

VineTrust Connections

Issue 38 - Summer 2021



Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

Connecting People to Change Lives

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Cover photo:

Member of the new mental health project in Peru, Paula Aljovin Rohrhirsch, with children during one of the workshops.

See page 4 for more information.

Welcome to Connections 38!

Was it really snowing last night? Not quite the weather we were expecting for the May bank holiday weekend, but then again has anything been normal this year as we begin to emerge from all the restrictions and precautions that have been part of our everyday lives over these last fourteen months? Hopefully, as we begin to emerge from the worst effects of COVID-19 here in the UK, things will indeed only get better!

I do trust you and yours have kept well and are now able to focus on the coming summer and planned easing of restrictions, which should herald the end of the worst stages of COVID-19.

Truthfully, whilst we welcome the pace and extent of the NHS immunisation programme and salute all involved, it continues to sadden us as we hear of the situation in other countries.

Peru, for example, is still very much in the grip of the pandemic and its immunisation programme very much in its infancy. We wish all our colleagues safety at this time of continuing challenge.

On the positive side of things there are some exciting updates inside around a new mental health initiative on the Peruvian Amazon, news from Kazunzu Village of Hope and three new partnerships supporting our projects including the Church of Scotland Guild, Alverstoke Parish Church Gosport and USAID via their Peruvian partners, CEDRO.

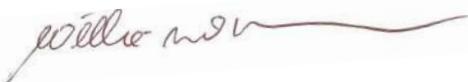
There is also a remarkable update on our appeal for a lorry for Tanzania and a 'save the date' for our November in-person conference in Edinburgh as we look forward and plan for 2022 and beyond!

We have also relaunched medical volunteering to Peru from September 2021, all subject to COVID-19 regulations and travel restrictions. Construction and senior school expeditions, however, still remain on hold due to government imposed travel restrictions here in the UK, Peru and Tanzania. We hope however to see a resumption of construction teams in 2022 and school expeditions in 2022/23.

So, thanks again for all your interest and support. Despite travel restrictions, all of our projects are continuing to make progress in both Peru and Tanzania.

With every best wish at this time.

Kind regards,



Willie McPherson
Chief Executive



Alliance for the Amazon Against COVID-19



We are delighted to announce that the medical programme in Peru has introduced a new mental health service in 2021. The project, which will initially run until summer 2022, has been designed in joint collaboration between the Amazon Hope Programme and two Peruvian psychologists who volunteered on board the ship in 2020. Elena Pila, National Director, shares more information on this exciting development:

“The Amazon Hope Medical Programme has recently sealed an important partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), an independent agency of the United States federal government that is primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance.

The agreement is part of the ‘Alliance for the Amazon against COVID-19’, an initiative led by USAID and a Peruvian NGO, ‘CEDRO’ to mitigate the adverse social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations in Peru, particularly within indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon. USAID, the Alliance and now the Amazon Hope Medical Programme will support the Government of Peru to adequately respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Amazon Hope Programme has become part of the Alliance with an innovative Mental Health proposal that will provide services to the most vulnerable Amazon populations, taking into account their needs and characteristics. The Mental Health project will use an approach that integrates orientation and counselling for adults and children, as well as training for mental health professionals and community leaders/agents.



All activities will take place alongside our other medical services and will be provided from our vessels, Forth Hope and Amazon Hope 2.”

Medical Expeditions Update from Peru



Although the Amazon Hope Medical Programme cannot receive any volunteer support at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions, the ship is still travelling to the communities on a regular basis to provide vital healthcare.

Dr Ronald Ramirez, Head of Medical Services, writes to share an update:

“The most recent trip in April was successful and we were able to visit communities on the Ucayali River that we have not visited for a year.

We are pleased to report that these communities were apparently only mildly affected by the second wave of COVID-19, according to testimonies from the residents.

Prior to the trip commencing, we were able to coordinate the participation of a Dentist from the Jenaro Herrera Health Centre, who boarded the ship on April 15 and worked alongside the Amazon Hope team until the end of the expedition, providing excellent treatment to all the patients.

On this expedition we were also joined by a team of Peruvian psychologists from the new mental health project, who were able to hold 78 interviews and 13 meetings with community authorities to gather more information about the needs that exist in the communities, mental health workshops with children as well as provide 97 psychological consultations.

