

Vine Trust

Connecting People to Change Lives

Celebrating 15 Years of Medical Volunteering

The recent Medical Conference saw 59 health professionals come together to mark 15 years of health services to remote and vulnerable communities through Vine Trust's medical programmes. Guest speaker at the event was Dr Ronald Ramirez, who has played an important role at the forefront in the work of delivering medical care with the Amazon Hope Programme for the past 11 years.

The event proved an excellent opportunity to hear updates on the developments that have taken place in Peru since the programme's formation, in particular the recent increase in collaboration with regional governmental health providers as well as the improvements to the medical services and the impact that these have had on the local communities. Conference attendees responded very positively to Ronald's presentations where he shared his insight on the experiences of the Amazon Hope Programme, the needs that exist and the challenges there are in providing health care to isolated villages where 94% of the people live in extreme poverty.

There was also the opportunity to celebrate an update on the new Jubilee Hope Medical Programme which has been taking vital medical services to remote and vulnerable island communities on Lake Victoria, Tanzania, providing 60,000 consultations since it was launched in 2015. It was noted that for many islanders, the Jubilee Hope medical ship is the only access they have to medical care and important steps are being taken in cooperation with national partners to build upon the good work that has been achieved in the first few months of operation. The particular need to increase the Jubilee Hope's participation in the national HIV programme was stressed as a high priority goal, with current infection rates as high as 20% on some of the islands which are served by the programme.

Continued overleaf



Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

Connections - Issue 29 - Summer 2016



Some of the 59 health professionals who came to our medical conference

Celebrating 15 Years of Medical Volunteering

Continued from front page

An encouraging presentation on volunteer participation on medical expeditions was given by Shona Mason. The report highlighted the impact that volunteering has made, not only on the lives of those in the communities being served but also in the lives of the volunteers themselves. Emphasis was also given as to the vital role which volunteers have played throughout the years with their hard work and expertise so that the current activities in Peru and Tanzania can be enhanced and expanded to reach even more communities.



Keynote speaker Dr Ramirez with representatives of Vine Trust

Further discussion on a variety of aspects on the medical programmes was also afforded through the afternoon's breakout groups and panel question time during which attendees were also able to share valuable feedback from their trips, and also ask questions to fellow volunteers, Vine Trust staff and Medical Committee members.

We are extremely grateful to all who came along and contributed to making the conference a success. The feedback received regarding the event was very positive, with attendees sharing that they had left feeling more informed and greatly encouraged by what they had heard. We look forward to a similar event in the future, confident that, with the vital support of volunteers and collaboration with overseas partners, there will be more news of exciting developments, enhanced medical services and many more vulnerable communities receiving medical care.

Medical Trip Dates

We are still looking to recruit doctors and dentists for some of our trips this year, so we can reach more people on remote islands on Lake Victoria and remote Amazon communities. You can find full details of availability online at www.vinetrust.org/volunteer/medical_teams

Amazon Hope 2017

In 2017 we will have a total of 20 two-week trips to Peru. With trips beginning in January and running until the end of November we hope it will be a record year for volunteer numbers.

Trips in 2017 cost £1,375 (excluding international flights)

There is also the option of doing a back-to-back trip spending four weeks in Peru. This costs £2,155 (excluding international flights)

Jubilee Hope 2017

After a very successful start to 2016 for Jubilee Hope we are looking forward to the programme going from strength to strength in 2017.

We have a total of 13 trips planned for 2017 with the first trip in January and the last in November.

Trips in 2017 cost £1,100 (excluding international flights)

Pounds and People *(other currencies accepted!)*

From time to time people often ask how many staff does the Trust employ and where does all our income come from.

A straightforward enough question, but answering it fairly is far from simple, thanks to the huge cross sections of fundraising initiatives and donations that we receive month in and month out throughout the year.

Our Staff

The staff count in many ways is the easiest part to answer. We currently employ 7 full time staff in the UK which we plan to grow to 8 over the next few months. Together we will support the sending of approximately 360 short term volunteers in 2016 growing to over 400 in 2017. In addition we also employ two programme co-ordinators in Tanzania for 9 months of each year and two full time medical teams in Tanzania (15) and Peru (17) supporting our medical work on Lake Victoria and the Peruvian Amazon. So we directly fund the equivalent of 40.5 full time staff through the activity of our core UK staff team of 7. In addition we are currently funding the construction of 100 individual family homes in Tanzania and the delivery of two medical programmes that collectively benefit over 160,000 patients on an annual basis which we hope to grow to 200,000 by 2018.

