Vine Trust

Connecting People to Change Lives

CONNECTIONS

Issue 46 – Spring/Summer 2026

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

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WELCOME TO CONNECTIONS 46!

The news headlines each day seem to bring developments at home and abroad that can make your head spin. Each twist and turn can leave us wondering what is happening and what the future holds for individuals, families, communities, countries and even the whole world.

Sometimes, amid all these different stories, there can be common themes which keep repeating themselves, grabbing your attention and prompting greater reflection and consideration. For me, one such topic has been that of 'community', along with the associated themes of 'belonging' and 'purpose'.

There have been a number of news stories which highlight a growing sense of dissatisfaction among groups of people – particularly many teenagers and young adults – who, while they are more connected than ever through technology, have at the same time never been more disconnected from something that gives them a sense of purpose and hope. Changes in society, the loss of many community facilities, a growing attitude of individualism, trending public discourse that seeks to divide rather than unite, and the impact of

isolation during the pandemic have all played a part. Reflecting on this has made me even more certain of the importance of the work that takes place through Vine Trust and its partnership programmes in Peru and Tanzania.

Over the past 12 months I've had the privilege of visiting the teams and seeing the amazing work they do in the Amazon, on Lake Victoria and in the foothills of Kilimanjaro. I've had the opportunity to talk with patients in the villages and families who've received new homes. I've been able to visit schools, speaking with teachers, students and parents, as well as spending time with our valued volunteers and supporters at events marking our 40th anniversary in 2025.

Throughout all of this, I've been moved to hear many accounts of how lives have been impacted by the connections people have made through Vine Trust.

They've shared about the people they've met and the indelible mark that has been left on their lives. So many talk about how their lives have taken a new direction, been given a new or renewed purpose, or have been enriched by being part of a team working towards a common goal.

My experiences over the past year are a clear reminder that one of the greatest legacies of Vine Trust's work over the past 40 years – alongside all the medical care provided and houses built – has been the connections that have been made: the individual lives that have been blessed through new friendships and by bringing people into different types of 'community'.

This is one of the many things that excites me about the future of our work as we build on all that has been achieved so far. Every new volunteer who signs up, every new school or corporate contact wanting to organise an expedition, every donation received – it's more people being connected, coming together and making their valuable contributions to help us change lives in Peru, Tanzania, the UK and beyond.

If you're reading this edition of Connections and you have yet to connect with the work of Vine Trust, we'd love to hear from you. Please do reach out to the UK team (page 8) to find out more about how you can support the work taking place.

To everyone who has supported the work of Vine Trust as donors and/or volunteers over the years, I can't thank you enough for playing such a key role in making the work what it is today. On the following pages you can find many ways you can stay connected with us so that, together, we can continue to change lives.

With sincere thanks

Kenny Holt
Chief Executive

In 2025...

130,804
free medical consultations

32
health expeditions

bringing the total number of consultations in the Amazon and on Lake Victoria to **2,790,335**

117
volunteers

which means Vine Trust has connected **4,358** volunteers to it's partnership programmes in Peru & Tanzania.

4
family homes built

bringing the total number of homes to **153** for **621** children - **345** girls and **276** boys.

Keep reading to learn more about many of the people and stories behind the numbers!

MESSAGE FROM THE VINE TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As we have reached the end of our 40th anniversary year of Vine Trust, it is remarkable to look back and see just how much has been accomplished.

Almost 100 of you have volunteered in 2025 to support our medical partnership programmes in Peru and Tanzania with over 130,000 free treatments provided. In June, Millburn Academy pupils travelled to Tanzania, supporting the building of three family homes in Moshi. A personal highlight for me was attending the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Jubilee Hope programme in Mwanza alongside the expansion of the work with the arrival of the MV Lady Jean. This will allow much needed medical care to reach new communities on the islands of Lake Victoria.

In a climate where fundraising is becoming increasingly more challenging, as volunteers and supporters you have taken part in activities which included running, cycling, Kiltwalks and a charity auction to raise money. Vine Trust is really grateful to each and every one of you for all your amazing support.

During this anniversary year, Vine Trust has also received national recognition for its work. In May, a group of four dedicated teachers who have supported Vine Trust school expeditions over the years, alongside Katie, our Volunteer Support Co-ordinator, were invited to Buckingham Palace to attend the Royal Garden Party which celebrated those working in the education and skills sector.

Kenny and I were also privileged to attend another Buckingham Palace event, HRH The Princess Royal's Charities Forum, in June as representatives of Vine Trust. In October, a motion was submitted in Westminster by Graeme Downie, MP congratulating Vine Trust staff and volunteers for 40 years of incredible work.

Over the last year partnerships have been expanded, most significantly with the signing of an agreement with Babcock International to strengthen our relationship as we look forward to future projects together. Our 40th Anniversary celebration dinner hosted by Babcock at their Rosyth site and attended by our Patron HRH The Princess Royal was a great opportunity to bring together some of those who have contributed to the vision and success of Vine Trust over the last 40 years.

I am very grateful to our UK team led by Kenny for all they do to keep the work of Vine Trust moving forward. However, none of this would be possible without our volunteers and supporters, and so, in conclusion I want to encourage you to keep making connections.

Please consider becoming a "Friend of Vine Trust" (page 46) if you have not done so already and tell your work colleagues, churches, schools and friends about the great work that is being done by our colleagues in Tanzania and Peru to change lives. Everyone can make a difference.

