

VineTrust

Connecting People to Change Lives

25 YEARS
OF AMAZON HOPE

CONNECTIONS

Issue 47 – Autumn/Winter 2026



Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

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WELCOME TO CONNECTIONS 47!

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing interest in and support of Vine Trust's work.

This special edition of Connections focuses primarily on an important milestone: 25 years of the Amazon Hope Medical Programme serving communities across the Peruvian Amazon. It is an opportunity to look back with gratitude on all that has been achieved, the lives that have been touched and the extraordinary commitment of the local teams, partners, volunteers, staff and supporters who have made this work possible.

Over more than two decades, the programme has taken medical care directly to remote and isolated communities, helping overcome the barriers created by distance, cost and limited transport. It has brought treatment, compassion and hope to people who might otherwise have had few options available to them.

While there is much to celebrate, this anniversary is not simply about looking back. The need remains, and our plans are firmly focused on ensuring that the programme can continue to develop and serve communities in the years ahead. We are deeply grateful to

everyone who has journeyed with us so far, and we hope you will continue to stand alongside this work through your volunteering, fundraising and financial support.

Alongside our Amazon Hope anniversary features, this edition also includes news of our recent volunteer celebration event with HRH The Princess Royal, updates from the school expeditions which took place during June and July, the ongoing work of the Jubilee Hope Medical Programme in Tanzania, progress at Kazunzu Village of Hope, and exciting early developments relating to a new project in Peru.

Thank you for continuing to share in the life and work of Vine Trust. Your support makes each of these stories possible, and we are very grateful to have you journeying with us.





CELEBRATING OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

**HRH The Princess Royal joins Vine Trust to
celebrate the contribution of volunteers
and mark an exciting new partnership with
Fife College.**

On the 11th of June 2026 we were delighted and deeply honoured to welcome our Patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, aboard the Vine Trust Barge in Leith for a very special celebration recognising the extraordinary contribution of our volunteers.



The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2026 the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. As Patron of Vine Trust, it was a privilege to have Her Royal Highness join us as we marked this special year and celebrated the dedication, compassion and commitment of those who make our work possible.



The morning was a wonderful way to reflect on the impact of volunteering, hear inspiring stories, and thank the many individuals whose generosity of time and talent helps Vine Trust deliver life-changing work both locally and internationally.

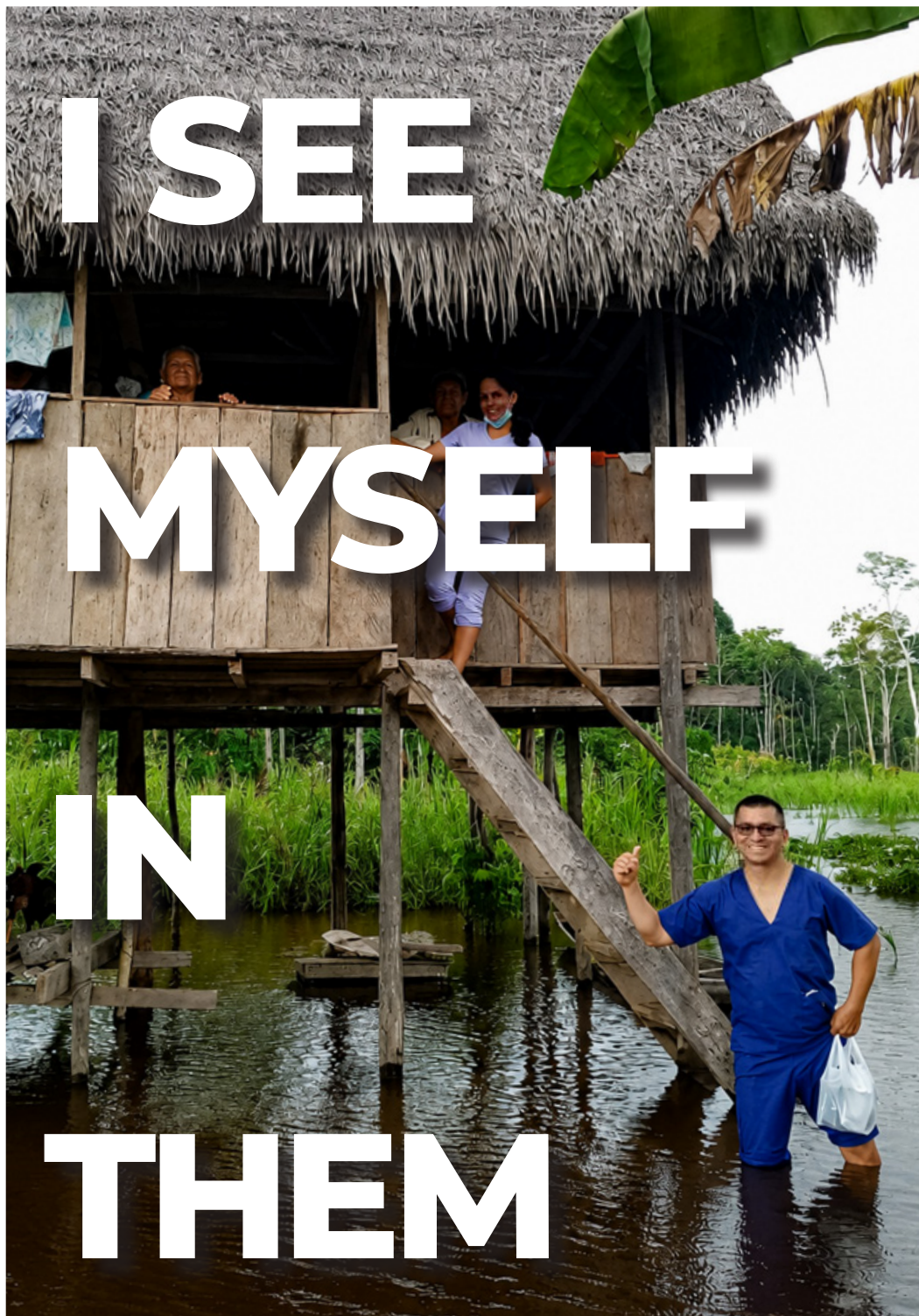
The event also provided a fitting occasion to announce a new partnership with Fife College that will add even greater value to our educational expeditions. Together, we are working towards officially accrediting our international expedition programmes, meaning that participants will not only return home with life-changing experiences, new skills and unforgettable memories, but also with a recognised qualification on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