Our Funding

How we fund our work however is much more complicated. As a Trust we receive no government funding beyond the gift aid which we receive on eligible donations from UK taxpayers and the in kind support we receive from the Peruvian and Tanzanian health authorities, in support of our medical ships. As a Trust we don't have a fundraising department, rather we rely on the kindness, ingenuity and commitment of our volunteers, their supporters, friends, businesses, schools, churches and families to help support our volunteers to go in the first place whilst at the same time supporting the core costs of the projects we are supporting.

We are also hugely indebted to the hundreds who give by monthly standing order to support our core activities, many from 2001 when we first launched our £2.00 per week appeal to support medical work on the Peruvian Amazon. At that time we estimated that if 2000 people gave £2 per week we could fund the medical work on an indefinite basis. Please feel free to join!

We are also recipients of support from people or groups of people who have pledged to give or raise at least £1000 per year for the next three years to help support the on-going development of the Trust and its future work through the Vine Trust 300 scheme.

In addition, barely a week passes without us hearing of some new fundraising initiative from one of our returning volunteers raising funds to support what they have seen and been part of or raising funds to support their first ever trip overseas to go and help make and mark the difference in support of some of the world's poorest people.

Marathons, cycle challenges across Scotland, even a West to East coast cycle crossing of the United States. A newly wed couple who met on Amazon Hope opting for gifts to Vine Trust rather than themselves. The same from others with significant birthdays and family anniversaries. Coffee mornings, ceilidhs, art exhibitions and even a book launch of a diary from a recent work team to Tanzania are just some of the recent examples of people doing their bit to connect with people in order to change lives.

In recent times we have been particularly humbled by the trust people have placed in us through remembering us in their wills, each keen to leave something behind which they know will be a lasting legacy which their family can celebrate and take comfort from.

We also receive annual support from two foundations towards our medical programme costs alongside substantial gift in kind support from several businesses, particularly from the marine sector when we are bringing new ships in to operation.

So to all of you, volunteers, sponsors, funders, supporters, we simply say a heartfelt thank you for helping us become the Trust that we are and enabling us to travel this far and look ahead with great anticipation to the years ahead.

With sincere thanks on behalf of us all.

Willie McPherson

For more information about our monthly support programmes, Vine Trust 300, fundraising pack or legacy information please email admin@vinetrust.org or visit www.vinetrust.org/give/donate



Liz, Dawn, David and Jenni all ran the Inverness 1/2 Marathon



Roger Davila Paredes and Lorna Davila

New Volunteering Opportunities: Experience the Real Tanzania

From Autumn 2016

Vine Trust has been working in Tanzania since 2011, building over 60 homes for orphans and vulnerable families, and, more recently, providing primary healthcare to some of the 150 islands of Lake Victoria through our unique medical ship, 'Jubilee Hope'.

As our work becomes more established, we are delighted to be able to offer a range of new volunteering opportunities across the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania, all of which support our local partners as they seek to build up the capacity of some of the most marginalised communities in the area.

Providing safe accommodation for vulnerable communities remains central to our work and so all our Kilimanjaro expeditions support our home-building programme financially, as well as providing volunteers with the opportunity to engage in this work practically whilst in Tanzania.

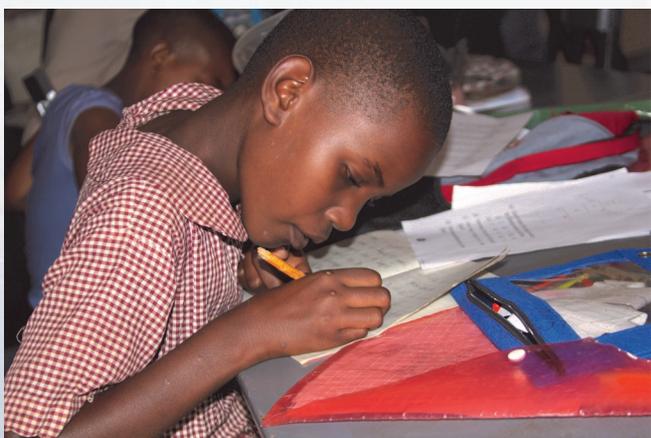
With our short term expeditions lasting from one to six weeks, we invite you to help us 'Connect People to Change Lives' through our varied volunteering programme. Read on to find out more about our new opportunities or email expeditions@vinetrust.org for further details.



