



Enabling communities
to help themselves

Annual Report 2008



Students working in the new library at Sorga Leilisa Community School

Report from the Chair

We continued to be very busy throughout 2008, including helping the Eye Care Project along through substantial difficulties, two productive group visits to Ethiopia in the autumn and a series of fundraising initiatives. The number of active members has grown and the future of the Link looks strong.

We held a discussion day in March, something not managed for several years, to give more members a chance of an in-depth appraisal of what we have achieved lately and to suggest the best ways forward. Over thirty people attended and it was felt that this could be a useful annual event. The interest in improving water and sanitation was renewed (this was the International Year of Sanitation) and it was decided to link this with the developing connections with five primary schools. A project plan was drafted and an assessment of the current water supplies and toilets at the linked schools was made during the visit in October. Implementation will begin in 2009 and could continue for several years. The effectiveness of the long-running project to enhance economic opportunities for very poor women, in particular wood carriers, by providing donkeys or sheep was reviewed at our request by our partners in Nekemte. Again the visits in the autumn were useful to follow this up and assess where to go with this area of support. New committee sub-groups have been formed to develop the water and sanitation, and the women's welfare themes, complementing those already running for education and eye health.

At the April 2008 AGM, Dick Benn took over as Treasurer from Mark Howells, and Ella Huffman replaced Penny Pullen as Membership Secretary. Mark received warm thanks for his many years as treasurer and he was to continue with the financial management of the Eye Project until its end in 2009. Penny was also thanked and continues as the chair of the education sub-committee. Kate Pearce joined the committee and Jill Grainger stepped down, with thanks. The other officers and committee members agreed to continue. Alex Taylor in particular was thanked for the huge amount of work she has done on the Eye Project, together with Alemu Nega – the Eye Clinic Project Manager in Nekemte. The Four Acre Trust, Exmoor Rotary Club and congregations in Trowbridge have all been major sponsors this year and are warmly thanked along with the many individuals who have kept the funds flowing in. The Committee met seven times in 2008, with separate meetings of the education, health, water and women's sub-committees. Bruce Hebbard produced three excellent newsletters and the website was again managed by Tom Grainger (and is supported by Concept First).

Our main achievement in 2008 was to keep the development of the Nekemte Eye Care Project going through its second and into its third year. Substantial funds from the Four Acre Trust enabled this to happen, albeit with a hiatus for 6 months while staff changes in Nekemte were sorted out. The Link was able to bridge the gap from its reserves and other sources. The result has been a new cataract surgeon taking over the medical management, with a large number of operations performed and other eye care services established, including the provision of reading glasses and minor surgical repairs. Charging for spectacles and operations for those that can afford it forms the beginning of income generating activity and sustainability. The clinic has attracted European teams to enhance the number of operations in short visits.

Two main visits from Exeter to Nekemte took place in October and November 2008. Alex Taylor was there to evaluate the working of the Eye Clinic, together with Frances Chanter of Exmoor Rotary Club. They were accompanied by Rachael Jamieson who focussed her time on the assessment of the women's welfare project and new ideas for its development. Penny Pullen went again, this time with two teachers from Blackawton School, to develop links with five primary schools and one kindergarten, as well as continuing the scholarships for women students at New Generation University and connecting with VSO workers in Nekemte. Dick and Diana Benn also accompanied and supported her. Fundraising by some of the Devon schools, plus our own funds continues to enable school libraries to be set up or enhanced. During the visit formal School Link Agreements were signed between the following primary schools - Bekumsa Biya & Broadclyst, Sorga & Tedburn St Mary, Birka Jato & Exminster, and Birka Bekumsa and Blackawton – as well as the exchanging of pupils' work between Ethiopian and English partners.

Our membership is now over 130 and subscriptions in excess of £2,500, which with donations large and small, and other fundraising events resulted in a total income of over £23,000, on top of almost £25,000 grant aid from the Four Acre Trust directly to the Eye Project. We were very fortunate to have congregations in Wiltshire served by Rev Martyn Skinner fundraising for us for another year. A sponsored walk from Haldon to Exeter in September raised funds for the new school water and sanitation project. Jeff Sleeman produced a second brilliant live musical evening at Topsham in October and Ella Huffman continued to run a gift catalogue on our website, plus setting up automatic contributions from online shopping and searching. A coffee morning at Pauline Gibson's before Christmas, a plant sale at Bruce and Charmain Hebbard's in May, a garden party at Ella's in August, a sponsored run and ebay selling by Paul Jordan all made substantial funds.

As we intended, in 2008 expenditure was above income to make use of some of the large surplus in hand at the beginning of the year, which had been built up as a cushion against unexpected costs of the Eye Project. The total expenditure on that project in the year was over £46,000, of which £21,000 came from sources other than the grant from Four Acre Trust. Our expenditure in Ethiopia on other projects was over £6,000, mostly for education projects (school libraries, university women's scholarships, and a start up grant for a day care centre for children with special needs). As usual we have kept our running costs in the UK at a very low percentage (1%) of total expenditure thanks to the generosity of many members donating time and covering their personal expenses.

We look forward to a year when our major input to the Eye Project comes to an end and we develop new projects in women's income generation and water & sanitation at schools. Two visits to Nekemte are already planned for 2009.