The villagers showed their joy at receiving the visit of the ship after such a long time. Patients with chronic diseases were found who had not been taking their medicines, either because of problems of access to existing services or because of the shortage of medicines in health posts, a situation which has worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most notable amongst the patients were those with diabetes who were found with very worrying glucose levels and pregnant women without adequate prenatal control.

We were also very pleased to provide care to a 20-year-old woman who had been suffering for a long time with severe swelling and pain in her leg, accompanied by a fever. We were able to diagnose Tropical Pyomiositis which required minor surgery and antibiotic treatment. Over the last few days, we have been receiving updates from the local doctor at the nearest health post who has confirmed that she is doing well and very happy to have been given relief from the pain.”

Kazunzu Village of Hope - Progress Update

The development activities at the Kazunzu Village of Hope continue to make good progress with the first two clusters, each with four houses, now complete. These eight homes are the first of 40 that are planned for the village.

The farmland (shambas) connected at the back of the clusters has also been completed. Farming will provide a range of different benefits to the village, including a sustainable food source and income for the families, as well as training opportunities in the local community.

A total of 58 people now live in the homes, with the guardian parents serving as foster families to 4 or 5 orphaned children from the islands or lake zone.

These 8 houses are home to 34 orphaned children, having been identified by the church (AICT) in partnership with local community leaders and social services. Reports from the residents reveal that, since moving into their new homes, a real sense of community has been developed at Kazunzu.



Programme Director, Samuel Limbe, with the children who have moved into the 8 family homes at Kazunzu



The first 8 homes at Kazunzu have now been built and families have moved in.

Official Opening Ceremony

In celebration of the progress made at Kazunzu and the families moving into the homes, an official opening ceremony was held. On 18th February, local dignitaries and the families joined with AICT Archbishop Mussa Magwesela as he officially opened the first two clusters (Jerusalem and Bethlehem Blocks).

This was a special day for all involved, in particular for Archbishop Mussa, who had had the original vision of building a sustainable village on the 53-acre site.



Archbishop Mussa and Rebeca Magwesela at the opening ceremony

Fish Farm

The beginning of the year saw 22,000 tilapia fingerlings being put into the two fish farm cages which have now been installed on the Lake next to Kazunzu.

These fingerlings have been carefully looked after, kept safe and fed by the Kazunzu families. Throughout the development and ongoing care of the fish farm, a local expert has advised and guided AICT and the local families.



The fish produced by the farm will be used to feed the families and also be sold at market. This project is a key component in the self-sustaining goal of the village and we look forward to news of a good harvest around June/July this year.

Community Hub

Progress continues on the community hub with the foundations of the multipurpose facility now complete and walls of the individual sections under construction.

The structure, locally known as the 'Boma', will be the focal point of village life, with a meeting place, kitchen, shop and 3 bedroom clusters. These chalet-type clusters will provide accommodation for visiting work teams during the construction stage of the village.

The aim is for the Community Hub to be completed over the next few months.

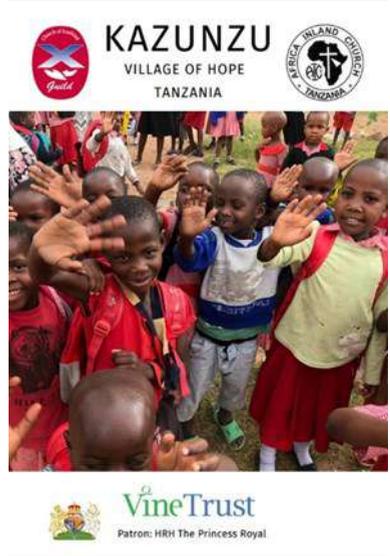


Guild Partnership Project

At the Guild Project Coordinators' Conference on Thursday 15th April, the Kazunzu Village of Hope Tanzania was announced as one of six projects selected by The (Church of Scotland) Guild's Project Partnership Scheme for the three-year period, 2021 to 2024.

Normally the Conference would have been held in Edinburgh, however, like many other events, the conference took place virtually this year.

A presentation of Kazunzu Village of Hope was made, covering an introduction to Vine Trust, its partnership with AICT, the vision and plans for the project, a short video tour of the site as it stands just now and a recorded message to the Guild from Samuel Limbe.



Over the next 3 years through partnership with the Guild, the restarting of visiting volunteer teams and with the support of others, the project has the target of:

- Increasing the number of homes allowing more young families to serve as Guardian Parents to 4 or 5 orphaned children.
- Enriching the life of the village through the development of the community hub, a primary school, health post and vocational training centre.
- Create self-sustainability by investing in agricultural projects and fish farming.

