to their child.

On the 15th of November 2022, the Jubilee Hope set sail



on its final expedition of the year, heading for the islands of Ikuza and Mazinga. Joining the Tanzania health team were 5 UK-based medical volunteers who would be supporting the delivery of care to patients.

The Jubilee Hope team have reported their great satisfaction on seeing volunteers return during 2022 after the lifting of Covid travel restrictions, and look forward to receiving more visitors next year.



Let's Build with TAWREF in 2023 APPEAL

£10,000 target

Since 2012 we have been partnering with the Tanzanian Women Research Foundation in the Kilimanjaro, Moshi region in support of their home building programme for orphan and impoverished families. During this time, Vine Trust has funded 140 individual houses, which have been built for a wide range of recipients identified through TAWREF's network with local village leaders, church and wider community groups and local social services.

Visiting school expeditions have played a huge part in the funding and building of the houses alongside local builders and witnessed first-hand what a difference a safe place to live can make in the lives of so many. Following the suspension of volunteer school expeditions in the spring of 2020 due to Covid-19, Vine Trust has continued to support TAWREF and fund some additional homes for families identified as being in extreme crisis and in urgent need.

Our appeal is to raise £10,000 to build another three homes during 2023 as we await the return of our school expeditions in 2024.

Any gift, large or small, will make a life-changing difference to some of the most vulnerable people in the Moshi area at this time. With thanks for any help you or your school, group or church may be able to give.



A transformational gift of a new home during 2022 for a widow and her 8 young children was possible through Vine Trust's partnership with TAWREF

VineTrust *Winter 2022 Appeal*

Connecting People
to Change Lives

Donation / Standing Order Form

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

**Let's Build with
TAWREF in 2023**

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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