

## From Cumbria to Cusco

This August a group of 21 students and 4 teachers opted to swap their summer holidays at the beach for an adventurous trip to Peru. The group from Furness College, Millom School, Ulverston Victoria and Barrow 6<sup>th</sup> Form College spent just over 2 weeks on an action packed educational experience learning about the work of SU Peru. They spent time in the capital city Lima, where the group witnessed the stark contrast in standards of living visiting a shanty town and learning about how people get by with very few resources. The group were able to see first hand the diversity of the country when they also visited Iquitos in the jungle and Kusi in the Andes. The last stop, before returning home to tell family and friends all about it, was Cusco from where the group visited the famous Machu Picchu, "lost city of the Incas".

Some of the other highlights of the trip included making adobe bricks in the Andes and



organising activities for the former abandoned boys who we were staying with. Many of the group had previously seen the Amazon Hope 2 when the ship was being refitted by BAE Systems in Barrow-in-Furness and were delighted to be able to spend a night onboard the ship in its new surroundings, half way around the world!

If you would like to arrange a trip from your school or college, enabling students to learn more about issues of inequality and what it means to be a global citizen in today's world please get in touch. Contact Calum on 01875 812 252 or [calum@vinetrust.org](mailto:calum@vinetrust.org) for more information.

awarded them with Provost's medals, she said: "Provost's medals are only given out to people who have achieved extraordinary things, and this group of young people certainly have. They showed courage and determination in the face of adversity, they put someone else before their own needs and showed maturity beyond their years."

### Work Parties 2008

30 PLACES STILL AVAILABLE FOR WORKTEAMS IN 2008  
See website for details, or email [workparties@vinetrust.org](mailto:workparties@vinetrust.org)

## Legacies

As a Trust we are immensely grateful for the generosity of individuals and organisations whose financial support enables us to carry out our work in Peru.

The difference we can make to the lives of Peru's most marginalised and vulnerable with your help is the motivation behind all that we do at the Vine Trust. In response to a growing number of enquiries from supporters who would like to remember the Trust in their Wills, a Legacy Information leaflet is now available from the office, or by download from our website: [www.vinetrust.org](http://www.vinetrust.org)

Legacy donations transform possessions into hope for many people. If you would like to know more about leaving a legacy to the Vine Trust please do get in touch with Willie McPherson. 01875 812252 or Email:

[willie@vinetrust.org](mailto:willie@vinetrust.org)



### Medical Teams 2008

With 2 operational ships, we now have the capacity to send 2 medical teams to Peru each month. This means doubling the number of volunteers—do you have two weeks to spare?

Email [health@vinetrust.org](mailto:health@vinetrust.org)

### NEW HOMES

The new Street Boy's Home at Ica will be open on Sat 1st Dec and the Sacred valley home will open in January 2008 – see next edition for more information and pictures.

# VineTrust Connections

Issue 6 — November 2007



## Earthquake Appeal Now Serving Almost 3000 Meals A Day

It hardly seems like three months since a massive 7.9 Magnitude Earthquake devastated the Peruvian city of Pisco in Southern Peru and caused widespread damage throughout the department of Ica. Leaving over 500 people dead and up to 300,000 people homeless.

Within 5 days however SU Peru with funds made available by Vine Trust very rapidly established four feeding centres for children in the areas worst affected with a further three centres being opened shortly thereafter.

Thanks to the Trust being able to send an immediate US\$150,000 to establish these centres and accelerate the construction of the new street children's home in Ica itself, an immediate response has been made.

Sadly the worlds media has now very definitely moved on to the next disaster or news story. Six weeks on the situation for many still resembled a war zone, with people quite literally having lost their entire homes and most of their belongings. A three minute event which will take a generation to recover from.

It is very much hoped that the seven centres will run till the end of this year and that up to 40 children identified as street children, abandoned or possibly even orphaned by the disaster will have a new home to live in by January 2008.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our earthquake appeal which quite literally is providing real support for people who would otherwise be getting nothing other than perhaps sympathy which is pretty meaningless to a hungry crying child.