I SEE

MYSELF

IN

THEM



For 21 of Amazon Hope's 25 years, Dr Ronald Ramirez has been there.



During that time, more than two million free medical consultations have been delivered, services have changed enormously and countless lives have been touched. Ronald has not simply watched that story unfold. He has helped shape it.

But ask him what 21 years of Amazon Hope means and the answer is not really found in statistics. It is found in the people he remembers. One of those people is Sandra.

"It was 2008 when Sandra was brought to us late at night, three hours after giving birth. She was bleeding heavily and close to going into shock. During treatment she lost consciousness twice and my team and I had to do everything in our power to keep her alive.

"We managed to reduce the bleeding, but she urgently needed hospital treatment. At 11pm we set off by boat for the town of Requena. Normally the journey would take around an hour and a half, but it was a dark night and there were logs floating in the river, so we had to travel slowly. We finally arrived at 4am.



“Sandra survived. Whenever we return to her community, she comes to see us and reminds us that she is still alive because of the care she received that night. Sofat, the baby girl born that evening, has grown up knowing the story of how her mother's life was saved.”

Twenty-one years of medicine creates memories like these. Some are dramatic. Others are quieter, but no less important. Ronald has watched children grow, seen patients return healthier than on the previous visit and witnessed changes which would have been difficult to imagine when he first joined the programme.

Around 15 years ago, he met Don Carlos, who had already been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes but had spent years searching for different treatments without really understanding his condition.

“When I asked Carlos if anyone had ever explained what was happening in his body, he told me they had not. I sat with him and explained, as simply as I could, what diabetes was and why he needed to continue with treatment.”





“He was so happy because, for the first time, he understood what was happening to him. From then on, Carlos became one of our patients who was most committed to his treatment and attending his check-ups.”

For Ronald, seeing health needs year after year has also meant refusing simply to accept them. His medical knowledge has helped identify problems, but his response has repeatedly been practical: investigate, find a solution and improve the service.

One example was the high level of anaemia he was seeing among young children. Research he carried out in 2010 found that 89.2% of children under five in the communities studied had anaemia.

The team responded by strengthening treatment and prevention, including iron supplements, deworming and health education for mothers and schoolchildren. A year later, the prevalence measured in the study had fallen to 20%.

For Ronald, it demonstrated the difference that can be made when the programme learns from what the team is seeing and responds to the needs of the communities.

