

Vine Trust

Connecting People to Change Lives

30 Years The Story So Far

Connecting People to Change Lives has always been at the heart of Vine Trust and is central to our ethos of linking volunteers from the UK and other countries with communities in some of the poorest parts of the world.

First and foremost we are a volunteering charity not a fundraising charity, though we do of course rely on our volunteers to help us raise the funds and financial support that we increasingly send overseas every year to support our local partners in the delivery of care, housing and primary health care to some of the most marginalised communities of Tanzania and Peru.

In our first 15 years Vine Trust supported projects at home and abroad through distributing the annual profit from the Branches Gift shop in Bo'ness which still operates staffed by volunteers supporting the Trust and other charitable projects.

Since 2001, we have actively engaged in supporting the direct delivery of projects through partnership with in-country organisations that have the vision to address need, but lacked the resources to do so. Through the active involvement of over 2,500 volunteers we have been directly involved in funding the development and construction of residential centres for abandoned children across Peru, and in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania, have embarked on a programme to build 100 individual family homes for orphan children (57 now completed,) and have just completed our 20th Senior School Expedition which aims to promote the development of global citizenship here in the UK, whilst also supporting our overseas partners' work.

Supporting isolated communities with primary health care services has also been a core ingredient to our work, which has once again been at the heart of our volunteering ethos and working model.

Looking ahead, we see our volunteering numbers growing, with 2016 expected to be our busiest year ever, with over 400 volunteers scheduled across our various Education, Medical and Home-Building Expeditions. New types of Expeditions are also being explored linked to our core areas of interest in support of vulnerable children, homelessness and primary health care.

None of what we have achieved, however, and plan to achieve, would have been possible without the generosity of our supporters, volunteers and sponsors over the last 15 years when we chose to do more ourselves and invited others to join us.

As a Trust we have been humbled time and time again by the kindness and generosity of so many with their time, talents and money. We have been supported by volunteers from across the world and corporately by various UK and overseas companies.

My hope is that as we build on the foundation laid by our first 2,500 volunteers who have prepared the way for the years to come, that we will continue to mark and make the difference for some of the poorest people on earth so that collectively we can bring hope, health and a future to an increasing number of children and communities. We cannot help everyone, but we can all help someone and I warmly thank you for journeying with us thus far and invite you to continue in this journey of service and celebration of the dignity, and, for those of faith, sanctity, of every human life.



Rev. Willie McPherson - Vine Trust Chief Executive

Changing Lives Brick by Brick

As the Tanzanian proverb goes, 'little by little, a little becomes a lot', a saying which is most apt when we reflect on Vine Trust's journey with our Tanzanian partners over the last five years.

Since starting work on our first children's home at Kimashuku in 2011 in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT), we have been overwhelmed by the response from faithful fundraisers and nearly 400 Vine Trust volunteers who have given of their time to join one of our 'work parties' to the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania. In just a few years, the Trust has built four large children's centres to provide safe accommodation for vulnerable children and orphans, and also built 57 individual family homes with Tanzania Women's Research Foundation (TAWREF) - and the number is increasing with each team that visits!



'Genuinely a life-changing experience!' Jim Coleman

With no prior building experience required, individuals, churches, community groups, schools and businesses have all engaged in our work, recognising that we can't do everything, but, that in working together, we can all do something and change that 'little' into a 'lot'!

But the last few years in Tanzania have been about so much more than building homes and really do come down to Vine Trust's vision and ethos of 'Connecting People to Change Lives'. Yes, we've changed lives by working with our partners to provide homes for some of the most vulnerable communities, but in the process, we've also built relationships, self-esteem, confidence, hope and a future - impacting both the families and partners in Tanzania, as well as the Vine Trust volunteers.

2016 Expedition Dates*

21st March – 3rd April

7th – 20th July

7th – 20th October

(option to combine with Kilimanjaro trek)

*These are our 'general expedition' dates, open to anyone. We also have another four expeditions during 2016 organised by private groups. If you would like to organise your own private group (min 15 volunteers), please email expeditions@vinetrust.org to discuss dates.