Our Appeal remains open until the end of December 2007. See [www.vinetrust.org](http://www.vinetrust.org)

## 2.2 Million Viewers Tune In To Amazon Heartbeat

Mondays and Fridays will not quite be the same again after a remarkable 4 week run of TV Programmes on STV which it is hoped will be shown more widely in 2008.

With the focus very definitely on all things medical and the delivery of Amazon Hope 2, viewers were given a fascinating insight in to the work of the Amazon Hope medical project and the work of visiting



medical teams from the UK and the United States.

Series Two which is scheduled for broadcast on Mondays and Thursdays at 8pm on STV during January or February 2008, will complete our 12 part series. These programmes will focus mainly on the work amongst street children, work teams and report on the devastation caused by the earthquake and the response made by SU Peru and Vine Trust to that tragedy.

Do tune in and encourage your friends to do likewise. It is envisaged that a double DVD of all the programmes will be available in early 2008.

As a Trust we are immensely grateful to all who made the series possible and contributed to it. Not Least Glasgow Films and CTVC, Mac Donald Hotels and Resorts, the Kapital Foundation and the commissioning editor at STV.

The programmes have certainly created a huge amount of interest in our medical teams and we trust series two will do the same for our work parties in 2008.

Connecting People to Change Lives

## Snippets

### Local Awards

Last summer one of our work parties became caught up in disruption caused by a miners strike. During a delay caused by barricades blocking the road, one of the party became quite ill. Without a thought for their own safety a group of youngsters from Ayr, decided to carry her nearly three miles to a safe place where a truck was waiting to take them to their destination.

To acknowledge their courage the Provost of South Ayrshire Council

## Contact Us

The Trust office is open throughout the year and on public holidays except over the festive period when we close from 3pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December until Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Our core office hours are Monday – Thursday 10am – 4pm

email: [admin@vinetrust.org](mailto:admin@vinetrust.org)  
tel: **01875 812252**  
[www.vinetrust.org](http://www.vinetrust.org)

The Vine Trust  
83 Laburnum Avenue  
Port Seton  
EH32 0UD  
UK

## Happy Anniversary – Amazon Hope 2

8<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 was one of those red letter days in the history of Vine Trust and SU Peru with the safe arrival of Amazon Hope 2 in Iquitos after its mammoth 11,000 mile delivery voyage via Bermuda and the United States where it had sailed on a pre arrival interest raising voyage.

It was therefore quite amazing that 1 year on to the day, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal visited Iquitos to visit Amazon Hope 2 at work on the Amazon River and re-commission Amazon Hope 1 which quite literally had just been re-floated 6 hours earlier after a 10 metre extension had been inserted in to the middle of the ship.

The first part of the day was a 45 minute call to the Iquitos Street Children's Centre where SU staff, the children and the first Vine



Trust Summer Work Team all had the opportunity to meet and chat with the Princess Royal. Thereafter it was a dash to the Peruvian Naval Base followed by a 1 hour speedboat journey to catch up with Amazon Hope 2 and Dr Dan Jones who had arrived just hours earlier with a visiting medical team from the US.

We then went walk about in the local village where the Princess could see first hand the

communities the vessels serve before heading back to Iquitos where the paint had only just dried on our new greatly lengthened Amazon Hope.

*"Thank you for a fascinating day. It's good to see people getting on with what the work is really all about and making a difference and to see*

*where these ships are now working and will be working for many many years to come."*

As a Trust we are delighted at the continuing interest the Princess Royal has shown in our work and for the huge amount of time she spent with us on our first anniversary of Amazon Hope 2's arrival in Peru and making that day so memorable for so many people.

Any ideas for next year?

## Andean Hope

Take a seven ton 30 ft workboat – Ponder hard for two years. Refurbish and deliver some 8000 miles by sea, store briefly in one of the driest deserts in the world, haul to a height of 16,000 feet and then deliver to an Amazonian tributary and then by barge to Iquitos – oh and capture as much as you can on camera and do 90% of it for free!

And you begin to get a sense of why Andean Hope's delivery to Peru has been a little bit of an ongoing challenge.