Dr Claire Bawn
Chair, Vine Trust Board of Trustees

MEET THE TEAM

Coordinating every Vine Trust programme is a small team working closely with our partners, volunteers, and supporters. Here's a guide to who's who in our Edinburgh office, and how they can help if you'd like to know about our work.

Strengthening our connections with supporters is **Jacqui Heasley**, our **Fundraising & Outreach Manager**. Jacqui works with individuals, organisations, and community groups, helping them find meaningful ways to support Vine Trust, and would be glad to hear from anyone interested in fundraising, partnerships, or community engagement.

Jacqui@vinetrust.org

Vivian Onyeneke ensures the smooth running of the office as our **Office Administrator**, overseeing finance, administration, and day-to-day operations. Vivian can assist with finance-related queries, donations, and practical arrangements such as hiring the Vine Trust Barge for events and meetings.

Vivian@vinetrust.org

We were delighted to welcome **Claire Coyle** back to the team following her maternity leave as our **Medical Volunteer Programme Coordinator**. Claire coordinates our medical volunteers and works closely with our partners to ensure expeditions run smoothly, and is the person to speak to if you are interested in joining a trip or have any questions about taking part.

Claire@vinetrust.org

Our **Volunteer Support Coordinator** is **Katie Halliburton**, working with both schools and adult teams, particularly in relation to our construction partnership projects in Tanzania. Katie connects with schools across the UK and has also led teams overseas, and would love to speak with you about school partnerships, volunteer expeditions, and ways to support these projects.

Katie@vinetrust.org

Erin Seaman is our **Programmes & Development Coordinator**, having moved into the role in January. Erin plays an important role in supporting the development across all our programmes in Peru and Tanzania, and would be glad to hear from anyone interested in our partnership work or the different ways to get involved.

Erin@vinetrust.org

Chief Executive, **Kenny Holt** has been part of Vine Trust for over a decade. Kenny continues to guide the development of our partnerships and programmes, including the Amazon Hope and Jubilee Hope medical initiatives, and would be delighted to speak with anyone interested in the wider vision of Vine Trust or in supporting its long-term work.

Kenny@vinetrust.org

We are always encouraged by the support of our community of volunteers and supporters. If you would like to find out more about any aspect of our work, please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of the team or call the office on **0131 555 5598**.

TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Deep in the Peruvian Amazon lies Iquitos, a city unlike almost any other in the world. With population of almost half a million people, Iquitos holds a remarkable distinction: it is the largest city in the world that cannot be reached by road. To arrive, you must either fly or travel by boat along the vast waterways of the Amazon basin.

In this part of the Loreto Region, rivers are not just features of the landscape, they are the lifelines of daily life. The Amazon and its tributaries serve as the region's roads and motorways, carrying people, food, and goods between scattered communities. Wooden boats replace buses, and journeys are measured not in miles of road but in hours and days along winding waterways.

For thousands of families living in small riverine villages, these waterways are also the only path to essential services. Schools, markets, and medical care can all lie far beyond the reach of a small canoe. This is where the Amazon Hope Medical Programme's ships have transformed medical care, delivering health services to the 'door steps' of these communities, bringing healing, relief and, in many cases, saving lives.

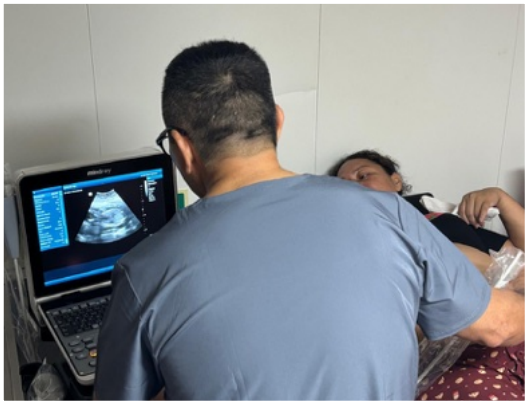
It's been almost 25 years since the first Amazon Hope expedition departed the city of Iquitos. It has gone on to become the most significant healthcare provider for hundreds of communities, delivering over 2 million free consultations across the region. Throughout this time, the programme has strengthened ties with local communities, adapting its services and striving to deliver high quality care. Most recently, this has seen the ship introduce innovative technology which has enhanced the capabilities of the medical team.

Programme Director, Roman Rodgriguez shares with us how technology is being used to transform healthcare for these communities:

"Technology is a key element in the delivery of healthcare services. On the Forth Hope, all care is digitised. Thanks to the support of national and international partners we have implemented the first ever electronic medical record (EMR) system for an itinerant healthcare service in the Peruvian Amazon. This system allows us to store each patient's information in a practical, detailed, efficient and confidential way, allowing us to track progress and improve diagnosis and treatment.

This system also allows us to quickly evaluate different aspects of our interventions through data analysis and make better decisions for the future. This data has also facilitated research, including a recent analysis of our dental services in collaboration with the Universidad Científica del Sur (Lima) in 2025, which has been published in the International Journal of Dental Sciences.

Dr. Ronald Ramírez, the programme's Head of Medical Services, reports that the EMR system greatly simplifies his daily work, including the ability to review existing patient data, stay connected with other departments on the ship, manage supplies and medications more efficiently, generate prescriptions more quickly, and ensure that patients more clearly understand their treatment.



Another piece of technological resource on board is the ultrasound machine. In 2025, thanks to a private donation, we were able to acquire a new ultrasound machine, as the previous one had developed some malfunctions due to intensive use. This new ultrasound machine has superior features to the previous one such as 4D and colour images. This represents a significant benefit for the people we serve, allowing for more accurate diagnoses and the identification of conditions that were previously undetectable with the more limited technology we had access to.