'One of the best experiences I've had. Can't wait to return next year!' Rachel Chalmers, SSE

And as we look to the future, we're excited to be able to offer further opportunities for our volunteers in Tanzania in the form of new 'expeditions'. Whilst our main focus will continue to be our 'home-building expeditions', from 2016 we'll also be offering teaching, sport, care, environmental, creative and international development 'expeditions', varying from one to six weeks in duration. We are also continuing with our Mount Kilimanjaro Trek expedition, and for those who would like to complete a 5k, half marathon or full marathon under the watchful eye of Africa's tallest mountain, why not join our ultimate home-building and marathon expedition in February 2017?



'We're changing the world - brick by brick.' Mhairi Anderson

So if you're looking for a new challenge, an opportunity for unique team and personal development, and a hands-on, practical way to make a difference, we'd love to welcome you to Tanzania - karibuni sana!

2017 Expedition Dates

23rd February – 8th March

(option to include Kilimanjaro Marathon & 5K Fun Run)

1st – 14th April

29th July – 11th August

7th – 20th October

(option to combine with Kilimanjaro Trek)

Vine Trust's School Expedition Report Card

2007 Vine Trust school trips were launched with a group of schools from Cumbria: Barrow Sixth Form, Furness College, Ulverston Victoria High School and Millom School.

2009 A parent of a Kyle Academy pupil who visited Peru in 2009 as well said this about his son *'...he has come back with a lot more compassion, a lot more sensitivity to some of the real global issues that we are facing today. He is a changed man because of it.'*

2010 Kincorth Academy signed up for their first expedition with Vine Trust, a school that has integrated a Vine Trust trip into their curriculum for senior pupils and they now journey with us every two years.

2011 James Young and West Calder High Schools embarked on their first trip to Peru after a teacher had enjoyed a work party - a great way to Connect People to Change Lives.

After a busy year of fundraising, including sleeping out in cardboard boxes, Berwickshire and Eyemouth High School pupils achieved their fundraising target and visited the Amazon rainforest, Peruvian Andes and the Atacama desert with Vine Trust.

2012 Perth Academy joined the list of schools to travel overseas with us. Young people who have travelled to Peru have made adobe bricks used for accommodation rooms, repaired roads and paths, made bridges, dug septic tanks, prepared banana leaves for new roofs, sanded, varnished and painted walls as well as playing countless games of football!

2013 'The smiles on their faces' is a quote from Earlston High and Carrick Academy pupils as they list the highlights of their trip and the fun they had meeting, helping and playing with the boys from the home at Kusi in Peru.

2014 Culloden Academy and Hamilton College were our first ever school expeditions to Tanzania and built a total of 5 homes with TAWREF. Portree High School and Whitburn Academy travelled for the first time to Peru and were able to help with maintenance work at one of the boys' centres high in the Peruvian jungle.

2015 Perth Grammar took an enthusiastic group of pupils, staff and parents to Tanzania to build homes for vulnerable families and also had a great safari experience. One teacher, when asked if the expedition supported Curriculum for Excellence, wrote *'it covers everything!'*

2016 St Kentigern's, Armadale Academy, Peebles High School, Millburn Academy, Inverness Royal Academy, Inverness High School and Jedburgh Grammar School are all new schools journeying with us next year. We'll let you know how they get on.

Highlights:

An amazing 466 volunteers have journeyed with us to Peru and Tanzania on school expeditions from 2007 – we hope to reach over 600 volunteers by the end of 2016.

Eyemouth High School has travelled with us on four separate occasions, with Kincorth a close runner up as they are preparing for their fourth trip in 2016.

Our first South of England school will travel with us in 2017.

An amazing 28 schools have or are signed-up to journey with us – we hope to reach our 30th school by the end of our 30th anniversary year! Could it be your school?