Teaching

Whatever your area of interest, we have a teaching opportunity for you! Maybe you could teach English as a second language, or share your enthusiasm for art, music or drama. Perhaps you could support local kindergarten and primary schools in different subject areas, or share your knowledge in secondary schools. Or do you have vocational skills such as tailoring, catering, IT or woodworking which you could use?

Although a teaching qualification is helpful, it's not essential as long as you have a passion for young people and can be creative in enthusing learning with limited resources. We're also looking for those with an education background to share different teaching and learning techniques with Tanzanian teachers and supporting staff in continuous professional development.



Sport

Share your love of sport and help coach young people in schools and in community clubs. Whether skilled on the football pitch or looking to facilitate multi-sport community events, you're guaranteed a high-energy expedition—stamina essential! You may even find yourself helping to create outdoor sports areas and playgrounds to provide a fun environment for children to come together and play in safety.

Care Teams

Join one of our care expeditions and help look after vulnerable children in one of our partner's centres for orphans, or help care for those with physical and learning disabilities. Build relationships with the children and support them with homework, after-school and weekend activities, and offer staff practical support with washing, cleaning and cooking. We also have opportunities in day-care centres and pre-schools supporting some of the most vulnerable children in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania.

Creative

Be inspired by our creative expeditions and offer your skills in music, art and drama. Help vulnerable young people share their emotions through the arts and explore different ways of expressing themselves. We're also looking for keen photographers and writers who can help us capture our work and inspire other volunteers to get involved.



International Development

If you're looking to put your studies in international development into practice, our DEV expeditions provide opportunities to be involved in community-level research with our partners 'Tanzania Women Research Foundation' (TAWREF), as well as supporting them with fundraising strategies, micro-finance projects and new proposals. Working alongside some of the most marginalised communities in the Kilimanjaro region, you will experience first-hand the issues relating to global poverty and inequality. Working as part of a cross-cultural team, Vine Trust's expeditions offer a unique opportunity to put Development theory and methods into practice, whilst also making a significant and lasting impact on the local community.

Build Your Own

With so many opportunities to volunteer with our partners, why not build your own expedition and get involved in several volunteering projects during your time in Tanzania? Perhaps you might like to do a week of teaching, followed by some environmental work and then join a home-building team? And why not round off your time in Tanzania by going on safari or climbing Mount Kilimanjaro with a reputable tour company?

Building your own expedition is a unique way to experience the real Tanzania whilst also supporting some of the most marginalised communities across the Kilimanjaro region and building the capacity of Vine Trust's local partners.

Get in touch to let us know your requirements and our friendly staff will help you tailor-make your own expedition to help 'Connect People to Change Lives'.

Helping Change Lives in Tanzania

In Easter 2016 I swapped my usual day job "tools" of pen, paper and emails for a shovel and a bucket on a work party to Moshi, Tanzania. I had the great privilege of being part of a group of 16 people from Inverness. Our group comprised 5 people from St Columba Church of Scotland, six sixth year pupils from Inverness Royal Academy (one of whom was my eldest son Lewis), two of their teachers, two cheery "independent" leaders and me, the parent help!

This was not my first time on a Vine Trust work party. When I visited Peru in 2005 I resolved that should I ever get the chance to be part of another work party I would ensure that at least one of my own household came too. Any apprehension I might have had that my 17 year old would just tolerate his "old man", occasionally acknowledging my presence, especially when money is required (if you are a parent you'll know what I mean) quickly evaporated. We not only enjoyed each other's company, but Lewis proclaimed upon returning home that the trip has been one of the best things he has ever done. He is looking for the first available opportunity to return.