The final Andean haul of Andean Hope, hence its name, started on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October from Lima to Pucallpa on the Ucayalli River, (which is the only bit we have actually had to pay for) It will then be taken the remaining 1400 km by barge, free of charge, to Iquitos where it will join our other ships to serve as a tender / Ambulance to enable medical teams to go even deeper in to Amazonia where water levels prohibit even Amazon Hope with its much reduced draught from getting to. Thanks again to Scottish Power and Particularly to Willie Fergusson of Kincardine who was instrumental in arranging the gifting of the boat to the trust.

Look out for Calum Munro who will be travelling with Andean Hope on its Andean Journey in Amazon Heartbeat early in the new year on STV. The scenery will be amazing – we hope!



### Supporters Database

We are in the process of amalgamating three databases of information relating to our supporters and volunteers. If you have received a postal copy of this newsletter in error, please accept our apologies.

If you would prefer to receive a copy of the newsletter by email, please sign-up via the Vine Trust Web-site [www.vinetrust.org](http://www.vinetrust.org)

## Amazon Diary

This was my second trip out on the Amazon, this time sailing on the Ucayali on the Amazon Hope 2, while last year I had been on the Amazon Hope on the Tigre. Two quite different trips but both utterly amazing, fulfilling and full of unexpected blessings! Ours was an all girl team and half of them were in their early 20's. I was a little anxious about returning – would it be as good as the first time?

Of course, I needn't have worried. The Peruvians on the boat looked after us beautifully and we all made new friends: on the last night when they sang the 'Welcome to Iquitos' song to us many tears were shed.

It was wonderful to be back there, working on the newer boat with its better equipped dental surgery and I very much look forward to working sometime on the refurbished Amazon Hope.

We saw and treated over 240 dental patients and took out almost as many teeth and placed many fillings. We also discovered that one of the Peruvian nurses on board regularly works with the dentist at the Health Clinic in Belen and soon roped her in every time we had to give instructions about health care or fluoride.

This project is working so hard to change the lives of the people it serves and they seem to greet us with pleasure, bringing gifts of fruit, plenty of smiles and welcoming us into their villages. But I am still sure that we are the ones more dramatically changed by simply taking part in this project. One of the young dentists on our team said, "... I wouldn't change a



thing about the whole trip. I learned a lot about myself and other people. It was such a different environment and a very humbling experience...On a dental level I feel a lot more confident and felt very appreciated as the treatment we were doing was very much needed."

*Shona Mason—dentist and member of the June 2007 Medical Team*

Are you medically qualified? do you have two weeks you could give us to help to make a difference?

Email: [health@vinetrust.org](mailto:health@vinetrust.org) for information about medical teams

## A summer with a difference!

Work teams spend two weeks in Peru helping with the construction of street children centres. Have you ever wondered what it would really be like on a work team? Well here are several people's thoughts from the summers work teams...

Being part of a work-party is a life changing experience that is difficult to explain in words. It is something you need to do to understand.

It is the most exciting and rewarding experience of my life. It was a chance to physically help and interact with the street children of Peru.

It is more than simply giving money to a charity, which is still important, but to see the smiles on the children's faces because of the work that we did with the Vine Trust is worth travelling a few thousand miles. You get to witness the awful things these children go through

every day. It makes you appreciate the smallest of comforts we have here in the UK. It also opens your eyes to the good that a small group of people and a small amount of money can do to so many children. It is something that I will certainly not forget.

*Allan Neary. KNEC Team 2007*



it as one big adventure. I was wrong about the first but spot on about the second. My days at Kusi will be some of the happiest and saddest moments of my life. The camaraderie from my work party was great - especially as I was travelling on my own. Hearing some of the children's stories is heart-breaking but they manage to smile through it all and for me that was very humbling. This experience has made me grateful for all I do have and remember to thank God for it. One day I would like to return to see how far things may have changed and that my participation just might have helped make a difference."

*Dee, Work Party 2*

When I signed up for the Peru Project I had no idea what I was undertaking. I got myself really worked up about the creepy crawlies that I thought would be there—I have a very vivid imagination—and knew that I was going to be well out of my comfort zone but decided to treat

You too could be travelling to Peru next summer to take part in a 'trip of a lifetime' to make a real difference to abandoned children. We still have spaces left for next summers work teams... book now!

Email [workparties@vinetrust.org](mailto:workparties@vinetrust.org)