Looking forward:

We will continue to offer schools and young people the opportunity to engage in meaningful and relevant global citizenship that link with the core values of the Curriculum for Excellence and the Global Dimension in both Peru and Tanzania.

If your school would like to get involved and journey with us to make a practical difference to the lives of vulnerable children and families, get in touch with our Education and Expedition Co-ordinator on 0131 555 5598, ext 4 or email michelle@vinetrust.org

Where There's Hope There's Life

When the concept of sending a ship to Iquitos was first conceived back in October 1999, nobody could have anticipated the enormous impact that this project would have in the years to come on the lives of thousands of people (and not only in the lives of those in the Peruvian Amazon). Initially a project that would primarily support the wellbeing and safety of vulnerable children in the Loreto region, it blossomed and grew into an innovative itinerant primary health care service to remote river communities living in extreme poverty.

In fact, with the arrival of the MV Amazon Hope on the 7th of October 2001 in Iquitos (and subsequent arrival of Amazon Hope 2 in 2005), the 'gateway to the jungle' became the base for a work whose impact would reverberate in so many different ways into the lives of people across the globe. By the end of 2015, over 1000 volunteers from the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia and Hong Kong, amongst others, will have joined medical expeditions that have provided 1.1 million consultations and interventions to 160 communities along 6 river basins since the programme was launched.

The support provided by these volunteers, sharing from their experience and knowledge and working shoulder to shoulder with the Peruvian team, has been an incredible encouragement to all involved, as well as a great example of selflessness, generosity, teamwork and dedication. And the impact goes further still. The participation of Vine Trust volunteers has also developed the programme through the equipping, capacity building and training of the local staff. Furthermore, innovative activities, such as ophthalmic surgery campaigns which were initially led by overseas volunteers,



Our first team of volunteers with the Tanzanian staff aboard Jubilee Hope

raised the awareness amongst their Peruvian counterparts of the needs that exist in the region and who now organise and implement these services themselves each year.

Feedback from our volunteers reveals that these expeditions are unforgettable and life-changing experiences. Upon returning to their homes and communities, these same volunteers have been able to enthuse others with reports of their experiences and become ambassadors for the communities they have worked with, sharing of the needs that exist and the ways friends and colleagues can also become involved. Many volunteers have returned repeatedly to help the programme over many years, developing an even stronger working relationship with the Amazon Hope team and a deep passion to serve the people and communities in the region.

2016 Tanzania Trip Dates

We have 13 trips in 2016. Our first trip departs on the 10th January. Our final trip of the year will leave the UK on the 20th November.

2016 Peru Trip Dates

We have 20 trips throughout the year, with spaces filling up fast. The first trip of the year departs on the 17th January and our final trip on the 9th November.

Tremendous Experience on Jubilee Hope

In August 2015, I was fortunate enough to be a volunteer general practitioner on the Jubilee Hope. Four of us from the UK - three doctors and a dentist - embarked on the Jubilee Hope from Mwanza on the southern shores of Lake Victoria. It was a truly amazing fortnight.

We were part of a team of medical and dental staff, with three Tanzanian doctors, a dental assistant, pharmacist and laboratory technician, whilst the boat team acted as our interpreters. We visited two remote islands in the middle of the lake, where there are no medical services, no running water, no sanitation, minimal education and no health and safety. Fishing is the major source of food and work.

The clinics were busy with a never ending stream of patients, mainly young as they are fishermen. There was much we

could treat, especially infectious diseases, and some patients we needed to refer to hospitals on the mainland. It is rewarding work, as many of the patients had never received treatment before. The team was also involved in health education, with daily talks to islanders who came to listen. Sometimes this was more than 100 people.

We were very well looked after by all the Tanzanian staff on the Jubilee Hope. Volunteering for this project is a tremendous experience, seeing some medical conditions rarely seen now in the UK, and giving support to Tanzanian doctors who valued our input enormously. All of us wish to return.