Unfortunately, it's not uncommon that, since many rural communities "have nothing," it's enough to "give them something, even if it's not of good quality." For the Amazon Hope Programme, we firmly believe that these populations deserve the same dignified, respectful, and high-quality treatment as anyone else. That's why we strive to provide them with the best possible service, combining our team's passion and expertise with technology to do just that!"

SUPPORTING DENTALCARE IN THE AMAZON

Vine Trust has connected hundreds of medical and dental students to its work in Peru, providing opportunities to learn new skills and support the local teams on expeditions to the riverine communities. Faizaan Rafiq reflects on his recent visit:

"My elective experience travelling down the Amazon River to provide dental care to remote communities was truly life-changing, and I am deeply grateful to Vine Trust for such an incredible opportunity. Before the expedition, I felt anxious and uncertain about how the project would operate in such a remote environment. However, I quickly realised that The Vine Trust has a highly organised and well-established operation in Peru, built on years of dedication and hard work from a passionate team.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the trip was visiting primary schools to provide free fluoride varnish applications. Knowing that these interventions could make a tangible difference to the children's oral health was incredibly fulfilling, and the warm reception we received from teachers and students alike was deeply moving.

I was also overwhelmed by how welcoming the team were, making us feel part of the family from day one. Evenings were filled with games, conversations, and exploration, which made the experience even more memorable. We encountered a range of fascinating wildlife and enjoyed trying traditional Peruvian delicacies prepared on board. I cannot recommend an expedition with The Vine Trust highly enough. It is a well-organised, supportive organisation that provides a safe and enriching environment to practise dentistry and deliver meaningful healthcare to those most in need. "

Faizaan Rafiq (second from left) joined the local Amazon Hope team and other dental volunteers on an expedition in 2025.

PERU 2026

AMAZON HOPE MEDICAL EXPEDITIONS

The Amazon Hope Medical Programme provides a wide variety of wonderful opportunities for qualified health professionals and final year students to join the local medical team throughout 2026. There are spaces still available on the following expeditions:

- 7th – 21st July
- 13th - 27th October
- 22nd October – 5th November
- 14th - 28th November
- 23rd November - 7th December

Contact Claire for more details:

- claire@vinetrust.org
- 0131 555 5598

SUPPORTING CARE WHERE IT IS NEEDED MOST

The number of people that live on the islands of Tanzanian Lake Victoria is a quite a mystery.

Census figures can help give some indication as to those who live there permanently – around 500,000 – but these figures don't capture the many thousands of nomadic fisherman who use the islands as temporary bases for their work, living in makeshift accommodation and regularly switching between locations searching for their next catch.

What is known, is that there is a huge demand for healthcare services on these islands. Over the last 10 years, the Jubilee Hope Programme has become the largest provider of medical care to these communities, so the introduction of the new MV Lady Jean medical ship in 2025 marked an important step in strengthening and expanding healthcare delivery to the many hundreds of island communities.

In the last edition of Connections, we shared with you about the launch of the MV Lady Jean in Mwanza, which was welcomed with great celebration and excitement about what this would mean for the programme and the people on the islands.

Head of Medical Services, Dr Uzia, shares an update on the difference the new ship has made over the past 12 months:

"While MV Jubilee Hope remains the programme's primary floating clinic, MV Lady Jean was introduced as a smaller service vessel to support and extend the work that had brought over half a million free medical consultations to the islands over the past 10 years.

Unlike MV Jubilee Hope, patients do not receive care on board MV Lady Jean. Instead, the vessel enables medical teams to travel safely to islands and shoreline communities, where temporary clinics are established on land. Services are provided using tents and available community buildings or housing offered through collaboration with local government authorities. This flexible approach allows care to be delivered in settings where more frequent visits are needed, while complementing the work of MV Jubilee Hope.

The introduction of the MV Lady Jean has allowed the programme to reach new islands for the first time, with the islands of Izumacheli, Butwa, Lulegea, and Lubondo in the Geita Region now included in the scope of the work.

It has also allowed us to provide healthcare services for the families and surrounding community of the Kazunzu Village of Hope.

Even in this early stage of service, this new ship's contribution has improved the regularity of care and reduced waiting times for communities that previously experienced long gaps between visits. There are also plans to extend her outreach to additional islands in Muleba, working alongside MV Jubilee Hope to strengthen overall coverage.

The response from communities and local government partners has been very supportive and encouraging. Leaders greatly appreciate the collaborative model, and community members value having healthcare services delivered closer to where they live. For many, travelling to the mainland is very challenging, if not impossible.

For the team, MV Lady Jean represents flexibility, shared responsibility, and increased resilience. We are delighted that this new ship allows the programme to respond more effectively to needs on the lake and helps ensure that healthcare delivery is sustainable over time."

A 'Unique and Unforgettable Experience'

Jess Webb, Medical Student

"I was keen for my elective to involve practicing medicine in a very different setting to that which I am used to in the UK, and so a medical ship visiting islands on Lake Victoria in Tanzania sounded perfect to me! I had high expectations for the trip, but even these were surpassed. The experience was not only great fun, but I also learnt so much, on both a professional and personal level.

The Jubilee Hope is like one big family, and I felt very privileged to be welcomed into such a dedicated team. Every morning we headed to the island, where a large crowd of patients - often up to 300 people - were already waiting for us. We introduced ourselves, delivered a short health talk, and then returned to the boat to begin seeing patients.

