

EXETER - ETHIOPIA LINK

August 2004 Newsletter

in association with Devon Aid

Linking Exeter in England with Wellega in Ethiopia

Where do we go from here? Reflection day notes.

From time to time members of the Link meet together to review recent activities and the current state of projects in Ethiopia. Thirteen members met at Fran Hamilton's back in June and discussed both specific projects and general issues. Peter Grainger, our Chair, has provided some notes on the day including some conclusions.



Deep in discussion:

Adrian Thomas, Mark Howells, Jane Asten and Fran Jenkin give some thought to a point being made about Link activities during the course of the day at Fran Hamilton's.

Specific areas of activity:

Women

- the donkey project has gone very well and the consensus was that any further development should now be left to local initiatives rather than the Link.
- serious consideration should be given to supplying dairy goats (and possibly chickens) to women and information needs to be gathered from Farm Africa as well as a needs analysis sought from Nekemte.
- provision of adult literacy classes was also recommended as a priority.

Health:

- a strong feeling that all projects need a training/education element plus a sense of local ownership in order to improve their chance of success.
- we also need to improve how we assess and monitor projects - more feedback is needed from our local partners.
- future plans could include more on nutritional improvement and health education and making sure we build these into other projects (eg. water and women's projects).
- the Link sponsored Dr Darwit Markassa, an ophthalmologist in Nekemte, to attend a Vision 20/20 workshop in Addis Ababa. The workshop aimed to enable people to map the location and nature of ophthalmic need in a region. Dr Markassa and Alemu are now working on a project proposal.
- we are still to establish a link with the AIDS clinic in Nekemte.

Water:

- following completion of the German Embassy grant-aided project, the need for spring capping in Nekemte will be followed up. A pilot project to improve one Nekemte spring would be proposed before applying for a large grant for all 18 identified springs.
- the first step would be more research into the current state and use of the springs. This would include sanitation and hygiene issues.
- maintenance and management needs to be built into project proposals for improved water sources.

General discussion points:

- It was felt that we need to put more effort into preparatory work on projects (information gathering, establishing needs, incorporating training, maintenance and reporting).
- We also felt we needed to increase our contacts in Nekemte and Hareto to reduce the dependence on one or two individuals at EECMY (our church connection). This might be achieved eventually by establishing a local NGO (non-governmental organisation) in Nekemte.
- In principle it was agreed that the Link could initially support the administration to set up an NGO (£1000 was proposed) if Alemu was able to explore this for us. An NGO would need to have paid staff to run it and co-ordinate projects. Follow up work on this was agreed.
- Finally, there were minor amendments made to our Mission Statement which was proving to be consistent with most of our projects.

Would you like to visit to Ethiopia next year.... ?

Those interested in a visit to Ethiopia in 2005 at the moment include Alex Taylor, Jane Asten and Pauline Bennett.

.... or South Africa ?

There is a UKOWLA (UK One World Linking Association) conference in South Africa in July 2005. It was agreed to support Alemu to attend this and it is hoped that someone will also be able to go from Exeter (see box on back page too).

EXETER WALK FOR ETHIOPIA - 26th SEPTEMBER 2004

RAISING MONEY FOR WATER IN ETHIOPIA



Instead of the Annual Cycle Ride this year we have decided on a sponsored walk on Sunday 26th September in Exeter so that more members and their friends can feel confident in participating. Following the visit to Ethiopia earlier this year by Mark and Peter, we aim to raise £2000 to protect a water spring in Nekemte so that it provides clean and safe water for drinking. At present this spring is a muddy hole in the ground but a small amount of concrete and pipework, with local management and hygiene education, could make a big difference.

The sponsored walk is along a 12-mile circular route through the green valley parks and other spaces - the Exeter Green Circle - often beside streams and crossing the river and canal - a reminder of our own abundant water supplies. The group walk will begin at 10.am at the Millers Crossing footbridge over the River Exe, on Bonhay Road. Join the group for part or all of the route, or walk independently at your own convenience. Sponsorship by the mile should be sought, but if 12 miles in a day is not a sufficient challenge for some people, the sponsor form also includes a space for sponsorship by weight of water carried. This is to draw attention to the large distances that many women carry water daily in Ethiopia (usually about 25 kg).



Please commit yourselves to the walk and get your sponsor forms as soon as possible from Peter Grainger at petergrainger@eclipse.co.uk or 01392 435648. If you are unable to take part but would like to sponsor someone else please let Peter know.

Coffee Mornings:

- Saturday 11 September at 10.30.am at Pauline Bennett's. 19 St.Leonards Avenue, Exeter
- Saturday 20 November from 10.am to 12.30.pm at Jane Asten's 33 Prospect Park, Exeter. Traidcraft products (jewelry, food and snacks, crafts and paper etc) will be on sale and books for a book sale would be appreciated.

All are welcome to both mornings.

Exeter-Ethiopia Link 2004

Chair Peter Grainger

Vice-Chairs Alex Taylor
Adrian Thomas

Treasurer Mark Howells

Secretaries:

Minutes Jill Grainger

Membership Pauline Bennett

General Richard King

Co-ordinators:

Health Alex Taylor

Education Pauline Bennett

Water/Env Peter Grainger

Women (JGMF) Fran Hamilton

Exeter Global Centre: Opening doors to the World !

On 8th July 2004 the Global Centre at 17 St David's Hill opened its doors to the World. After many months of planning and preparation, a vision has become a reality. The Centre provides a focus for information about important global issues. It is a place where individuals and groups can share their knowledge and understanding of global issues and develop ways to respond to them. Schools, teachers, pupils, parents and governors can find out more about the global dimension of education and the support available for their work.

The Centre needs help and support - practical and financial - from people who share a vision of 'One World'. Devon Development Education, the organisation which operates the Centre, is a registered charity, so donations, Gift Aid and regular giving are all vital to the sustainability of the Centre. The Global Centre is a membership organisation, so please show your support by becoming a member. Also, volunteers are needed to write newsletters, help run the resources area, do office work, help organise events, become trustees and join the management committee. Contact the Global Centre staff for more information on 01392 438811.

The Global Centre is at 17 St David's Hill, Exeter, EX4 3RG.

Opening times: Mondays and Tuesdays, 10am-5.30pm.

To visit at other times, please call for an appointment, 01392-438811.

Global Partnerships for Learning

South West Regional Conference for One World Links

Saturday, 16th October 2004
10am - 4.30pm

This year's conference will have a particular focus on Linking for and through education as part of the current joint initiative which involves the UK One World Linking Association, the British Council, VSO and other partners.

Conference Fee £15 or free to anyone who is willing to help with providing the lunch.

For further details and Registration Forms please contact Richard: 07720-049487.

Any copy for future newsletters can be sent to the editor, Bruce Hebbard, at Cedar House, Pines Road, Exeter EX2 9EN (Tel: 01392-437479) or by e-mail to b.hebbard@talk21.com

**Devon Aid / Exeter-Ethiopia Link
Registered Charity No 1000293**

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, Agricultural and Educational projects in Hareto and Nekemte and encourages educational links between schools in Exeter and the communities in Ethiopia.

For further information contact:

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e-mail: petergrainger@eclipse.co.uk**

Richard King tel: 01392-669238

or view our website at-
www.exeter-ethiopia-devon-aid.eclipse.co.uk