Having the team also made up of people in our church fellowship brought a different dynamic. It enabled not just the deepening of relationships with those whom I knew well beforehand, but also saw new friendships blossom. And being drawn from the same city means all that we experienced in Tanzania doesn't have to remain there – I look forward to experiencing that sense of team in other projects our church might tackle closer to home. Our church fellowship also has a deeper relationship with our local school too. The fundraising for the trip being taken on by the congregation beforehand really meant that we were being the "boots on the ground" delivering the effort of the whole church family. Many had worked tirelessly baking, car washing and drinking whisky etc. (we are not your average church fellowship) and so the sense of community effort in a group of people much wider than just those who went to Tanzania to help change lives is real.

Building partnerships. Changing lives. Changing lives in Scotland and changing lives in Tanzania. I can't think why you wouldn't want to get involved. *Murray McCheyne*

2017 Home-Building Trip Dates

Trips in 2017 are £1,400 (excl flights)

23rd February - 8th March

includes optional Kilimanjaro Marathon and 5K

1st April - 14th April

29th July - 11th August



7th October - 20th October

You can also combine this expedition with our Kilimanjaro Trek.

We can also accommodate 'private' teams at other times of the year, such as for businesses, churches and anyone who is able to get their own team of 15-30 people together.

Please email expeditions@vinetrust.org for more information about any of our Tanzania Expeditions.



New Ship Nears First Stage Completion in Bristol

It is all systems go at David Abel's Shipbuilders at Albion Dock Bristol as MV Forth Hope moves swiftly towards completion ahead of its delivery voyage to Babcock Rosyth on the River Forth where its internal outfitting and equipping will take place over the summer and autumn months. The ship, which will add significant capacity to our medical work and benefit up to 2 million people over the next 25 years, will be set up with new equipment throughout, air conditioned en-suite cabin accommodation for our staff, volunteers and crew, and expanded medical, dental, minor op and laboratory facilities.

If you would like to support the outfitting of the vessel, its medical equipment, or the myriad list of other items we are seeking support with then please get in touch as we seek to complete the vessel. Currently a number of possibilities are under consideration as to where the vessel will be deployed when complete.

Please contact forthhope@vinetrust.org if you would like to sponsor a particular item of equipment or support the vessel's outfitting.

Spare Engine and Gearbox Gifted to Support our Fleet Tenders

It is not every day that we get called asking if we would like a spare engine and gearbox for one of our ships, but that is exactly what happened when Hazel Weaver of Orkney and Shetland Charters got in touch.

They have recently replaced the engine and gearbox in a former RN fleet Tender MV Sultan Venturer as part of its conversion in to an expedition dive boat, now renamed MV Valhalla, which will operate in and around the world famous Scapa Flow anchorage in Orkney, renowned for its marine life and the seven remaining warships of the German Naval Fleet which were scuttled on the 21st June 1919.

Like us, Hazel and her team expect MV Valhalla to serve for a further 25 years working alongside their existing award winning dive vessel, MV Valkyrie, and were keen to find a good home for the engine, gearbox and flywheel! We are of course indebted to them for their kindness and no doubt will find a good use for the engine or its parts over the years ahead supporting our ships in Tanzania and Peru. Thanks are also due to Arr Craib Transport Limited from Aberdeen who collected the 7 tonne load free of charge and delivered it to Babcock Rosyth where it is being stored for future use.



What a difference some paint makes! New livery for Amazon Hope 2

As part of the bi-annual maintenance of Amazon Hope 2, a major repaint was long overdue to the exterior of the vessel. So with some trepidation we decided to experiment with a new and brighter colour scheme for at least the next couple of years, in keeping with the ship's work in Peru and its medical pedigree!

Initial reactions from the villagers suggest they like it and we hope once we have added a few red crosses on the upper structure of the ship, it will underline the medical work that the ship is engaged in throughout the year. In January alone the vessel completed 10,764 consultations both on board and in the communities being served.



Celebrating 30 Years

Join us on Saturday 24th September at Perth Concert Hall as part of our 30th Anniversary celebrations. The specially written 'The Children Can't Wait Till Tomorrow' production will use music, drama, film and conversation to celebrate Vine Trust's 30 years of seeking to serve those on the margins of our global village. Suitable for all the family, it's an afternoon you won't want to miss!