I saw many conditions that we rarely encounter in the UK, including malaria, amoebiasis and schistosomiasis, as well as familiar chronic conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. The work was very satisfying because the turnaround between seeing the patients, sending them to the lab, getting the results, prescribing the medications and sending them home with treatment was all within a few hours.

After work we often explored the island accompanied by one of the crew, meeting local families and playing with the children, who were always very friendly and curious. Life on the islands is very basic, with no running water and only solar-powered electricity, so it was eye-opening to see how the communities live.

The two weeks passed too quickly and soon it was time for the crew to rest and the ship to be restocked. I was very sad to leave, as I felt like I had really settled into the rhythm of life on the ship.

Spending two weeks on the Jubilee Hope was a unique and unforgettable experience, and I am so grateful to the team for welcoming me on board. It was amazing to be part of such an inspiring initiative making a meaningful difference to the island communities who otherwise have very limited access to healthcare."

Vine Trust is looking for health professionals and final year students to join expeditions to remote island communities on Lake Victoria, with spaces still available on the following dates:

- 13th-27th June
- 11th-25th July
- 10th - 24th October

If you would like to use and develop your skills and knowledge to support the work whilst being immersed in the wonderful culture of Tanzania, we would love to connect you with the amazing Jubilee Hope team.

Contact Claire for more details:

- **claire@vinetrust.org**
- **0131 555 5598**

TANZANIA 2026

JUBILEE HOPE MEDICAL EXPEDITIONS

BUILDING HOPE TOGETHER

In 2025, Vine Trust and the Tanzania Women's Research Foundation built their 150th home after 13 years of partnership, and then went on to complete three more!

Project Coordinator, Elly Kimaro reflects on the work that took place during last year and the impact that it made, and looks forward to all the activities that are planned for 2026:

"The year 2025 was a great and successful year for the project. Together with our partners and volunteers, we managed to transform the lives of four families in our community. I would like to sincerely thank Millburn Academy for supporting the construction of three houses, and Babcock International Group for funding the fourth house. Your generosity has brought hope, safety, and dignity to families who needed it most.

A secure home has allowed these families to grow small businesses, improve their income, educate their children, and live with dignity. These are not just houses they are foundations for a better future.

As we

As Project Coordinator and also as a member of this community, I have seen with my own eyes how a simple, safe house can change everything. It gives peace of mind. It gives stability. It gives opportunity.

I would like to warmly encourage volunteers to sign up and be part of this life-changing work. Your time, your effort and your presence in the community make a huge difference. By being part of this work, you do not only help to build walls, you also build hope.

I also want to say clearly: every single pound that is donated counts. As we build a house one brick at a time, it means that every brick matters. In the same way, every pound and every penny you donate to Vine Trust is valued and respected. There is no small contribution. Each donation brings us one step closer to giving a family a safe place to call home.

Together, we can do more in 2026. Together, we can reach more vulnerable children and families. Together, we can continue building hope, one house, one brick, one family at a time."

Time to hand over the keys!

There are many special moments that take place through Vine Trust's Project Hope partnership with TAWREF, but few can match the joy that is felt when the building work is complete and keys to the new home are handed to the family. During 2025, four more 'handing over' ceremonies took place, bringing the total number of homes built through the partnership to 153!

Home #150
Mama Florah and her 3 children

Home #151
Rodrick & Goreth

Home #152
Elia

Home #153
Felister & Nickson

The Story Doesn't Stop There!

When the home has been built and the keys are handed over, this isn't the end of TAWREF's contact with families. One of Elly Kimaro's (Project Coordinator) essential roles is visiting the families in the coming months and years to see how they are doing and provide ongoing encouragement and guidance.

Elly shares a few of the families he's recently visited to provide an update on how families are thriving since receiving their new home:

Mama Eunice 2018

"In 2018, Vine Trust, through Babcock Group volunteers in partnersip with Tanzania Women Research Foundation (TAWREF), built a safe home for Eunice, a 44-year-old widow. Before this, her life was full of hardship.

Today, Eunice works for a company that produces high-quality banana plants. She has electricity, clean water, and owns a dairy cow that supports her family. Her son runs his own clothing business in Dar es Salaam. The banana trees planted by volunteers during construction still grow around her home, a living reminder of transformation and friendship."

Mama Eliamani 2015

"Eliamani, a 65-year-old widow, once lived in poor housing conditions that affected her health and future. After receiving a strong and modern house through Vine Trust volunteers from Scotland, she found new strength and stability.

Today, she is healthy and active in her local savings group. She keeps dairy goats, grows vegetables and bananas, raises chickens, and uses solar energy at her home. Her son also works as a mountain guide on Mount Kilimanjaro.

Her family's story shows how one safe home can uplift the next generation."

Would you like to help another family with a much-needed home in Tanzania?

Contact Katie - Katie@vinetrust.org - to find out the different ways you can help make this happen.

TWO YEARS IN THE MAKING

Each two-week school expedition in Tanzania is the culmination of nearly two years of hard work, leaving a lasting and powerful impact on the students, teachers and local community. Katie Halliburton reflects on the most recent school group visit by Millburn Academy:

"Stepping off the plane, 24 students and 3 teachers from Millburn Academy arrived at Kilimanjaro Airport, excited and ready to begin their adventure. Having worked with this group since early 2024, it's always special to see that moment when everything becomes real. What starts as a meeting in a school hall with parents and teachers suddenly turns into being on the ground, in Tanzania, ready to make a difference.