Dr Alison James - Volunteer on Jubilee Hope

The success of the Amazon Hope Medical Programme laid the foundation and template for the concept to be transferred to another part of the world, in this case the challenge of delivering health care services to remote island communities on Lake Victoria, Tanzania. Vine Trust's third medical ship, MV Jubilee Hope, was officially launched in Mwanza at the end of 2014 and was soon visiting islands with primary health care services, receiving strong support from the communities and leaders.

The first team of Vine Trust volunteers began supporting the work in August this year to provide vital assistance in meeting the incredible demand for services that exists in the region (with an estimated of 40,000 consultations being provided in 2015). One volunteer reported upon returning to the UK that "We were met at the airport with a smile, well looked after for the trip, visited amazing remote communities, used one's skills in a rewarding way and have been given happy memories for years after."

The celebration of 30 years of Vine Trust also invites us to look to the future and consider the exciting plans and opportunities that lie ahead. Vine Trust is as passionate as ever about making a difference in people's lives through an ever-improving standard of care that its medical programmes provide. The number of expeditions and communities reached will further increase in 2016 with a target of 160,000 consultations rising, to 200,000 by 2017 (a 100% increase on 2014 levels).

As a result, Vine Trust will continue to engage with national, regional and municipal health authorities to increase the level of interinstitutional collaboration and contribution which will

also provide greater long-term sustainability for the programmes. The programmes will also further equip and empower local communities, organisation and individuals to enhance the quality and quantity of services available, as well as promote complementary public health initiatives.

Collaborative work being done with Peruvian, Tanzanian, UK and USA universities will also be expanded to provide greater levels of clinical and global health learning opportunities for medical students, as well as engage in research into local health needs, providing data which will guide the development of the work and impact the lives of the communities. As one faculty member reported upon visiting the work in Tanzania: "The set-up around Lake Victoria, especially surrounding the provision of health services via Jubilee Hope is uniquely wonderful...the noble and innovative effort to provide services to citizens in some of the most remote portions of the world would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students."

For all of this to happen, Vine Trust still needs you. We continue to need individuals who are willing to put their skills, knowledge and expertise to use; people ready to 'roll up their sleeves' and get to work alongside local health professionals and who will be ambassadors for these remote and isolated communities in Peru and Tanzania. We need you because, looking back and looking forward, without our volunteers, none of this is remotely possible.