Vine Trust has had a connection with many local Guild groups over the years and being selected as one of their partner projects is a great opportunity for us to raise awareness further.

We look forward to connecting with many local Guild groups and providing a speaker to their meetings to give an update on Kazunzu.



If you need something, ask. You never know quite what might happen!

In our last edition of Connections, we shared an image of a lorry that the Kazunzu Village of Hope project was hoping to obtain in 2021 to assist with its construction work and to produce some income when not directly required by the project.

Well, we are delighted to report that a 30 tonne Volvo lorry plus a JCB Tele-handler is now in the process of being delivered to Tanzania thanks to the Dale Family near North Berwick, Borders Livestock Exchange Ltd and Forth Resource Management who organised a charity auction in support of this project.

Between them over £30,000 has been raised in memory of Douglas Dale one of our marine volunteer team who sadly passed away last September.

We are immensely grateful to Jack Dale who gifted the lorry, Forth Resource Management and the wider farming community that has supported this endeavour and the huge contribution Douglas made over the years as one of our volunteer ship delivery engineers.



The Lorry & Tele-handler donated to the Kazunzu Village of Hope

It's not just *what* you do...

In 1939, American Jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald released a song which declared that it “*tain't what you do; it's the way that you do it...that's what gets results*”. Those words are actually a pretty good summary of many of the discussions that have been taking place at Vine Trust recently.

Understanding that it's not just 'what' you do but also 'how' you do things is key to successful development programmes and projects. It's about recognising that the 'ends' don't justify the 'means', but rather the way a project is run is of at least equal importance with what is actually achieved.

The work of Vine Trust has grown significantly since it was formed in 1985, but one constant has been the desire to 'connect people to change lives'. This 'connecting' has been done in a wide variety of ways for thousands of people over the past 36 years. For many it's been travelling to Peru or Tanzania to participate on a medical, construction or school expedition. For others, it's been supporting one of the Trust's partnership programmes by generously donating time or resources, participating in a fundraising event or sharing about the work with friends, colleagues and family. For many people in Peru and Tanzania, it's been welcoming visitors into their communities and their places of work, participating in activities which allow the reciprocal sharing of culture, knowledge and expertise.

It is this 'connecting' which has allowed the work to grow and expand, enriching the lives of so many people from so many different backgrounds – and we want more people to have these opportunities in the years to come. Together with this aim of connecting more people to the programmes, there has also been the strong desire to ensure that these experiences are rewarding, enriching and beneficial to all. This has been the motivating force behind these conversations of 'how' Vine Trust works with its partners, supporters and volunteers.

We feel it's really important for Vine Trust to share openly and clearly the principles which guide its activities. So, over the coming months we'll be sharing more details about how Vine Trust looks to approach all aspects of its work, including its partnerships, programmes and volunteering opportunities.

Keep an eye on upcoming social media posts and the website for more details.



The Important Role of Island Dispensaries

When the Jubilee Hope Medical Programme was launched back in 2014, an important element of its design was that it should complement and work collaboratively with existing regional and local health services.

Although medical services on the islands are limited, a small number of dispensaries mostly run by Africa Inland Church Tanzania, are strategic locations where community members and visiting fishermen can receive medical attention. Whilst the



Island community dispensaries play a significant role providing healthcare

ship has the capacity to visit the islands regularly bringing a team of highly skilled health professionals and specialist equipment, the dispensaries are a permanent fixture on the islands, providing a reference point for the community members for treatment, medication, education and counselling.

Recognising their important role, for the past 5 years the Jubilee Hope medical ship activities have been designed to work closely with the dispensaries in all aspects of the work. Furthermore, the Programme has actively supported activities aimed at strengthening the dispensaries and their capacity to respond to the health needs of the communities and the large numbers of nomadic fishermen that visit.

This support has included capital investment, providing training to the personnel and the incorporation of the dispensaries into the national medical supplies network which has allowed them to receive medicines and equipment from the regional government. Not only has this improved the quality of services they can provide, but has also supported their objective of becoming more sustainable in the long term.

The fruits of this collaboration, combined with the professionalism, hard work and dedication of the dispensary personnel have never been so visible as during the past 12 months.

With many health services being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Jubilee Hope medical ship, the dispensaries have underlined how important their role is in delivering health care to the remote islands of Lake Victoria, providing over 25,000 consultations during 2020.

Alverstoke Parish Church, Gosport

We are delighted to welcome Alverstoke Parish Church who are partnering with us to support MV Forth Hope's operation in Peru over the next two years.