Through many months of fundraising, supported by local businesses and generous donors, the students raised enough to go even further than our traditional expedition, funding an additional third home!

From the very first day, the students got stuck in. The weather didn't make things easy, there were days of heavy rain and thick mud, but it never seemed to knock their spirits. There were no complaints, just a willingness to get on with the job. Working under the mentorship of the local builders, the team learned quickly, and before long you could really see the houses starting to take shape.

What stood out just as much as the building work, though, were the relationships that formed. The students connected so quickly with the families and local children, it was genuinely special to watch. Whether it was playing games, or simply spending time together on site, those connections grew into strong bonds in a very short space of time. The families and community were so welcoming, that one student commented "we felt less like visitors and more like extended family", and it was a real privilege to witness.

Outside of the build sites, the team also had the chance to experience everyday life in Tanzania. They visited previously supported homes, local schools, and higher education settings, giving them a wider understanding of the long-term impact of the work they were part of. There was also time to explore and enjoy the local area. The beautiful Marangu Falls and visits to the Chagga caves gave everyone a chance to reflect, recharge, and take in where they were.

Working with young people like this is a constant reminder of what's possible. At a time in their lives often defined by exams and big decisions about the future, these students worked incredibly hard to fundraise and take part in an expedition to help create lasting change for their partnership families.

I am incredibly proud of the work that the team have done and the impact it has had both in Tanzania but also on them returning home and continuing to stay connected with Vine Trust and our partners in country!"

"A massive role in shaping that path"

Millburn Academy student, Kiera Black travelled to Tanzania in 2025...

"In the summer last year, my classmates and I were lucky enough to spend two weeks in Moshi, Tanzania, where we worked alongside the amazing local builders, met incredible people from TAWREF, Vine Trust, and the wider community. We also took part in a range of cultural and environmental excursions. It was truly an unforgettable experience and has left a lasting impact on me.

Prior to going into the trip, I was unsure what to expect. It felt like such a huge undertaking; planning and fundraising were difficult at times, and I even questioned whether I had taken on something too big. So, I was all the more grateful for the help and reassurance from the Vine Trust in preparation for the trip. Their support carried us all through, and looking back, those initial worries pale in comparison to how unbelievably worthwhile the trip turned out to be.

What stayed with me most about the trip was the time spent working alongside the local builders at the site of Mama Florah and her family's new home. Hearing what she and her kids had been through, and how grateful she was for the support, was deeply moving. I also loved meeting the local children, who came to the site each day to dance, play, and help out.

The trip broadened my perspectives, taught me many invaluable life lessons, and left me with friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. It also showed me what meaningful community development should look like: collaborative, respectful, and humble rather than performative or ill-informed. Next year, I will begin my degree in International Relations. This experience has played a massive role in shaping that path. Though this was my first time in Tanzania, it certainly will not be my last, and I hope the Vine Trust will see much more of me in the future."

"Tanzania holds a special place in my life"

Earlston HS teacher, Mike Gruba, is returning to Tanzania in 2027...

"It was August 2016 and a new job at Galashiels Academy provided me with the opportunity of a lifetime.

The Headteacher came to visit with a proposal; a trip to Tanzania, with some students, to build a house: "I don't have much more to tell you than that at the moment".

10 years on, 3 trips fundraised and I now have a much better understanding of what this trip entails. Tanzania and its people now hold a special place in my life and the students who have attended. This ranges from the non-stop energy of Elly to the constant determination shown by Mama Dafrosa to continually support those in need.

Last year, the opportunity to attend the Education and Skills at Buckingham Palace Garden Party was a real honour. It was also an opportunity to meet and chat to teachers from Perth Grammar and Culloden Academy about their Tanzania experiences. I have enjoyed following their stories through social media and the Vine Trust magazine, and it is clear that their constant enthusiasm and hard work is the reason for their success. Knowing that there are many other teachers across Scotland, who are all more than happy to share their tips to success, makes this more than just a school trip - it makes it a community.

Looking ahead to June 2027, the 33 students and three members of staff I'm working with from Earlston High School are showcasing their incredible talent and work rate to fundraise. The positivity that comes from organising talent shows, selling honey, attempting physical challenges and hosting music nights is contagious. The best part is that students are already enjoying their experience and they have still to meet the people who make this trip truly special."

"These Moments Stay with You Forever"

Long-term volunteer, Doug Gillies reflects on his expeditions with Vine Trust...

"Since first travelling with Vine Trust in 2011, the charity has played a remarkable and enduring role in my life.

My journey began with an unforgettable trip to Peru, where I experienced first-hand the power of community, partnership, and shared purpose. Three years later, in 2014, I joined an expedition to Tanzania, working alongside TAWREF on their shelter housing projects. These early experiences opened my eyes not only to the challenges faced by vulnerable communities, but to the real difference that committed volunteers can make when working hand in hand with local partners.

In 2016, I was honoured to be asked to join Vine Trust's Expedition Committee, helping to shape the volunteer experience and support the development of future trips. In 2019 I became a Team Leader for groups travelling to Tanzania, supporting teams as they worked alongside TAWREF and local communities. After the disruption of Covid, I was glad to step forward once again in 2024 to help lead teams as international school trips resumed.

Across all these years, I have always felt humbled by the experience of volunteering. Some of the most emotional and memorable moments have been during house handovers, standing alongside families and volunteers who had worked together to build something truly life-changing.