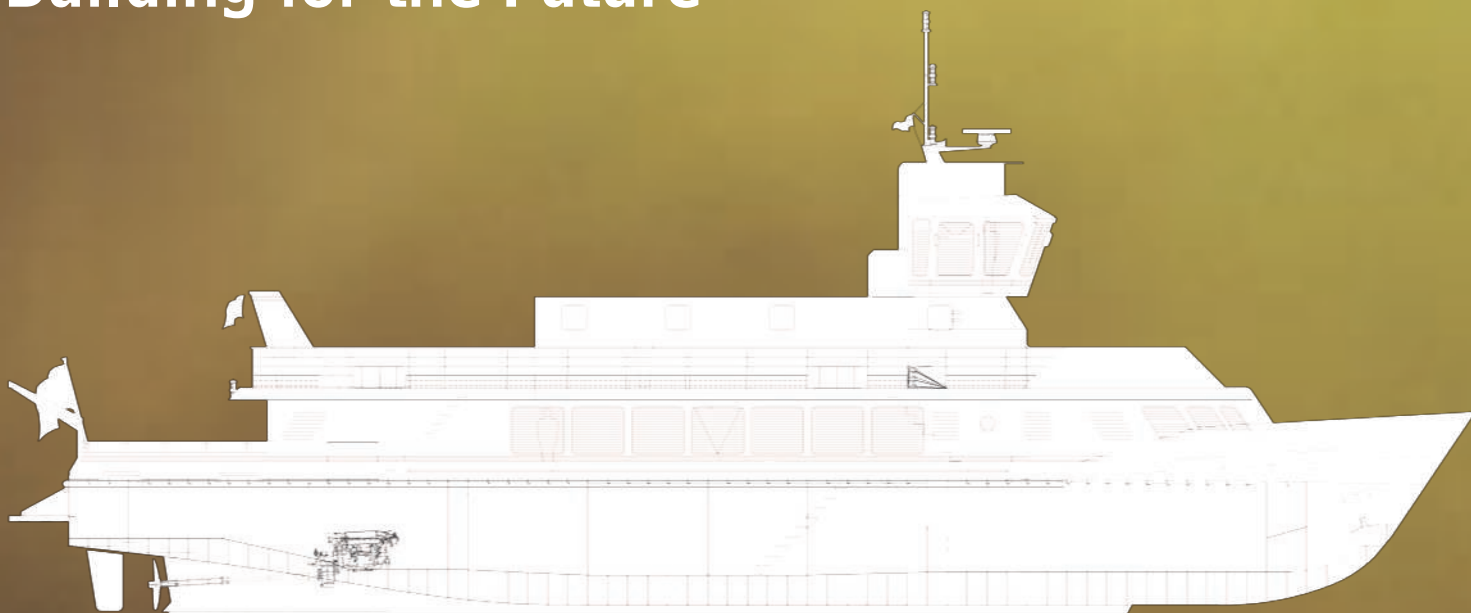
More Information

Email - health@vinetrust.org

Visit - www.vinetrust.org/volunteer/medical_teams



Building for the Future



Draft design for new Forth Hope medical ship.

‘Forth Hope Project’

As part of the Trust’s ongoing development for the next five years and beyond, we are delighted to announce the launch of our latest project which will see the construction of our first ever new-build medical ship during the course of 2016.

Over a year in the planning, we are delighted that Babcock Rosyth (who are assembling the two new Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers for the Royal Navy) have agreed to support the outfitting of this new vessel as part of their centenary celebrations of Rosyth Naval Dockyard on the River Forth.

The 35 metre vessel, which will feature enhanced cabin accommodation, expanded medical facilities, lab and technical facilities, will provide an excellent vessel for the future expansion of our medical work.

We are once again indebted to the UK marine community, various international supporters and businesses for their pledges of support and interest in the project.

Phase one of the project is now underway at Albion Dock, Bristol, with Abels Boat Builders. The vessel thereafter will sail to Rosyth in April 2016 to complete its construction and outfitting.

Further details are available on our website, along with opportunities to support the project in the year ahead.

Forth Hope will be our fourth medical ship. It reminds us that Vine Trust was founded in Bo’ness, an historic port on the River Forth. As a Trust we are hosted on our barge courtesy of Forth Ports in Leith, Edinburgh, and the ship will be outfitted and complete its build at Babcock Rosyth on the Forth.

Is it really 5 years?

After 5 hectic and highly productive years as the Trust’s Regional Development Coordinator for the South of England, Christine John is hanging up her work team overalls for the last time as she heads for a more leisurely pace of life enjoying cricket and keeping in touch with friends and family.

As a Trust we are indebted to Christine for doing so much in making the Trust known in the South of England and connecting with so many of our volunteers. From work teams to Kilimanjaro Treks, and from school trips to four Royal engagements, Christine has co-ordinated all of them from her base in Tring, backed up by her husband Robert who has been one of the Trust’s most faithful volunteers.



Peru Update – 15 Memorable Years



Since 2001, Vine Trust and SU Peru have been working collaboratively to advance work amongst street children and the development of primary healthcare for indigenous Amazonian River Communities. Much in that time has been achieved and many lives changed.

Over 2000 Vine Trust volunteers have visited Peru, and the last 15 years have been marked with memorable occasions and accomplishments in the opening of care homes, support of earthquake victims and the provision of healthcare in Amazonia.

As two organisations we now recognise that the time has come to conclude our formal partnership as each continues to



set its own priorities for the years ahead.