Forth Hope's sister ship, the Spirit of Gosport is one of three Gosport Ferries that connects Portsmouth and Gosport over a five-minute shuttle crossing between the two towns.

They have even launched a text a fiver campaign in partnership with the Gosport Ferry Company.

Our thanks to everyone and the Parish Church Council and wider community for all their kindness, interest and support.

If you can spare £5.00 text Ship to 70450

A standard network charge for one text message plus £5.00 will be added to your phone bill!

Did you know?
The sister ship of SPIRIT of GOSPORT is far away working up and down the Amazon river in Peru, giving medical aid to those who have none...

Will you help us to maintain this huge volunteer effort with a Fiver?
Text SHIP to 70450 to donate £5

The fuel bill alone is over £42,000 per year!

Can you organise a fundraiser for us?

Vine Trust
www.vinetrust.org

Supported by
The Gosport Ferry Company

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P.T.O.

Scotland's Virtual Kiltwalk

Over the weekend of 23rd to 25th April, Scotland's Virtual Kiltwalk 2021 took place, raising an astonishing £6.1M, benefitting 1,055 Scottish charities.

In support of the work of Vine Trust, 12 people took part in the event and raised over £15,000. Many thanks to everyone who walked and donated to this great total, helping to support our core costs here in the UK whilst we prioritise our general funds in supporting our overseas partners.

The Kiltwalk is planning to stage a second event later this year, the first LIVE Kiltwalk since the pandemic hit. Please consider taking part and supporting the work of Vine Trust.



Save the Date - 2021 Annual Conference

Over the past few years, Vine Trust have organised a series of events to share with its supporters and volunteers about the many different aspects of the work and also celebrate the progress of the programmes in Peru and Tanzania.



With this in mind, and looking towards the end of the year, we would like to ask you to keep **Saturday 6th of November** free in your diary.

Vine Trust is targeting an in-person day conference in Edinburgh on that date to provide attendees the opportunity to hear updates on the work and plans for 2022 and beyond. As well as general presentations, there will be specific sessions on the construction and medical programmes.

More details, including venue location, will be shared in more detail in the coming months. Any activities will, of course, be organised as per local COVID-19 guidelines.

Back to the Barge

The past 14 months or so has seen the Barge closed and Vine Trust personnel working from home in accordance with government COVID-19 restrictions.



As these restrictions begin to ease, we anticipate that there will be a gradual return to the Barge in Leith for the staff team as well as opportunities for the venue to be open again to hold events.



Further updates will be provided via the website (www.vinetrust.org) and social media. In the meantime, you can continue to reach Vine Trust by phone or email:



0131 555 5598



admin@vinetrust.org (*general enquiries*)

health@vinetrust.org (*medical programme and volunteering enquiries*)

Jubilee Hope Dry Dock Appeal



As part of the ongoing maintenance programme for all the medical ships there is a regular cycle of dry dock inspections to ensure the ships are kept in the best possible condition.

This appeal is to support the main dry docking of MV Jubilee Hope in Mwanza, Tanzania in order to renew its ongoing registration with the Tanzanian Maritime Authorities for the next four years.

The Jubilee Hope, which is expected to resume full-time operation in the next few months, is at the heart of a new plan to deploy the vessel for around 20 days per month in partnership with Kagera and Mwanza Regional Councils, Africa Inland Church Tanzania (AICT) who have been leading the project's delivery since 2014 and Geita Gold Mine, one of the project's local corporate partners.

Our aim is to support the estimated £25,000 of additional costs anticipated around repainting the vessel and some essential welding repairs around the main anchor housing, plus general dry docking activities.



Any support will be much appreciated as the vessel is prepared for its busiest schedule yet since arrival in Tanzania in October 2014.

We were also delighted to receive support from Vickers Marine Oils here in the UK who have kindly donated and air freighted 150 litres of stern tube oil for the vessel's propeller shaft. We are hugely grateful for their kindness in gifting this specialist oil for the vessel which wasn't otherwise available in Tanzania.



With thanks for any support you are able to give.

Donation / Standing Order Form

If you would like to support Vine Trust by giving regularly, please complete the standing order details.

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

<p>I would like my Donation/Standing Order to support (please tick one):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> General Operations</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Peru Medical Programme</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jubilee Hope Dry Dock</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Kazunzu – Village of Hope</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Where the Need is Greatest</p>

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 _____	

ONE-Off Donation
Amount £ _____

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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