



Enabling communities
to help themselves

Annual Report 2009



The blind, like this man, can now see, thanks to over 1200 cataract operations carried out by Nekemte Eye Project

Report from the Chair

On 30 June 2009 our three-year financial commitment to, and management of, the Nekemte Eye Care Project came to a successful end. The £150,000 grant aid from the Four Acre Trust had all been claimed and accounted for. The eye clinic was complete and operating a range of services including vision testing, spectacle dispensing, cataract operations, minor eye surgery and other treatment. Our project manager in Nekemte, Qes Alemu Nega at EECMY, had been able to find new funding partners in Europe, and clinical expertise from visiting doctors to assist and train local ophthalmic staff. We decided to continue paying the salary of Qes Alemu until the end of 2009 to enable a smooth transition. The project is now secure until 2013. Our aim was always to set up a sustainable eye health service and then to move on, which has been achieved. We are extremely grateful to all who contributed their money and their time to make this a reality. The Eye Project sub-committee has now stood down after three years of very hard work, for which Alex Taylor in particular is thanked sincerely. Alex was able to evaluate the project during a visit to Nekemte in April 2009.

A significant new project got underway to improve water, sanitation and hygiene education at primary schools in Nekemte and Hareto, linked with schools in and around Exeter. In April, during the first of two 2009 visits to Ethiopia (by myself, Ella Huffman, Alex Taylor and Mark Hodgson) priorities for the physical improvements were agreed in writing with four schools and funds allocated for work to take place. This included repairs to two wells with hand pumps, better spring protection at two schools, new girls' toilets at another and extending a water main for handwashing and toilet cleaning at a further school. By the second visit of the year in November (Penny Pullen, Diana and Dick Benn) all works had been completed and were inspected, and additional funds for toilets were given to the primary school in Hareto. To assist with hygiene education linked schools were provided with books for classroom and library use, all containing accessible health messages for children. The water project has been a focus for fundraising through the year.

The long-running project to enhance economic opportunities for very poor women, in particular wood carriers, by providing donkeys or sheep has been reviewed and now brought to an end. The principle of using donkeys has become established in certain rural communities and is now being left to develop naturally. Instead our attention and a small amount of initial funding has moved to the village of Wacha on the edge of Nekemte, where a vet has returned from Europe to farm dairy cattle and is willing to give some of her time to assist a large group of local women to improve their food and economic security. This includes a small, interest-free loan system, provision of local mains water and small-scale livestock and vegetable production.

Much of the focus of our education group has been to foster sustainable links between schools and Penny Pullen, helped by Diana Benn and others have spread the word both in the schools in Exeter and Devon, and in Nekemte and Hareto. The provision or improvement of school libraries has been funded during their visit in November, with some lively classroom activities as well. Despite some very evident commercial, services and road developments in Nekemte, the condition of state schools remains very poor, partly due to the huge rise in demand for education. Through personal sponsorships and general funds we are able to provide scholarships for eleven women students who would not otherwise get into higher education, at New Generation University College in Nekemte this year. We have also funded furniture at a day care centre for special needs children, supported a children's library and a Saturday school for orphans.

At the March 2009 AGM, Alex Taylor stepped down as Vice-Chair and was replaced in that role by Mark Howells. Adrian Thomas resigned from the committee and from his role as second Vice-Chair. Both were warmly thanked for their involvement, Adrian's extending back to the foundation of the link in 1987. Kate Pearce and Claire Proietti also stepped down from the committee and were replaced by Mark Hodgson and Rachael Jamieson. The other officers and committee members all agreed to continue in their current positions. The system of sub-committees has worked well with separate groups for water & sanitation, education, women and eye health. Towards the end of the year a new group to handle our business planning was also formed. Bruce Hebbard produced four interesting newsletters and the website was again managed ably by Tom Grainger (and is supported by Concept First). We held another useful discussion day with the AGM, with inspiring talks by VSO workers Jane King and Mark Smith, recently returned from Nekemte.

Our membership has remained over 120 and subscriptions raised £2604, which with donations and other fundraising events resulted in a total income of over £14,000, on top of the £37,357 4 Acre Trust grant to the Eye Project. A sponsored walk in East Devon in September raised funds for the school water and sanitation project, as did another excellent acoustic café organised by Jeff Sleeman in Topsham in October. This year the evening was a double bill with a fascinating fundraising lecture by Bernard Roussel, an expert on Ethiopian food and plants, organised by Hirut von Lany. Exmoor Rotary raised further funds for the spectacle unit at the eye clinic and the Tennis Section of the Exeter Golf & Country Club have donated to schools projects. Ella Huffman and Anthea Duquemin continued to run a gift catalogue on our website, plus automatic contributions from online shopping and searching.