We wish SU Peru every success in their various programmes across Peru and sincerely thank them for the hospitality shown to all volunteers who have visited Peru during this time.

2016 will continue to see Vine Trust volunteers supporting the development of healthcare on the Peruvian Amazon alongside the continuation of our Peru School Expeditions with further developments planned for the years ahead.

With grateful thanks for all that has been achieved over 15 remarkable years!

Be careful what you volunteer for!

Since November 1994 Rev Jim Marshall has served on the board of Vine Trust as a Director and since 2004 as Company Secretary. It is with grateful thanks that we acknowledge Jim's extensive contribution as he now retires from the board. We also extend our thanks to Jim's wife, Sheila, for her involvement in the Trust's shop, Branches Bo'ness, where

she worked for many years from 1992 as a volunteer. Thank you to both of them for jobs well done.

Vine Trust Board as of 30th November 2015

Very Rev Albert Bogle, Alec Carstairs, Mairi Fraser, Neil Graham, Shona Mason, Alexander Munro, Feri Ross, Gordon Stewart, Mike Winter.

VineTrust300

In celebration of Vine Trust's 30th Anniversary, we are delighted to launch Vine Trust 300, a group for 300 dedicated supporters.

Vine Trust 300 is open to any individual, company or group willing to join us on our journey to change the lives of some of the poorest communities in the world, by committing to raise at least £1,000 annually for the next 3 years.

The funds raised by Vine Trust 300 will support all aspects of the Trust's projects, from providing medical care on our ships on the Amazon and Lake Victoria, to building homes for vulnerable children in Tanzania and Peru.

Vine Trust's Chief Executive, Reverend Willie McPherson, says "We have achieved so much in our first 30 years and with the

launch of Vine Trust 300, we hope to inspire others to join us on our journey. We cannot do everything, however we can all do something, and Vine Trust 300 are truly embracing this belief".

"I was inspired by the work of Vine Trust and wanted to do more than just give a one off donation. By joining Vine Trust 300, I feel like I'm a taking part in their journey to work with some of the poorest people in the world and make a real difference." Duncan Skinner - VT300 Supporter

If you are interested in joining Duncan and becoming a VT300 supporter you can find out more information on our website: www.vinetrust.org/give/changing-lives-for-the-next-30-years

New Conference Facilities Aboard the Tom Dunn



September 2015 marks the fourth anniversary since our centre for global citizenship was opened, and sees the launch of a new partnership with The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust in marketing the barge for conference events. We are delighted to be partnering with another charitable trust in this new endeavour which will further support the ongoing development of our volunteering work.



Since opening, in addition to various Vine Trust training and promotion events throughout the year, we have hosted conferences, book launches, art exhibitions, training days and even a wedding.

If you would like to find out more about our multi award-winning venue and how to hire it, please get in touch with admin@vinetrust.org or visit the website for more information.

Events

Alumni Ceilidh

7th May 2016, Crown Church Hall, Inverness, 7-10pm

Dance the night away, connect with old and new Vine Trust volunteers and get the latest Vine Trust updates. All welcome.

Get Connected in 2016

19th March and 19th November 2016

To find out more about the work of Vine Trust and how you can get involved, come along to one of our 'Get Connected' events.

Medical Conference

11-12th March 2016, Vine Trust Barge, Edinburgh

Vine Trust invites health care professionals to participate in its Medical Conference. The event will provide participants with the opportunity to hear from a key speaker as well as an update on the progress of the Amazon Hope and Jubilee Hope medical programmes, plans for future development and ways that you can support the work in Peru and Tanzania as volunteers and ambassadors.

Find out more and book your place online - www.vinetrust.org

GIFT AID CARDS

For an alternative gift that lasts a lifetime, why not order Vine Trust's 'GiftAid' cards to support our medical and home-building programmes? Ranging in price from £5-£20, our six cards make the ideal gift. Cards are available to purchase online at www.vinetrust.org/shop or in person at the Vine Trust barge.



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Patron: HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL

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