There are also moments which never appear in reports or statistics. During one eye surgery campaign, Ronald met Luisa, a 65-year-old woman who had been blind for several years. She had glaucoma and a mature cataract, but was told that surgery was very unlikely to restore her sight. Despite the very small chance of success, the ophthalmologist decided to operate.

“When we returned, Luisa still could not see, but her whole attitude had changed. She told me she was deeply grateful that she had been given the opportunity, even though everyone knew it was unlikely that her sight would improve.

“She said that she felt valued. She felt that somebody cared about her, and that was very important to her.

“That made me reflect deeply and encouraged me to continue with the



work of Amazon Hope. Sometimes it can feel like we are only adding a drop of water to the ocean, but that drop can be incredibly important to someone.”

Twenty-one years is a huge part of anyone's working life. For Ronald, it has included thousands of patients and an extraordinary commitment to people who might otherwise struggle to have their voices and health needs heard.



That commitment has its roots much earlier in his own life.

“These people mean a great deal to me because they remind me of my own childhood. I grew up in a very poor family of 12 children and experienced many of the same difficulties, particularly in accessing healthcare.

“I remember nights suffering from toothache when we did not even have a paracetamol tablet to ease the pain. I suffered from anaemia and parasites throughout my childhood, and I saw my brothers and sisters suffer because we did not have the money to go to hospital. One of my brothers died from severe malnutrition and pneumonia.

“Whenever I see a child in one of the communities, I see something of myself in them. It gives me a commitment to keep working to relieve their pain and improve their health. When I see their faces and their gratitude, I feel that is the greatest reward I could receive.”

For 21 years, Ronald has used his skills, knowledge and experience to make sure that people who can so easily be overlooked receive the care they need. He has treated illness, helped save lives, challenged the programme to improve and, above all, cared deeply about the people behind every consultation.

BEHIND EVERY JOURNEY

Behind the Amazon Hope medical team is an equally committed and passionate management and administration team, working tirelessly to ensure that each expedition takes place as planned and that the programme continues to grow and develop. Roman Rodriguez, Programme Director, reflects on some of the essential work which takes place beyond the activities aboard the ship:

“Delivering medical expeditions aboard a floating clinic is a demanding undertaking. It requires patience, efficiency, flexibility when plans change and, above all, a steadfast desire to help across the whole team.”

Each expedition depends on close coordination between the administration, medical, translation and navigation teams. The administrative team handles the logistics and all the paperwork needed for the journey. Whether it is sourcing medical supplies and food, organising ship maintenance or coordinating with local authorities and partners, there is a great deal of work to complete before the ship can leave port.



A significant part of the local leadership team's role is building partnerships and raising funds to support the work. However, the country's current social and economic situation, together with the many other organisations seeking similar support, makes it difficult to secure significant, long-term donations.

Despite these challenges, a number of important partnerships have been developed over the past few years. NGOs and companies have provided support in different ways, including financial donations, laptops, medicines and medical supplies. Our main partner for securing resources in Peru is the NGO Vida Perú, which has supported the programme for several years with medicines, medical supplies and prescription glasses. As a team, we continue to seek new partnerships which can strengthen the work and help us plan with greater confidence.



Support from local Peruvian partners includes the provision of prescription glasses for patients

Recent increases in fuel prices have placed even greater pressure on the programme. At one point this year, prices almost doubled. Fuel is essential to every expedition. Without it, the ship cannot reach the communities. This created a major financial challenge and an urgent need for additional resources.

Looking ahead, we want to offer an even wider range of health services, including additional specialties, medical equipment and medicines. We also want to travel further into remote areas, reaching new communities while increasing the frequency of our current visits.

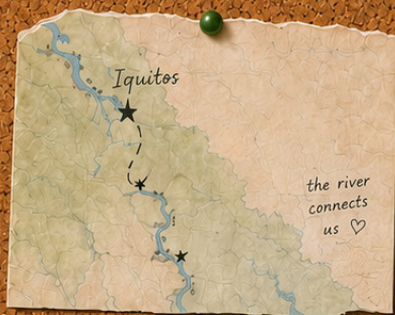
Achieving this will depend on building strong, long-term relationships with people and organisations willing to stand alongside the programme. Every donation, contribution and new connection directly helps us bring vital care and treatment to those in need.

With the continued support of Vine Trust and all those who share in this work, we will keep bringing care and hope to communities across the Peruvian Amazon."

