

June 2007 Newsletter



Enabling communities
to help themselves

Eye Clinic Now Ready!

The Eye Clinic Building is now complete, staff have moved in and the final tidying of the grounds is in progress. Dr. Mohammed, the Ophthalmic Surgeon, began his training at Hyderabad in India on 1st April. The Ophthalmic Nurse, Hirut Dinqa, together with Tekle Benti Simesse the Clinic Manager and Head Nurse are now also in India receiving their training.



The main entrance to the new Eye Clinic in Nekemte. Doors to open very soon!

Existing equipment has been transferred from the hospital to the new clinic but no work will be undertaken until staff return from India. Alex Taylor and Qes Alemu Nega have worked hard on the ordering of equipment but this is a slow process as it also involves getting clearance through Ethiopian Customs.

A request for curtains was answered by Rev Martyn Skinner and his congregations up in Trowbridge, Wiltshire. They made up 20 pairs of curtains which, I understand, are already on their way to Ethiopia. They have also raised over £2,500 towards the Eye Clinic Project and Martyn will provide us with a report in the next newsletter.



The interior is now ready. Equipment and staff are on their way—and soon, patients.

Request for a Laptop !!

Qes Alemu, our Project Manager, is getting desperate as his laptop computer is packing up (if it hasn't already!). If anybody can donate one or provide one in good condition please contact: Peter Grainger or Bruce Hebbard (contact details on back page).

Land End's to John O'Groats

Phil Holland (71) & Les Jones (70) have successfully completed their cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats, a total of 953 miles in 17 days. Phil writes:

"We left Lands End on 5 May and arrived at John O'Groats on 21 May. My friend Les was supporting Macmillan Cancer Care and Bristol Alzheimer Research and I sought sponsors for the Exeter-Ethiopia Link.



Phil and Les finally arrive at their destination, after 17 days in the saddle.

Including the riding before and after the main trip, we cycled a total distance of 1007 miles. We had our good days (leisurely lunches in the sun in Devon) and our bad days (pushing bikes up a 1 in 4 hill into a headwind in the cloud as we entered County Durham).

We know for certain that we have raised more than £1,600, and it seems that there is still over £200 to come. So the Link should get something in the region of £900 - not a bad result considering that we didn't plan on sponsorship."

Phil Holland

Ed. Many thanks to Phil for his sterling effort and no doubt he'll be able to see the rewards put to good use in the Eye Clinic.

News in brief:

- Amy Wilson's 2006 photos 'Ethiopia through One Eye' are now on display in the 'Overseas Development Group' Corridor at the University of East Anglia probably until November. She is also having a report printed in the UEA School of Development Studies magazine about her trip.
- The Link has agreed that £1,000 should be spent mostly on books for older pupils at Hareto High School and Biftu Nekemte School.
- Thanks to Vern Lester for producing an hour-long video of his impressions of Ethiopia, shot during his trip with the Link in November last year and premiered at the AGM in April. Anyone who wants to borrow the DVD should contact Vern at vernlester@hotmail.com

Many thanks go to the following for their donations and support:

- To Exeter Cathedral School who adopted the Link as their charity for the year. At their annual Charity Concert in the Cathedral on 15th May they raised £2,800 for us towards the Eye Project, for which we are very grateful.
- Rev Martyn Skinner and his congregations in Wiltshire who have already raised over £2,500 for the Eye Project (see page 1).

Scholarships for young women

For the last two years the Link has provided scholarships for 6 young women students at the New Generation University in Nekemte. These one year scholarships, which cover their fees, enable them to study Information Technology, Law or Teacher Training.



Penny Pullen with students at the New Generation University on her visit last year.

If anyone would like to sponsor a student for a year's training they can help to change a young woman's life by a donation of £160 for the year.

Speaking for Ourselves

Some of you may remember Peter and Cathy Kiddle's exhibition 'Speaking for Ourselves' which was on display at Exeter Central Library last year (see the February 2006 edition of the Newsletter).

This exhibition will be on display in Trowbridge, Wiltshire in September and, later in the year, in Dublin, Ireland. Let's hope it will help to raise people's awareness of the current situation in Ethiopia and gives a different perspective to the usual one of famine and starving people.

Vern's Summer Party 20 Years of the Link!

Vern Lester will again be hosting a Summer Party at his home to celebrate 20 years of the Link. Please let him know if you're coming by phoning Exeter (01392) 277910

Saturday 7th July

7pm until late

at

14, Magdalen Road, Exeter

Admission £5 - at least

There will be food available but please bring a bottle with you. Vern will be exercising his auctioneering skills again with pledges and items up for sale. So start thinking now about what YOU can offer or bring along.

Annual Sponsored Walk

The Annual Sponsored Walk for the Exeter Ethiopia Link this year will take place on Sunday 23rd September in the Culm Valley or beside the Grand Western Canal; 6 mile and 12 mile options available. This will be followed by refreshments at the home of one of our members at Uffculme.

Sponsor forms and more details of the walk will be posted on the website in August and in the next newsletter (early September).

Likely Folk Gig?

Jeff Sleeman reports that there will probably be a Folk Gig in The Matthew's Hall in Topsham on Saturday 1st September. I'll E-mail everybody with further details if this comes off.

Holiday in Scotland
and help Exeter-Ethiopia Link



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Contact Claire and Massi Proietti
07791 284411/07772 472641/
01363 877676 for more details.

claire@claireproietti.orangehome.co.uk

or www.capercaillie-cottage.info

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***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 Wollega, Ethiopia. In 1994 the Link included the town of Nekemte.

The Link supports: Health, Agricultural and Educational projects in Hareto and Nekemte and links between schools in Exeter and the communities in Ethiopia.

For further information contact:

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Email: petergrainger@eclipse.co.uk

or (for membership)

Penny Pullen: 01392-274603

Email: penpul@tiscali.co.uk

or view our website:

www.exeterethiopiaLink.org

For Sale: All proceeds to the Link

I've got a lot of equipment for making Beer and Wine which I now don't use eg. Pressure barrel, Fermenting bins, Demi-johns and associated kit including lots of enticing recipe books!

If you're keen to get started then make me an offer the Link can't refuse!

Contact Bruce on Exeter 437479 or
b.hebbard@talk21.com