My continued support for Vine Trust comes from a deep belief in its mission and a profound appreciation for the people, both volunteers and community partners, who make this work possible."

"A Joy to Watch Young People Grow"

Kathleen Nicolson has been taken part on school expeditions for many years...

"Over the past twelve years I have had the pleasure of leading school expeditions from my local school, Culloden Academy in Inverness with the Vine Trust to Peru and Tanzania.

What an immense privilege this has been to be able to give our young people the opportunity of this life changing experience.

It has been a joy to witness these young people grow from a random group to becoming a team/family by the time we are ready to set off on our expedition. We have also had the opportunity to have ex-students return with us on expeditions as Assistant Leaders.

What has made me go back time and time again? I have a great passion for the work of the Vine Trust and how they connect with people to make a difference. The Vine Trust has an ethos that aligns with my own and the partners we work with abroad, to make the work we do meaningful and profound. To date our school has helped build nine homes in the Moshi region of Tanzania.

Because I have had the opportunity to go back many times over the years, this has allowed me to visit families in their new homes that were funded by our school expeditions teams. There are no words to convey the emotion felt between the families and myself on these visits. It is powerful.

As a school we are very excited to be returning to Tanzania with another team in 2026. This is our first work party trip since the pandemic. I hope this will inspire our young people to go on to volunteer further as well as encourage their peers to volunteer for future expeditions offered by the Vine Trust."

DR JULIA MCLEAN GRANT FUND

The Dr Julia McLean Grant Fund was set up to provide financial assistance to volunteers participating in medical expeditions with the Jubilee Hope Medical Programme on Lake Victoria, Tanzania and the Amazon Hope Medical Programme in Peru.

Julia was a much-loved and admired volunteer with Vine Trust over many years, making multiple trips to Tanzania. She was also a member of the Vine Trust Board and the Medical Committee. Throughout all of her work with the Jubilee Hope Programme, Julia showed a real passion for everyone she served and profound appreciation for the dignity and value of others. Julia often spoke of how much working with the Jubilee Hope team in Tanzania had made an impact on her both professionally and personally. To celebrate Julia's wonderful contribution to the work in Tanzania, a grant fund was established by her family in coordination with Vine Trust to help others to have the opportunity to connect with the Tanzanian and Peruvian medical teams and the communities they serve.

Grant applications can be made by final year medical students, final year nursing students, final year midwifery students, qualified nurses or qualified midwives joining either of Vine Trust's medical expedition opportunities. Applications are also open to final year dental students participating on an Amazon Hope (Peru) expedition.

For more information and details of where and how to apply, please see the Vine Trust website or contact claire@vinetrust.org

Christmas Auction Success – Thank You!

We were delighted to host our Christmas Auction in 2025, raising vital funds to support the ongoing work of the Vine Trust. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the event was a wonderful success and will make a meaningful difference to our projects.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who so kindly donated prizes. Your support and generosity played a key role in making the auction possible.

Our grateful thanks go to:

- Fingal Hotel
- Moonwake Brewery, Edinburgh
- Paddle Steamer Waverley
- Craigies Farm
- School Yard Kitchen
- Lesley Ballantyne
- Alasdair Munro
- The Royal Yacht Britannia
- Hastings Hotels, Northern Ireland
- Youngs Spirits
- Jack Brown Eyecare, Edinburgh
- The Drawing Room, Inverness
- Neil Johnstone
- Dorothy Russell

In 2026 we would love to build on this success. If you or your organisation would be willing to donate a prize for this year's auction, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Please get in touch by emailing **jacqui@vinetrust.org.** Thank you once again for your continued support.

Fundraising Together
How You Can Support the Work of Vine Trust

At Vine Trust, the work we do across the world would not be possible without the generosity, creativity and dedication of our incredible community of supporters.

Over the past year especially, we have been deeply grateful for the many ways people have stepped forward to raise funds and awareness for our projects. Every event organised, every mile run and every pound donated helps us continue our mission.

There are many ways you can get involved in supporting Vine Trust, and fundraising can be both meaningful and great fun. Whether you're an individual, a family, a community group, a school or a workplace team, there are opportunities for everyone to make a difference.

Community Fundraising

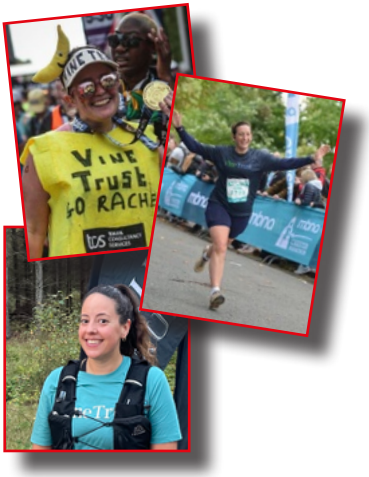
Community events are a fantastic way to bring people together while raising vital funds. Supporters across the UK have organised all sorts of creative events in their communities. You might host a bake sale, organise a quiz night, plan a disco or put on a carol service. A community sports day is another great way to gather friends and neighbours while supporting a good cause.

Momentum Fitness, Perth

Shop Online and Support for Free

A simple and completely free way to support Vine Trust is by signing up to easyfundraising. When you shop online through the easyfundraising platform, thousands of retailers will donate a small percentage of your purchase to Vine Trust at no extra cost to you. Whether you're booking travel, buying gifts or doing your regular online shopping, it's an easy way to make a difference at no cost to you. You can sign up using this QR code.