AND SO IT ALL BEGAN



**Theresa Torrance reflects on her
many expeditions volunteering as
a nurse with Vine Trust**



"Hey Mum, fancy joining me as a medical volunteer on the Amazon with The Vine Trust?"

And so it all began...

I now have many Vine Trust expeditions under my belt, both in Peru and Tanzania, and I'm planning to be back in the Amazon again next year.



Volunteering over almost 20 years has brought me friends, travel experiences, memories and so much personal growth, not only as an individual but also within my career as a nurse.

Looking back on my first expedition in 2017, the experience is a far cry from what it is today. Back in the day, the boat provided basic facilities, a shared shower, open decks complete with bugs, little air conditioning, longer trips down the Amazon often with side trips in smaller boats to more remote villages.

Over the years, the trip experience has evolved, developed and become more focused. Healthcare has improved along with education and healthcare delivery.

As a volunteer you need to be prepared to adapt, "think on your feet", be out of your comfort zone and be flexible to have the best possible experience. Expeditions are not without their challenges. Working long hours in 40 degrees of heat, being a long way from home, isolated with no phone and often no internet can be both physically and emotionally draining.

There are also the challenges of travelling which has provided its own adventures including missed flights, 3am starts, 6 hours

on the fast boat, and, at times, the overwhelming tiredness.

I have grown as a person and professionally in my career developing a greater sense of appreciation, humility and gratitude.

Over the years I have been inspired by so many people both colleagues and patients. The generosity and kindness of people has been overwhelming even when they face their own difficulties and adversity.

Every trip is unique, never quite knowing what your experience will be. Along with the many days in clinic, I have watched The World Cup on the Amazon, seen pink dolphins, fished for piranhas.

However, the most memorable of all is being immersed within the authentic, unique Amazonian experience with some of the most incredible human beings it has been my pleasure to meet. My colleagues, team members have provided support, mentorship, guidance, friendship on all these very memorable trips.

Would I choose to do it all again? No hesitation. In a heartbeat.

Roll on March 2027. Peru, here I come!



PERU 2027

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 2027. There are spaces still available on the following expeditions:

- 16th-30th March
- 21st April-5th May
- 10th-24th May
- 19th May-2nd June
- 7th-21st June
- 16th-30th June
- 5th-19th July
- 14th-28th July
- 12th-26th October
- 21st October-4th November
- 12th-26th November



Contact Claire for more details:

- health@vinetrust.org
- 0131 555 5598



25 Years of Amazon Hope: Help Us Reach the Next 25!

This year, we are celebrating 25 years of the Amazon Hope Medical Programme.

For a quarter of a century, the Amazon Hope Programme has travelled the rivers of Peru, bringing essential healthcare to remote communities who might otherwise have little or no access to medical services.



This remarkable journey has been made possible because of the generosity of our supporters, volunteers and partners.

Thank you for helping us reach this incredible milestone.

But as we celebrate 25 years, we also look ahead to the next 25.



The cost of operating our medical ships has increased significantly over the past year due to challenging global economic conditions, with the rising cost of fuel having a particularly significant impact. Alongside increased costs for medical supplies, equipment and other essentials, it now costs considerably more to keep Amazon Hope ships moving.

Help us reach the next 25 years

We have launched our 25 Years of Amazon Hope Appeal, with a target of £20,000 to help meet these increased costs and ensure our medical teams can continue reaching the communities who depend on them.

Could you help us keep the medical ships sailing with a donation today?

Donations can be made the form on page 35, or via the QR code.

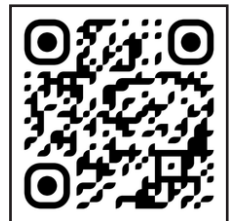


Help provide a future for Amazon Hope

If you would like to make a longer-term difference, please consider becoming a regular giver.

A monthly gift provides reliable income that helps us plan ahead, meet our ongoing running costs and gives Amazon Hope greater security for the future.

By becoming a regular giver, you can help make sure Amazon Hope is there not just for today, but for the next 25 years. You can find details in page 35 or you can complete details online by scanning this QR code.



Thank you for being part of the Amazon Hope story and for helping us write the next chapter.

LOOKING TO THE HILLS

A new partnership bringing practical
support to communities in the
Peruvian Andes



Peru has long held a special place in Vine Trust's heart. That connection began through our early work supporting projects which brought safety, hope and a future to children who had been living on the streets. It deepened through the lasting impact of that work and, later, through the expansion of our medical services across the Amazon aboard the medical ships.

