

# July 2008 Newsletter



Enabling communities  
to help themselves

## Health Matters

Thanks to the untiring work of Rev Alemu Nega (Project Manager) the Eye Clinic is going from strength to strength. Mrs Yemegnushal, Nurse Cataract Surgeon, and the team of nurses and support workers are offering a full clinical service including cataract lens implants, minor surgery and spectacles. She is contracted to stay until the end of the pilot project in July 2009 and the Oromia health board have agreed to contribute the basic salary for an additional ophthalmic nurse who started work in June of this year.

Approximately 15 cataract implants are being carried out each week and in the period January to May, 3026 people were seen and treated. Of the 422 people who received surgery, 302 had a cataract implant. Most of these were delivered by a team from Scotland but the centre has also received help from two German eye specialists who have promised some additional funding and help with the project in the near future.

A new cleaning initiative has also been launched at the hospital in Nekemte prompted by a new manager and probably in response to some of our comments. There are plans to revamp the current system and to employ disadvantaged girls so providing them with some income.

Money will be needed for salaries and equipment whilst training and supervision would be provided by some of the existing cleaners. Accordingly we have donated £500 to kick start the initiative and hope to see the new cleanliness regime in operation shortly.



*Dr Menbere, ophthalmologist from Ethiopia visiting Exeter in June to discuss the Eye Project with Alex Taylor and Jill Grainger.*

Since Dr Menbere's visit we have negotiated funding by the Four Acre Trust for the final year of the Eye Care Project up to July 2009. Work has also started to search for another major charity to come on board and support the Clinic in the longer term with grants and technical expertise.

## Money Matters

### Fundraising

Many thanks to the following for donations received recently:

Engineers without Borders £150  
Exeter & District Welsh Society £100  
- and various personal donations totalling about £250

The two 'Grizzly' sponsored runners £400  
The Hebbard's plant sale £420

One member raised £150 by selling off old toys found in his attic - so.....

### Selling on eBay

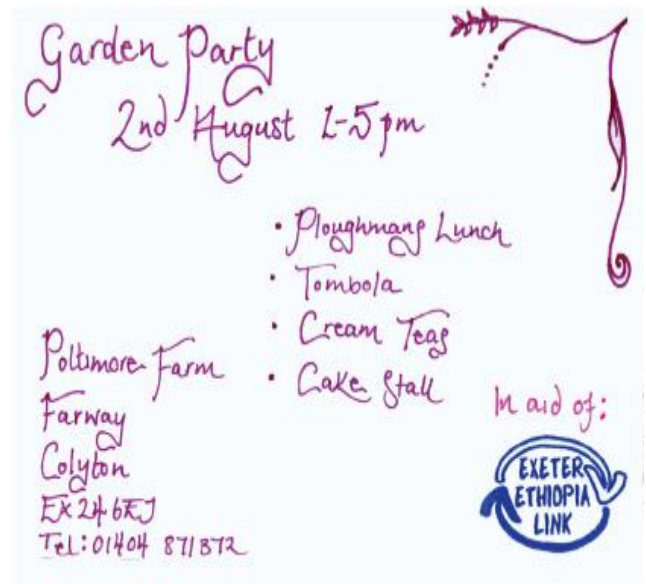
Paul Jordan, a friend of Penny Pullen's, has offered to sell items on eBay to raise money for Exeter-Ethiopia Link. Paul is willing to manage this himself. This is an excellent offer, with no extra work for anyone else. Paul will advertise the goods, (photograph if necessary), sell and package them and post them off. It is up to us to find items to sell. I'm sure everyone has things they don't want so - **empty your attics NOW**. Items must be of good quality as we want to keep a good name to be successful. Also to start with we would prefer to have articles which are not too big in size.

Paul can be contacted at:  
1 Lower Tithebarn Cottage  
Tithebarn Lane  
Pinhoe, Exeter EX1 3RQ  
01392-466936, 07870-258175  
[pauljordan@hotmail.com](mailto:pauljordan@hotmail.com)

Articles may be left in his porch, or Penny would be willing to collect things:  
[penpul@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:penpul@tiscali.co.uk) or 01392-274603

## Fundraising Events

### Garden Party at Ella Huffman's house



Directions for finding Ella's house:

- § From Honiton High Street turn up New Street (opposite WH Smith)
- § Travel up the hill, turn left at the roundabout then a right (following signs to Northleigh)
- § Go past Honiton Golf Course (on your Right)
- § Take the next right (at Y junction - signposted Northleigh)
- § About ½ a mile down take a right turn down a narrow hill (signposted Poltimore)
- § We are the first collection of farm buildings on the right.

If you can donate anything at all for the tombola do please bring it along. Also, I'm sure Ella would appreciate any cakes for the cake sale..... and as usual, bring and buy!

Weather permitting this could be a nice day out in the country so do come along if you can and support Ella and the Link.

## Annual sponsored/fundraising walk

Our annual sponsored walk will take place on Sunday 21st September, from Haldon Belvedere (Lawrence Tower) to Exeter. It will be about an 8 mile guided walk, mostly downhill, along paths and country lanes via Clapham, Shillingford, Ide, Alphington and back to Exeter.

Please meet at 36, Rivermead Road, Exeter at 10am for coffee and to share transport to Haldon. Bring a packed lunch and drink to have on the walk. We should arrive back at Rivermead Road for afternoon tea and cake by about 4pm.



Please register with Peter Grainger: [petergrainger@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:petergrainger@eclipse.co.uk) or phone 01392- 435648 by the end of August to receive your sponsor form and full details of the walk.

This is usually a good, relaxed day walking and chatting with friends and raises money in the process, so do join us if you can.

## AGM – Committee changes

At the AGM in April, Dick Benn was elected as the new Treasurer with Mark Howells keeping his role as financial manager of the Eye Care Project. Ella Huffman was elected as Membership Secretary in place of Penny Pullen who continues to lead the Education Sub-Committee. Kate Pearce joined the committee and Jill Grainger stepped down. Peter Grainger continues as Chair but wishes to step down next year; the membership was asked to find a chair elect during the coming months. All other officers remained as before.

## Supporting Schools

- Last year £500 was given to Hareto Elementary School which was mostly spent on three-seater benches for students. Since then we have handed over a further £200 for library books in response to a request from the Headteacher. Our friend Garadew Derara met up with one of the teachers in Addis and helped with the book choices. Garadew continues to be a hugely helpful link person between us and his home town. He sent us an excellent report earlier this year concerning the schools and the clinic. Our thanks go to him in helping us maintain contact with Hareto which is a bit off the beaten track.
- A number of schools in the Nekemte area have benefited from £1,000 donated towards purchasing books for their small libraries which are in constant need of support: Sorga Lelissa Community School, Birka Jato School, Diriba Elementary School and Bethel Kindergarten.

- From September, children with special educational needs will have a room available at the new School for the Deaf. The Link has sent £1,000 to equip this room so that this new initiative can make a good start. Penny will also be taking some games and activities donated by English schools when she visits this autumn.
- £200 has been donated to Mark Smith (local VSO volunteer) towards funding the Nekemte School Library Service which is now up and running.

*Any copy for future newsletters can be sent to the editor, Bruce Hebbard, at Cedar House, Pines Road, Exeter EX2 9EN  
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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, Water, Women's 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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[www.exeterethiopiaLink.org](http://www.exeterethiopiaLink.org)**