Keep your eye on our website and social media streams for more details in the coming months.



First Baby on Jubilee Hope

In January of this year some of our volunteers had the privilege of assisting in the delivery of the very first baby born on Jubilee Hope. The baby was named William and a few months after his birth he made a second visit to Jubilee Hope. As you can see from the photo he is looking healthy and happy.

William was born during our very first trip this year where another 5,581 patients were treated by the Jubilee Hope team and 3 volunteers from the UK. It proved to be a great start to the year and the programme has gone from strength to strength, with over 20,000 people treated in the first 3 months of this year!

A total of 15 volunteers have joined the full time medical staff aboard Jubilee Hope and with a further 36 due to go out this year it looks like being a significant second year for the programme.

If you would like to join the team in Tanzania for one of our trips in 2016/17 you can find more details and apply online at www.vinetrust.org/volunteer/Jubilee-Hope

Social Media

Our Facebook page is the best place to hear about our news as and when it happens. With interesting videos, amazing photos and great features such as #FundraisingFriday there is something for everybody on our main page - www.facebook.com/vinetrust. We also have blogs for every area of our work, allowing those of you with a keen interest in our home-building, school or medical expeditions to keep track of what is going on throughout the year.

We already have over 2,500 people connecting with us on Facebook and would love for you to join us. We believe social media is a great way for new and old volunteers to connect with each other and love reading comments from people who have been on trips in the past.

Our YouTube (www.youtube.com/user/VineTrustUK) and Flickr (www.flickr.com/photos/vinetrust) accounts are where the best photos and videos from all areas of our work can be found, going right back to the first video we posted on the 1st of February 2008!

Story a Week 2016

One of the big features across social media and our website is our Story a Week, where we share life changing stories from our work in Peru and Tanzania. If you have a story you think we should share with our followers then please email stewart@vinetrust.org. If you want to read any of the past stories you can find them all here - www.vinetrust.org/about/article/story-a-week-2016

Speaker's Pack

We are fortunate at Vine Trust that we have so many past volunteers who are happy to speak on our behalf at churches, schools and other organisations.

We recently re-vamped our speaker's pack to support all of these amazing volunteers. If you are speaking at a fundraising, work or church event and are looking for some guidance or help then our speaker's pack is perfect.

It has an example PowerPoint, links to download our videos and a guide book to help people prepare for presentations

To access all the resources simply go to:
www.vinetrust.org/give/connecting-people-to-change-lives

Connections Timetable

You may have noticed that Connections is dropping through your letter box less often than it has in the past.

Last year we made the decision to publish a printed newsletter twice a year rather than three times. This is due to the costs involved in printing, packing and then posting over 3,000 copies.

But don't worry, you can still get all our latest news via our website or by signing up for our email newsletter.

Barge Hire

Our multi award-winning barge is available to hire throughout the year. We have 4 rooms that are adaptable for any occasion, from small meetings to large gatherings.

A highlight is our 20 seat cinema. This unique feature has full surround sound and is perfect for intimate presentations or entertainment.

For full details about the barge and details of how you can hire it please email admin@vinetrust.org or visit www.vinetrust.org/about/barge



Connections is posted to all of our volunteers and supporters who have made a financial contribution to the Trust in the previous 18 months.

The Vine Trust is registered in Scotland as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Company No: SC268073. Registered Charity No: SC017386.

Arrange a Talk

We have speakers who are able to talk about all areas of our work, from our life saving medical work in Peru to our home-building projects in Tanzania.

If your group has a particular area they are interested in we will do our best to arrange for somebody with experience in that area to come and spend time with your group.

If you are interested in one of our volunteers or staff coming to your local group, church or business please email admin@vinetrust.org

Thank you to all the volunteers who help make these talks possible. It is greatly appreciated and you make a huge difference to our work.

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Every two months we send out a newsletter via email with all our latest news, interesting stories and ways you can support our work.

This email goes out to over 3,500 people who have been on one of our trips, supported our work or are simply interested in what we do.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list please email stewart@vinetrust.org



Visit - www.vinetrust.org

Email - admin@vinetrust.org

Phone - 0131 555 5598

Address - The Vine Trust Barge, Prince of Wales Dock, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 7DX

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