For the past couple of years, we have been exploring how that special connection might be expanded further through new opportunities for our school and adult teams.

Central to this has been finding the right partner: an established organisation already delivering effective, long-term support, with strong community relationships and projects that Vine Trust can meaningfully contribute to. It has taken time to identify that partner, but we are delighted to have found *Yanapanakusun*.

Yanapanakusun is a Peruvian charity based in Cusco which has worked for more than 30 years to protect and support vulnerable people.



Cynthia, Ada and German (Programme Director) from Yanapanakusun

Its work ranges from helping women, children and young people at risk of violence or exploitation, to improving food security and access to education, training and employment. Their practical, long-term support responds to immediate needs while helping people improve their circumstances for the future.

Reaching the point of identifying this partnership has involved considerable work, with visits to Peru, detailed discussions with the Yanapanakusun team, and time spent meeting families and seeing its work in the communities it serves.

All of this has helped us understand the depth of its experience, the practical difference its programmes make and the opportunities that will come from connecting Vine Trust volunteers with that work.

Yanapanakusun's communities are set among the striking landscapes of the Peruvian Andes, but life in the mountains can be very demanding. Distance, altitude and limited transport can restrict access to services and employment. Many families rely on small-scale farming or informal work, while poor or overcrowded housing add further pressure to daily life.

This partnership will launch ***Project Esperanza***, Vine Trust's new construction support initiative in Peru. Through Yanapanakusun's local knowledge and established relationships, Vine Trust volunteers will support projects with individual families and communities. They will work alongside Yanapanakusun staff, local builders and family members to improve housing conditions and develop more secure and varied sources of income.

For volunteers, these will be truly wonderful opportunities to see effective community development in action, spend time with the local families and Yanapanakusun team, and learn more about life in the Peruvian Andes.





Our first Peru expeditions are now open for applications!

Adult Expedition - October 2027

Open to volunteers aged 18+
Sign-up today!



School Expeditions - Summer 2028

We'd love to hear from schools who would be interested in participating in an expedition to Peru during June/July 2028.

For more information, please contact Erin Seaman:
erin@vinetrust.org
0131 555 5598.



WOMEN'S HEALTH MATTERS



For women living on the remote islands of Lake Victoria, accessing healthcare can be far more complicated than simply making an appointment.

A routine antenatal visit, an HIV test, an ultrasound scan, or treatment for a common illness may mean travelling long distances by boat, finding money for transport, waiting for suitable weather, and leaving children, work, or family responsibilities behind.

The Jubilee Hope Medical Programme helps bridge this gap by taking healthcare directly to isolated island communities.

Through MV Jubilee Hope and supporting outreach services, including MV Lady Jean, teams provide outpatient consultations, laboratory investigations, HIV testing and counselling, ultrasound examinations, reproductive and maternal health support, family planning, treatment, health education, referral, and follow-up care.

Women on the islands often carry demanding roles as mothers, caregivers, traders, farmers, and contributors to family livelihoods. Their own health can easily become secondary.



Although some communities have dispensaries or small health facilities, specialised investigations and treatment may only be available on larger islands or the mainland. Transport costs, limited boat services, and changing weather can make even a relatively simple medical visit incredibly difficult and sometimes impossible.

For many women, Jubilee Hope therefore offers more than clinical services. It provides a place where they can be listened to, supported, and treated with dignity.

Ultrasound services can identify pregnancy complications and reproductive health conditions requiring further investigation, while health education gives women information about pregnancy, family planning, HIV, nutrition, and when to seek care.

HIV testing and counselling remain an important part of Jubilee Hope's work. Women who test positive receive counselling and are linked to appropriate treatment and continuing care. For pregnant women, early diagnosis and consistent antiretroviral treatment are especially important because, together with antenatal care, safe delivery and follow-up for the baby, they can greatly reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Yet HIV care is not only about medication. Fear, stigma, and family pressures can also affect a woman's ability to seek help. The programme's medical teams therefore combine clinical care with counselling, reassurance, and practical support.



Neema (Grace): A Story of Hope

One mother's journey has remained especially memorable to the Jubilee Hope team.

She was living with HIV and already caring for five children when she discovered that she was pregnant again. Life had become extremely difficult, and she felt overwhelmed by the thought of another pregnancy. Concerned about her health, her responsibilities, and the future of her family, she was considering ending the pregnancy.