Peter Grainger

Overall Funds

Period: 01/01/08 – 31/12/08

<u>Cash Inflows</u>	£
Subscriptions	2,576.00
Donations	
Individuals - inc. donations for Education	2,270.84
Exeter Welsh Society	100.00
Exeter Golf & Country Club – Tennis Section	400.00
Topsham Acoustic Cafe	380.00
Coffee Morning	168.40
Plant Sale	420.00
Garden Party	400.00
Sales on e-bay	75.00
Donations (Eye Clinic Project)	
Individuals	2,823.50
West Wiltshire United Churches	4,078.32
Gift Catalogue	433.00
Four Acre Trust	24,573.00
Exmoor Rotary Club	5,100.00
Donations (Water Project) – Sponsored Walk	1,348.10
Donations from Schools	
Broadclyst School	975.85
Silverton School	153.68
Exeter Cathedral School	105.00
Donations (Scholarship Fund)	700.00
Jan Greet Memorial Fund	170.00
Bank and Building Society Interest	878.54
Total Cash Inflows	£48,129.23

Cash Outflows

£

General Projects in Ethiopia**Women's Donkey & Sheep project evaluation** **200.00****Educational Projects in Ethiopia****Sub-total****5,913.25**

Scholarships at New Generation University	1,269.36
Macmillan Books for school libraries	928.52
Bekumsa Biya Elementary School	240.94
Sorga Leilisa Elementary School	327.30
Birka Bekumsa Elementary School	182.18
Diriba Elementary School	461.56
Birka Jato Elementary School	327.31
Biftu Nakamte High School	293.84
Hareto Library Books – via Garedew - & 'Focus on Africa' magazines	222.50
Nekemte Children's Library – via Mark Smith (VSO)	200.00
English dictionaries for trainee teachers – via VSO	176.30
Customs clearance & transport re Broadclyst books	176.30
Nekemte Disabled Children's Day Care Centre	1,000.00
Bethel Kindergarten	107.14

Nekemte Eye Clinic Project**Nekemte Eye Care Project A/c expenditure** **46,058.76****Costs in UK**

Bank Charges	33.00
UKOWLA, Global Centre & CVS subscriptions	164.00
Stationery / postage / printing	98.44
Room Hire for meetings	140.00
Professional Fees	35.00
Miscellaneous expenses	100.00

Total Cash Outflows **£52,642.45****Net Cash Outflow** **£4,613.22***Accounts subject to inspection by Exeter CVS Accountant*

Nekemte Eye Care Project Account
Accounts for 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2008

Cash Inflows

	£
Grant from Four Acre Trust	24,573.00
Internal transfer from Exeter-Ethiopia General Acc.	7,144.57
Exmoor Rotary Club donation for Spectacle Workshop	5,100.00
Additional funding from EEL for laundry	3,000.00
Bank Interest	71.74
Total Cash Inflow	<u>39,889.31</u>

Cash Outflows

EECMY Eye Project expenses in Ethiopia	38,750.46
Transfers to Ethiopia for Spectacle Workshop	6,300.00
Eye project consumables purchased in UK	48.50
Exeter Link Monitoring and Evaluation expenses	760.05
International Bank Transfer Charges	199.75
Total Cash Outflow	<u>46,058.76</u>

Balance at 1 Jan 2008	8,401.14
Net Cash Flow	(6,169.45)
Balance at 31 December 2008	<u>£2,231.69</u>

Exeter-Ethiopia Link (Registered Charity No. 1000293)
Statement of Account: 1 January to 31 December 2008

	£	£
<i>Co-operative Bank (General Account)</i>	2,438.71	
<i>Co-op Bank (Eye Project Account)</i>	8,401.14	
<i>Britannia Building Society (General A/c)</i>	14,658.63	
<i>Portman BS (Jan Greet Memorial A/c)</i>	1,019.95	
Balance at 1st January 2008	26,518.43	26,518.43

CASH INFLOWS in 2008		
<i>Co-operative Bank (General Account)</i>	25,546.86	
<i>Co-op Bank (Eye Project Account)</i>	39,889.31	<i>Inc Internal transfers</i>
<i>Britannia Building Society (General A/c)</i>	711.44	
<i>Portman BS (Jan Greet Memorial A/c)</i>	41.21	
<i>CAF No 1 A/c (General Reserve A/c)</i>	11,377.37	<i>New acc. In 2008</i>
Total 2008 Cash Inflows into accounts	77,566.19	* 77,566.19
CASH OUTFLOWS in 2008		
<i>Co-operative Bank (General Account)</i>	19,689.42	<i>Inc Internal transfers</i>
<i>Co-op Bank (Eye Project Account)</i>	46,058.76	
<i>Britannia Building Society (General A/c)</i>	15,370.07	<i>Acc. closed in 2008</i>
<i>Portman BS (Jan Greet Memorial A/c)</i>	1,061.16	<i>Acc. closed in 2008</i>
<i>CAF No 1 A/c (General Reserve A/c)</i>	0	<i>New acc. in 2008</i>
Total 2008 Cash outflows from accounts	82,179.41	* 82,179.41
Net Cash Outflow for 2008		4,613.22

<i>Co-operative Bank (General Account)</i>	8,296.15	
<i>Co-op Bank (Eye Project Account)</i>	2,231.69	
<i>CAF No 1 A/c (General Reserve A/c)</i>	11,377.37	
Balance at 31st December 2008	21,905.21	21,905.21

Notes: Total 2008 Cash Inflows and outflows above (*) include internal transfers between accounts. Portman & Britannia BS Accounts closed and CAF Account opened in 2008.

Dick Benn - Treasurer - March 2009



Qes Alemu Nega checks work on the spectacle workshop

Exeter – Ethiopia Link

The Exeter-Ethiopia Link was set up in 1987 to promote a Community Link between Exeter in Devon, England, and Hareto in Wellega, Ethiopia. In 1994 the Link was extended to include Nekemte, the principal town in Wellega.

The Link supports Health, Water, Education and Women's Projects in Hareto, Nekemte and surrounding areas. It also provides information to the people of Exeter on life in Ethiopia.

For further information contact:

Peter Grainger 01392 435648

Or view our website at

www.exeterethiopiaLink.org