In 2009 expenditure was again above income to reduce the large reserve built up as a cushion against unexpected costs of the Eye Project. A business plan is being drawn up for 2010 so that each of the three main continuing projects for the coming year (water, women and schools) has a budget allocated and sufficient income or reserves identified to balance the expenditure. This is my last Annual Report as I will be stepping aside at the AGM in March 2010. It has been a great honour and pleasure to chair the Link through several years (I have lost count how many) of growth in membership, income and activity. I wish it well for the future and I will continue to have an active support role.

Peter Grainger

Exeter-Ethiopia Link (Registered Charity No. 1000293)
Statement of Account: 1 January to 31 December 2009

<u>Bank Statements 2009</u>			
<u>Opening balances</u>	£	£	£
Co-op General a/c	8296.15		
Co-op Eye Project a/c	2231.69		
CAF a/c	11377.37		
	<u>21905.21</u>	21905.21	
<u>Closing Balances</u>			
Co-op General a/c	4505.98		
Co-op Eye Project a/c	0		
CAF a/c	10127.57		
Cash US\$ \$2825	<u>1635.65</u>	<u>16269.2</u>	
Net Cash Outflow		<u>5636.01</u>	5636.01
<u>Cash Inflows 2009</u>			
Co-op General a/c	5095.16		
Co-op Eye Project a/c	39077.44		
CAF a/c	9812.28		
US\$2825	<u>1635.65</u>		
Total	<u>55620.53</u>		55620.53
<u>Cash Outflow 2009</u>			
Co-op General a/c	-8885.33		
Co-op Eye Project a/c	-41309.13		
CAF a/c	<u>-11062.08</u>		
Total	-61256.54		<u>-61256.54</u>
Net Cash Outflow			<u>-5636.01</u>

Nekemte Eye Care Project

<u>Eye Project account 2009</u>		
<u>Cash inflows</u>	£	£
4 Acre Trust	37357.00	
EEL – CAF account	1720.00	
Bank interest	0.34	
Total inflow	39077.44	39077.44
<u>Cash outflows</u>		
Remitted to EECMY for Eye Clinic	37122.00	
Funds taken to Eye Clinic	3005.00	
EEL Travel and other Expenses	1143.70	
Closing balance to Main a/c	38.43	
Total outflow	41309.13	-41309.13
	Net outflow	-2231.69
<u>Co-op Eye Project A/c</u>		
Opening balance	2231.69	
Closing balance	0	
Outflow	2231.69	2231.69

Overall funds 2009

Cash inflows

	£	£
<u>Subscriptions</u>		2604.00
<u>Donations</u>		
General fund		2761.92
Education - general		460.00
• Exeter Golf & Country	161.00	
• Roehampton University	100.00	
• Withycombe Guides	178.00	
• Others	21.00	
Education - Scholarships		1570.00
Education - Schools earmarked		383.59
• Silverton Primary	383.59	
Eye Clinic		39502.00
• 4 Acre Trust	37357.00	
• Exmoor Rotary	1100.00	
• Gift catalogue	345.00	
• Others	700.00	
JGMF Women's Project		280.00
Water Projects		2238.50
• M & P Gaches Wedding	630.00	
• Sponsored Walk	535.00	
• Acoustic Cafe	607.50	
• Others	305.00	
<u>Gift Aid tax reclaim</u>		1747.30
<u>Bank Interest</u>		93.69
Total Cash Inflow		51641.00

Overall funds 2009

Cash outflows

	£	£
<u>Projects in Ethiopia</u>		
General projects in Ethiopia	1114.25	
Education - general	3798.54	
Education - Scholarships	1830.00	
Schools' earmarked funds	1105.57	
Nekemte Eye Clinic	44146.70	
JGMF Women's Project	1191.82	
Schools' Water Project	3144.83	
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Sub-total	56331.71	56331.71
 <u>Expenses in UK</u>		
Bank charges	168.00	
Seminars	75.00	
Subscriptions – CVS/UKOWLA	80.00	
Printing	405.72	
Postage	21.66	
Professional fees	35.00	
Room hire	72.50	
Travel	87.42	
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Sub-total	945.30	945.30
Total Cash Outflow		57277.01

Expenses in UK amount to less than 2% of total expenditure

Accounts subject to inspection by Exeter CVS Accountant



Staff and pupils at Diriba Elementary School near Nekemte which is now linked with Silverton Primary School

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:

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or view our website at

www.exeterethiopiaLink.org