Take on a Challenge



If you enjoy pushing yourself physically, challenge events are another great way to support us. You could take part in a run, triathlon, hike or even an abseil challenge. Many supporters choose to fundraise while training for a major event, turning a personal goal into something that helps others.

Over the past year, we have been inspired by supporters running marathons in London, Chester and Braemar. Others have taken part in Kiltwalks across Scotland, while some have completed epic cycling challenges in support of Vine Trust.

Support Through Giving

Another powerful way to support Vine Trust is through donating. Some supporters choose to give a one-off gift, while others become regular givers. Regular giving provides reliable support that allows us to plan and sustain our projects long-term, ensuring that our work can continue to grow and reach more people in need.

Corporate Support

Businesses and organisations also play an important role in supporting Vine Trust. We are always grateful to our corporate supporters for their generosity and continued support. If you work for a company that may be interested in partnering with us, we would love to hear from you. Corporate support can take many forms—from sponsorship and donations to staff fundraising initiatives and charity partnerships. You could also help by asking a local business or community hub if they would be willing to host a Vine Trust collection can.

We're Here to Help

If you're considering fundraising for Vine Trust, our team is here to support you every step of the way. Whether you need ideas, resources or encouragement, we would love to help you make your fundraising a success.

To find out more or to start planning your fundraising activity, please get in touch with Jacqui at jacqui@vinetrust.org. Together, through the energy and generosity of our supporters, we can continue bringing hope and practical support to communities in Tanzania and Peru.

LEJOG
CYCLE CHALLENGE

In 2025, Stewart McLean and Gavin Matthews completed an extraordinary challenge, cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats (LEJOG) in support of Vine Trust.

Setting off on Thursday 21st August, Steward and Gavin took on a demanding twelve-stage journey spanning the length of the UK — all to raise funds in memory of Stewart's wife, Julia.

Julia was a much-loved member of the Vine Trust board and a deeply valued volunteer. She served aboard the Jubilee Hope medical ship

on three occasions and had planned two further visits in 2025 before her tragic death in a paddle boarding accident in May 2024. This challenge stands as a powerful tribute to her life and legacy of compassionate service.

Funds raised have been shared equally between Vine Trust's medical work in Tanzania and a grant fund established in Julia's name, supporting medical, dental, nursing and midwifery students completing expeditions with Vine Trust (more information on page 34).

Throughout the journey, Stewart and Gavin kept supporters updated with honest daily videos and photos, while friends joined them along various stages to boost morale and momentum. Battling the full range of British weather, they remained undeterred, even earning a 'shout out' on Virgin Radio UK from host Graham Norton.

Originally aiming to raise £5,000, they smashed their target, raising an incredible £27,000. This remarkable total makes the LEJOG cycle one of Vine Trust's largest ever amounts raised through a single challenge fundraising event.

Vine Trust is deeply grateful to Stewart, Gavin and their army of supporters for this outstanding achievement.

KILTWALK 2025

On the 15th of September 2025, staff and supporters once again took part in the iconic Edinburgh Kiltwalk to raise funds for Vine Trust.

The event saw 16 Vine Trust walkers joining some 9,100 other participants to take on the Mighty Stride (21 miles) and Big Stroll (11 miles) across the city. Over 800 charities were represented at the event, and the fundraising total reached an incredible £1.6 million.

The Vine Trust team raised almost £5000 for our 40th Anniversary fundraising campaign, which is already being used to support our ongoing healthcare and construction work in Peru and Tanzania.

The day was enjoyed by all, with a great atmosphere and good weather for walking (until the last few miles!). The walkers were then welcomed back to the Barge in Leith, where friends and family came along to celebrate their achievements and to mark the 40th anniversary of Vine Trust.

"The evening on the Vine Trust barge was fun, friendly and informative. It was wonderful to hear firsthand experiences of how Vine Trust has been providing assistance from the early days until now." - Amy Holmes (event attendee)

We are very grateful to all our wonderful walkers, and to those who supported their fundraising efforts, thank you for your Kiltwalk kindness!

If you would like to get involved this year please contact us - Jacqui@vinetrust.org

“Agriculture is more than food, it is a life skill”

Project Manager, Rebeka Masalu shares that at Kazunzu Village of Hope, families are thriving in providing nutritional food and important life skills to their children.

The past 12 months have brought a continued strengthening of the agricultural projects at Kazunzu. In addition to using good agronomic practices, precision planting, and the use of improved seeds, families recently began planting cover crops to rejuvenate the soil and practicing intercropping to retain fertility.

Their efforts brought positive results, with maize production increasing significantly and families harvesting between 800 kg and 3,000 kg per household. Today, every family is food secure thanks to the establishment of maize production.

Additionally, many are cultivating rice this season. For the children, this means stable meals, better nutrition, and the comfort of knowing there is food in the home.

With increased harvests came a new responsibility: proper storage. In April, families received training on post-harvest handling to prevent losses and protect their hard work. They learned how to dry, preserve, and store grain properly and were introduced to PICS (Purdue Improved Crop Storage) bags. These hermetically sealed bags protect maize from pests such as weevils without the need for chemicals.

Crop diversification has also transformed family nutrition. Mother, Epifania introduced bio-fortified sweet potato seedlings to planting.

"This cultivation has done wonders for us. The sweet potatoes are not only healthy but versatile. I can boil them for breakfast, make flour, or even mix it with wheat to prepare pancakes, my children's favorite. The sweet potatoes and cassava have reduced our food expenses. We now eat better and spend less" she added.