The medical team spent time listening to her concerns without judgement. She received counselling and medical advice about HIV treatment, antenatal care, and protecting both her health and that of her unborn child. Sometimes healthcare begins not with medicine or an investigation, but with giving someone time, information, and the confidence to see that support is available.

Following counselling and continued care, she decided to continue with the pregnancy. When the Jubilee Hope team returned some months later, they met her again. This time she was carrying a healthy baby girl in her arms. She introduced her as Neema (which means 'Grace'). For those who remembered the uncertainty surrounding the pregnancy, meeting Neema was a deeply moving reminder of the impact the work can have in the lives of the people it serves.

Neema's story captures our mission beautifully. Jubilee Hope continues to sail so that healthcare can reach them where they are, bringing treatment, compassion, and hope to communities that need it most.



SIDE BY SIDE

Dr Fiona Downie travelled with friend and colleague, Dr Eilidh Mills to work alongside the Jubilee Hope medical team on Lake Victoria...

"Eilidh and I have been friends since our first day of FY1, and, when we both became locum GPs at the end of our training, we planned a trip. We were both ready for the challenge of providing healthcare somewhere so completely different to home.

What I loved the most was the team on the boat. Although we were there for such a short period of time, we were made to feel so welcome. Everyone on the boat did their jobs with passion and complete expertise. The joint morning meeting and communal evening meal made it easy to get to know colleagues and ask questions. Sitting singing Swahili hymns and watching the sun come up is something I will never forget.

From a work point of view the medicine was fascinating and Dr Uzia taught us so much. We admired his knowledge and compassionate manner. The adjustment of working with minimal resources was huge. Having fewer medicines and tests was hard but it forced us to think outside the box and it was refreshing to practice in a totally different way. We made sure to discuss our challenging cases and learn what we could to improve for clinic the next day.

I cannot recommend this trip highly enough. It was an eye opener and it was an adventure. We shared joyful and sad patient experiences, and it was a privilege to meet some of the people in this wonderful country".

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 March
- 10th-24th April
- 15th-29th May
- 12th-26th June
- 10th-24th July
- 11th-25th September
- 16th-30th October
- 13th-27th November

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:

- health@vinetrust.org
- 0131 555 5598



TANZANIA 2027

JUBILEE HOPE MEDICAL EXPEDITIONS



BRICK BY BRICK

Building Brighter Futures



We are always excited when a new school group arrives in Tanzania and begins an experience which has been many months in the making. Fundraising, planning, training and preparation have all built towards that moment, and we know that the weeks ahead will bring new experiences, friendships, challenges and opportunities to learn.



This year, we welcomed 69 students from Milne's High School, Perth Grammar and Culloden Academy. Milne's and Perth Grammar both returned following their expeditions in 2024, and it was great to see younger siblings following in the footsteps of older brothers and sisters who had travelled before them.

Across the three expeditions, students supported the construction of five family homes. Working alongside local builders, volunteers and the families themselves, they learned new practical skills and saw the houses taking shape in front of them, brick by brick.

For the families, those bricks are building something much more important: a safer, more secure home and new opportunities for the future. For the students, being part of that process brings to life the reason behind all those months of fundraising and preparation.

The experience extends well beyond the building site too. This year, students visited Love and Hope, an NGO supporting 28 children affected by poverty and violence. They were welcomed by the husband-and-wife team who run the organisation,



Milne's High School



Perth Grammar



Culloden Academy

learned how to prepare traditional local dishes over an open fire and then shared the meal with the children.

Students also planted 275 trees through our partnership with KLM Safaris, adding another practical activity to their time in Tanzania.

Perhaps one of the best indications of the impact of these expeditions comes after the students return home. More than 15 have already applied to become Young Assistant Leaders for our 2027 school expeditions, keen to stay involved and help support those following in their footsteps.

Our 2026 Young Leaders, Finlay Biccocchi and Mia Jackson, showed where that journey can lead.

Both first travelled to Tanzania as school students before returning to take on greater responsibility, supporting student welfare, encouraging younger volunteers and continuing to develop their own leadership skills.

And none of this would be possible without our Tanzanian team. TAWREF's leadership, Elly Kimaro and his colleagues bring the local knowledge, experience and relationships which are at the heart of every expedition.

