

# February 2009 Newsletter



Enabling communities  
to help themselves

## Annual General Meeting & Discussion Day

*Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009: 10am - 4.00 pm*

For all members and anyone else  
interested in the Link

At St Sidwell's Centre, Sidwell Street,  
Exeter

### Programme

**10.00** *Arrive; tea and coffee; sign up to workshops*

**10.30** Introduction to current projects

**10.50** Presentations by returning VSO workers in Nekemte

**11.30** Parallel workshops

- a) Education
- b) Health

**12.30** *lunch (bring cold food and drink to share)*

**13.30** **AGM**

- Apologies
- Minutes of 2007 AGM (below and over)
- Chair's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Secretary's Report
- Membership Secretary's Report
- Election of Officers and Committee
- AOB

**14.15** Parallel workshops

- c) Women's projects
- d) Water and sanitation

**15.15** Feedback from Workshops and discussion

**15.45** Future objectives and strategy

**16.00** *Depart*

## Women's Donkey and Sheep Project - 2003-08 And the future



The Women's Donkey Project, funded by the Jan Greet Memorial Fund, was started with an initial trial organised by Qes Alemu Nega over eight years ago, to try to improve the lot of poor women wood carriers who carried heavy loads of firewood like 'beasts of burden'. At that time no women with donkeys were to be seen in Nekemte, their use being the prerogative of the men alone, and the whole concept of women having donkeys was seen as a challenge to the cultural norm. The trial was successful and the main donkey project was started in 2003 and later extended in 2005 to the provision of sheep as an alternative means of income generation.

An evaluation of the project carried out last year showed that of the 87 donkeys provided to the women over 60% are still alive and that, although there have been more donkey deaths and sales than we had realised, the number of live foals born is such that the total number of animals hasn't decreased. However, as can be noted from the interviews - see box - some women are back to where they were, while life has improved for the majority of the recipients. There has been a similar situation with the 46 women who each received two sheep. Some women have lost both to disease or wild animals, while others now have lambs as well.

Overall the project has benefited over 130 of the poorest women in the Nekemte area, many of whom are widows with growing children, at a total cost of just over £4000.

**Tirunesh Terfa from Sorga received a donkey in 2004**

*She uses her donkey to carry firewood to market and also rents it out. The donkey gets sick, but she has had a foal which is ready to be loaded. Tirunesh is happy with the support she has received.*

**Dagitu Tamasa from Burka Tinja Parish received a donkey in 2003.**

*As there was a shortage of trees she sold her donkey and bought a cow which had a male calf. Besides getting milk from the cow and making butter the bullock will soon be ready to pull a plough, so she is better off than before.*

**Kebebush Temesgen from Sorga received a donkey in 2004**

*Her donkey got sick and died. Seeing her extreme poverty the Sorga congregation bought her another donkey which also died. The donkey had two foals but both were eaten by a hyena. She is back to the same situation as before and feels that she is possessed by bad luck.*

**Marame Gudele who used to carry firewood to the market on her back received a donkey.** *They used it to carry their wood to the market but it got sick at times so she sold it and bought sheep which have given birth to 6 lambs, two of which she has since sold to buy grain for the family. Marame is thankful for the support she received.*

**Worknesh Bultum, a widow from Sorga with 4 children, received a donkey in 2004.**

*She uses the donkey to carry firewood to market and also rents it out. The donkey has a foal which is nearly ready for loading. They get sick from time to time but treatment keeps them going. Worknesh says 'I am happy to be released from carrying wood on my back.'*

Following the project evaluation, and Rachael Jamieson's visit in November, it has been decided not to extend the project in its current form, but to try to arrange for all the remaining live donkeys and foals to be wormed to improve their health, as recommended by the Donkey Sanctuary. Also it is planned to start a small Women's Income Generating Project in a poor part of Nekemte called Watcha, working through the EECMY Women's Department with the support of an Ethiopian woman vet - Dr Alem - who has returned to Nekemte after years in Finland. Initially 15 women would form a credit union, saving 5-15 birr per month, and these participants will be provided with sheep and chickens and given training. Initial funding should be about £700 and when Ella Huffman visits Nekemte in April it is hoped that she will be able to visit Watcha meet the women concerned as well as Dr Alem and EECMY Women's Department.

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*Anyone who would like to read the full Evaluation Report please contact me.  
Richard King*

## April Visit to Nekemte

In April four EEL members will visit Nekemte to work on a variety of projects. It will be 10 years since Peter Grainger and Alex Taylor first visited and they will be accompanied by Ella Huffman and Mark Hodgson, visiting for the first time. Alex will be assessing the Eye Care Project as it reaches the end of the three-year pilot project and looks to the future with support from elsewhere. Peter and Mark will be following up our renewed interest in water, sanitation and hygiene by focusing on provision at our five linked primary schools. Ella will take forward new ideas for projects helping destitute women and their families, started in 2008. Their reports will appear in the next newsletter.

## Fundraising:

**easyfundraising**  
.org.uk

### Shop on the Internet?

If so you can raise money for the link at no extra cost.

1. Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
2. Register choosing Exeter-Ethiopia Link as your chosen cause
3. Before purchasing an item - log-in to easyfundraising and search for the retailer you wish to use (over 600 to choose from)
4. Make your purchase as normal and a percentage (varies from each retailer) will automatically be donated to the link -£143 has been raised in the last year.

Also use [www.easysearch.org.uk](http://www.easysearch.org.uk) as your search engine and for each search you make a small amount is donated to the link.

*Happy Shopping and Searching...*

## Grizzly Run

Pat Croucher and Jo McCollum are bravely running the tough, multi-terrain East Devon coastal run 'The Grizzly' on March 8<sup>th</sup> in aid of EEL.

Jo, who ran last year raising a fantastic £200 for us is returning to the 23 mile run, this year aiming to lower his time. Pat is running the shorter route of 9 miles which still includes hills, mud and lots of pebbles....

*If you would like to sponsor either of them - please email: [ellahuffman@lycos.com](mailto:ellahuffman@lycos.com) giving the amount, your address and postcode (indicate if you are an income tax payer for gift aid).*

**Thanks and Good Luck Pat and Jo**

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

***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.*

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**[www.exeterethiopiaLink.org](http://www.exeterethiopiaLink.org)**