Enos Busambala believes in passing these lessons to his children:

"Agriculture is more than food, it is a life skill. We want our children to understand the value of hard work and sustainability."

The combination of improved farming practices and accessible medical care has strengthened the entire Kazunzu community.

In the coming months, focus will also be given to further improving water access as well as providing the families with opportunities to expand the variety of income-generating projects to support themselves and the village as a whole.

Early Years Learning Introduced at Kazunzu Village of Hope

Young children at Kazunzu Village of Hope are now taking part in a new early years learning programme, designed to support their development at this crucial stage.

Launched on the 5th of March 2026, the programme has started with 13 children and will run on a small scale during its first year.

The introduction of early years education is a key step in the village's development. These formative years shape how children communicate, build relationships and engage with learning, giving them a stronger footing as they grow.

The programme is being delivered by Vine Trust's partners, AICT Diocese of Geita, and a teacher, Dominic Sahali, is now based in the village.

Additional support will be provided by the Diocese's education services based in Geita through curriculum guidance and mentoring.

There are plans to expand the programme in the coming months, reaching more children across the village.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the development of Kazunzu Village of Hope. Your generosity is helping create lasting opportunities for children and families.

Sign Up To Become A Friend Of Vine Trust

We're delighted to share with you the launch of Friends of Vine Trust, a new way for supporters to stay connected with our work.

This initiative offers regular email updates, sharing stories, insights and impact from our programmes in Peru and Tanzania. It's designed to keep our community of supporters informed and inspired by the difference being made together.

Whether you've volunteered, supported, or simply want to learn more, Friends of Vine Trust is an easy way to stay in touch. Sign up today by contacting **admin@vinetrust.org** or scan the QR code below to start receiving updates straight to your inbox.

INTERNSHIP COLLABORATION SUPPORTING VINE TRUST

In 2025, Vine Trust was delighted to welcome four interns to the team aboard the Vine Trust Barge, thanks to the generous sponsorship of our corporate supporters, Babcock International.

Rachel Watt, Lily Cameron, Aidan Scott and Emma Holt joined us for a ten-week internship, supporting a range of research and development projects across Marketing, Human Resources and Project Management. During their time with us, they brought enthusiasm, fresh ideas and valuable skills that contributed to several areas of our organisational development.

Each intern worked on projects that helped strengthen our internal processes and supported the ongoing work of the charity. Their insights and dedication were greatly appreciated, and the work they carried out will help inform and shape our future activities. Beyond their professional contributions, it was a real pleasure to have them on board the barge and to get to know them over the course of their internship. They quickly became valued members of the team.

We extend our sincere thanks to Rachel, Lily, Aidan and Emma for their hard work, and to Babcock International for their continued support in making this opportunity possible. We wish the interns every success as they complete their studies and move into the next stage of their careers.

HIRE THE VINE TRUST BARGE

Looking for a venue that's inspiring, flexible and a little different? The Vine Trust Barge in Leith is available for bookings throughout the year and offers a truly unique setting for all kinds of events.

Over the past year, we've welcomed a wide variety of guests on board. Fellow charities have hosted events, we've held a Merchant Navy Day celebration following their memorial service, and corporate organisations have used our versatile rooms for leadership programmes and meetings. The Barge has also come alive with ceilidhs and has even been the setting for a wedding. We offer a bright, welcoming space suitable for a whole host of events and meetings.

Designed to an award-winning standard by the Glasgow Institute of Architects, the Barge offers three flexible spaces: the panoramic Glass Room for larger gatherings, the Training Room for seminars and workshops, and the Board Room for smaller meetings. All rooms include Wi-Fi, AV equipment, adjustable temperature control and disabled access.

We're exceptionally easy to reach, located right beside the Port of Leith tram stop, with bus links nearby and free parking available. Catering can be arranged for full or half-day hire, with complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits included. We also offer discounted rates for charitable organisations and regular bookings.

Here's what some of our guests have said:

"Actif4 has been holding our Leadership Programme Workshops on the Vine Trust Barge since 2021. We see it as our home in Scotland for these events… a welcoming, bright space that is nicely different and so much better than an anonymous hotel chain conference room. We'll be back again soon!" (Ian Gourlay, Actif4)

"Beautiful venue, excellent space for a ceilidh and dinner! Wonderful to celebrate Burns Night and raise some money for Vine Trust at the same time." (Mairi)

When you book the Barge, you're not just hiring a venue, you're supporting the life-changing work of Vine Trust. We'd love to welcome you on board.

A GIFT THAT LASTS

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded that our work is made possible not only by today's support, but by the lasting generosity of those who have chosen to remember Vine Trust in their Will.

A legacy gift can help sustain our ships, support our vital medical teams, and continue building safe homes and stronger communities. It is a meaningful way to ensure that this work continues for generations to come.

If you have ever considered leaving a gift in your Will, we would be grateful for your support helping Vine Trust bring hope where it is needed most.

Leaving a gift in your Will is a deeply personal decision, but one that can have a lasting impact. We are deeply thankful for everyone who chooses to support Vine Trust in this way.

If you have any questions, please contact Jacqui@vinetrust.org and she will be delighted to speak with you.

Vine Trust

Connecting People
to Change Lives

Donation / Standing Order Form

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

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 _____	

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
The Vine Trust is registered in Scotland as a Company Limited by Guarantee. Company No: SC268073. Registered Charity No: SC017386.
Registered Office: The Vine Trust Barge, Prince of Wales Dock, Edinburgh, EH6 7DX

Vine Trust

Connecting People to Change Lives

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