A house is built brick by brick, and in many ways an expedition is too. Each part adds something to the experience – the preparation, the people, the work and everything learned along the way.

Together, they can build something which lasts long after the final brick has been laid.



"I witnessed incredible commitment, teamwork, and determination from every volunteer. The work was not easy. The teams faced muddy and slippery roads, and challenging weather conditions, yet they never lost their enthusiasm. They worked tirelessly with positive attitudes, supporting one another every step of the way, and together they achieved something truly life changing for the families we serve."



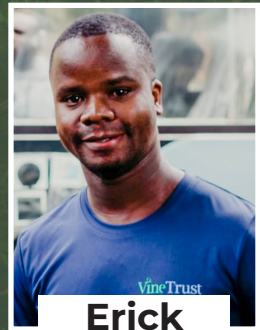
Elly

"I have really enjoyed working alongside the students and seeing their enthusiasm, energy, and willingness to get involved. It was inspiring to see them step outside their homes, work together as a team, and make a real difference in the local community. For me, these expeditions are a wonderful way of bringing young people and communities together while creating meaningful experiences that last forever."



Augustino

"Working together with others to help build homes is more than a practical task - it is about giving children hope, security, and a brighter future. These expeditions inspire young people to make a positive impact while learning the value of kindness, teamwork, and responsibility. I am grateful to Vine Trust for creating opportunities that change lives, both for the families we serve and for everyone who takes part."



Erick

BUILDING WITH PURPOSE



Volunteer, Stephen Hitchmough reflects on his experiences as part of an adult team in August supporting Vine Trust's 'Project Hope' partnership with TAWREF in Moshi...

This was my second time volunteering in East Africa.

The first was in Rwanda, where I helped build a 116m suspension footbridge, providing around 3,000 people with safer access to schools, healthcare and other essential services.



Tanzania was different. This one felt a lot more personal.

Meeting Rosemary and her children, seeing the conditions they were living in and knowing we were there to help build them a safe home really hit me. You can read about poverty or see it on the news, but it's something else entirely when you're stood there, meeting the family and seeing it for yourself.

We worked alongside the local builders and community, shifting tonnes of materials by hand in the heat. It was hard graft, but knowing what that house would mean to Rosemary and her children made it all worthwhile.

We also got to visit other families who had received new homes, and I was invited to help open one of them. Being part of that moment is something I'll never forget.

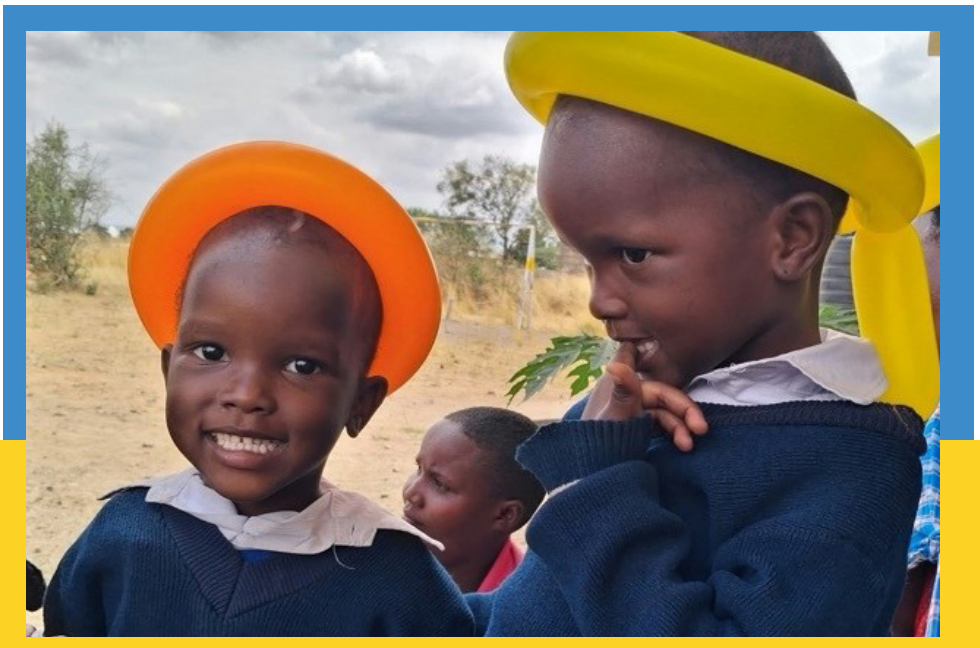
One thing I feel strongly about after both trips is that it's not about going out there to save people. That's completely the wrong way to look at it.

It's about listening, working alongside people and providing support that helps them improve their standard of living, access essential services and have opportunities that so many of us take for granted.

In Rwanda, that meant helping build a bridge to connect communities. In Tanzania, it meant helping a family have a safe place to call home.

None of this happens without the people on the ground. TAWREF, the local builders and the community are the ones who know what's needed and carry on the work long after we've gone home. We were there to play our part and support what they're doing.

Since getting home, I've been thinking a lot about what more I can do.





I'm an engineer. I've got skills and experience that could be put to good use, and I don't want to leave it at these two trips.

I'm looking at how I can get more involved, whether that's volunteering, sharing what I know or raising money to support more families and communities.

I know I can't change everything, but I can do something. And after meeting the people I have, I can't just come home and carry on as though I'd never been.

A massive thank you to Vine Trust, TAWREF, the local community and everyone involved. It's been a privilege to be part of it.

Rwanda opened my eyes. Tanzania made sure I couldn't close them again.





HIRE THE VT BARGE

Available to hire throughout the year, the Barge offers something a little different from the usual hotel or conference-room setting.

There are three spaces to choose from. The Glass Room, with its panoramic views, works well for larger gatherings; the Training Room is ideal for seminars and workshops; and the Board Room offers a quieter setting for smaller meetings. Each space includes Wi-Fi, AV equipment, temperature control and disabled access.

The Barge sits beside the Port of Leith tram stop, with nearby bus links and free parking, making it easy for guests to reach from across Edinburgh and beyond. Catering can be arranged for full or half-day bookings, with tea, coffee and biscuits included. Reduced rates are also available for charities and regular users.

So, whether you are planning a meeting, training day, celebration or something a little more unusual, the VT Barge could be just the place.





MERCHANT NAVY DAY 2026

Members of the Vine Trust staff and Board were honoured to be invited to the Service of Remembrance at the Merchant Navy Memorial on Leith Shore, organised by the Merchant Navy Association, on Merchant Navy Day – Thursday, 3rd September.

For the second year running, we were delighted to welcome attendees aboard the Vine Trust Barge for a post-event gathering.

Guests included the Rt. Hon. Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh, Rt Hon Robert Aldreidge, Rev Dr Iain May, representatives from The Leith Chamber of Commerce and members of the Merchant Navy Association.

Our sincere thanks to the Merchant Navy Association for including us in this special day and choosing the Vine Trust Barge as a venue for this occasion.



FIRM KAZUNZU VILLAGE OF HOPE FOUNDATIONS



There has been significant progress at Kazunzu Village of Hope over recent years, with developments supporting family livelihoods, agriculture, children's health and education.

As part of that continuing development, particular focus this year has been given to strengthening some of the infrastructure which will support the next phase.

Water provision has been one of the main areas of work, and improvements have been made to the existing access which is required to meet the needs of the families and planned agricultural project expansion. Part of these improvements includes new water towers to allow for more effective storage and increase reliable access.



Work is also progressing to provide additional electricity capacity in the coming weeks.

There are a number of plans being considered for the next phase, which has included the key participation and input from the local families, who continue to receive support and guidance from the Project leadership, Samuel Limbe and Rebeka Masalu.

The work on water and electricity may be less visible than some of the developments that have taken place to date, but these are an important part of putting in firm foundations from which to build the next phase of development.

There is much to look forward to at Kazunzu. Thank you to everyone whose support is helping make that progress possible.



A GIFT THAT CHANGES LIVES

Every time the Amazon Hope programme reaches a riverside community, it brings much more than a medical ship. It brings doctors, dentists, nurses, medicines, equipment and the opportunity for people to receive care that may otherwise be beyond their reach.

A gift to Amazon Hope helps make those visits possible. It can support a child who is unwell, help a mother receive vital care during pregnancy, provide treatment for someone living with a long-term condition, or help ensure that medicines and essential supplies are there when they are needed.

Over the years, we have seen the difference this care can make. Whatever you are able to give, your support becomes part of that story. It helps our medical teams continue reaching communities, providing care and changing lives.

There are several ways you can help. To donate online, simply scan the QR code or visit our website. You can also complete and return the donation form on page 39.

Thank you for helping Amazon Hope continue to be there for the communities who need it.





Connecting People
to Change Lives

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