

April 2011 Newsletter



Enabling communities
to help themselves

Update on the Nekemte Eye Health Service

In conjunction with EECMY Development Section, and particularly Rev Alemu Nega, Exeter Ethiopia Link assisted in the establishment and piloting of an eye health service between 2005 and 2009. This was funded with a grant of £150,000 from Four Acre Trust and £20,000 from Exeter Ethiopia Link. The Austrian INGO 'Light for the World' assumed responsibility for the next phase until 2013 when it will be handed over to the Ministry of Health. In 10 years, based on current income levels, it might be self sustaining.

It was very gratifying to see the progress that has been achieved in 2010. In October the doctor did 92 surgeries, and the nurses 65. With the recent appointment of a night nurse two 10 bed wards came into operation at the end of November. A grant, awarded during our visit from Exmoor Rotarians, supplied the entire bedding etc to keep in-patients comfortable.

The service figures for the year 2010:

Outpatient assessments at the clinic	11,871
Outpatients seen at satellite stations	3,888
Cataract and other major surgery	1,495
Minor surgery	903
Spectacles supplied	2,158

The Spectacle Unit, funded by Exmoor Rotarians, is fully functional. Technician Adaneck Tasisa and her assistant supplied 350 glasses during the first two weeks of November and 2,000 to 3,000 are supplied annually. With the exception of readymade readers Adaneck, who is highly skilled, cuts and fits prescription lenses into purchased or donated frames.



The team regularly go on camps as far afield as 200 miles and as close as the local prison. They assess many thousands of people and where possible treat disease or supply spectacles. Those needing surgery are booked in and the parishes offer some funding to enable them to go to Nekemte. Last week the team went to Hareto for 5 days service. Soon, clinic staff are going to a sugar factory about 50 miles away. As well as clinical services they provide health promotion. Further spring capping in ten

parishes is planned. A bus is to be converted into a mobile clinic to enhance the outreach service, and enable cataract implants to be done in the villages.



Although the clinic has an ophthalmologist and several nurses, skill shortages still prevail and their government salaries are topped up significantly by the donor. Thirty nurses based in District health posts will become fully trained ophthalmic nurses after attending a 12 month course at the Eye Clinic. This is to be funded by some Swiss doctors who came recently.

Our team did attempt to donate 120 used spectacles but this failed at airport Customs. Nothing second-hand is allowed in. Farangi (stranger) spectacles would "cause blindness". How short-sighted!

Alex Taylor

Climate Change in Ethiopia

Peter Grainger gave a short talk on his perception of the impacts of climate change in Ethiopia, to a public meeting held at Exeter Central Library in Climate Change Week on 21st March. In common with speakers talking about Nepal and Bangladesh, the main changes in Ethiopia appear to be a gradual temperature rise, resulting in heavier rainfall events and more erratic timing of wet seasons. The most severe impacts are felt where people are vulnerable to poor harvests and livestock survival, which tend to be the drier lowland regions of Ethiopia. Around Nekemte, which has up to 2m (80") of rainfall a year, the impacts of climate change are less marked and may be masked by other development factors such as population growth and better education.

**WILL YOU SPONSOR BOOKS FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE IN ETHIOPIA?**



Ethiopian Fairtrade coffee
Roast and ground
Now available from the Co-op
Mild-Medium strength
Not cheap but very nice!

Also,
Sainsbury's Ethiopian Sidamo
Fairtrade coffee
&
Aldi's Lekemti (Nekemte) coffee
Not Fairtrade but helps the local economy

The Exeter/Ethiopia Link has worked in the Nekemte area of Western Ethiopia for over 20 years supporting water, health, education and women's projects. Eight Devon schools are currently linked with schools in the Nekemte area. Can you help develop the school and street libraries?

*Please send donations to: Dick Benn, Treasurer,
EE Link, Selgars Mill, Uffculme, EX15 3DA
(cheques payable to Exeter- Ethiopia Link)*

Annual General Meeting & Discussion Day

For all members and anyone else interested in the Link

Saturday 14th May 2011: 10am to 4pm

At the St Sidwell's Centre,
Sidwell Street, Exeter


The meeting will include workshops related to the work of the link, presentations on recent visits, and the AGM

Please bring items of food/drink for a shared buffet lunch

Birding Ethiopia without trying

An introduction by Nigel Birch to the ornithology of this fascinating country, based on Nigel's trips, covering mainly the Rift Valley and northern historical circuit.

The talk will show that it is possible to see a wide variety of birds without really trying.



Saturday 14th May, 7pm - 9.30pm
Broadclyst Victory Hall

Tickets: £9 includes Ethiopian snacks and coffee
Bring your own drinks and glasses
Raffle; plenty of parking

Please pre-book tickets:

Contact Ella at ellahuffman@lycos.com or call on 07879 999 638.

Payment will be taken on the door.

An Ethiopian recipe you might try?

SIGA TIBS

Half a cup of chopped red onions

1 tbs diced garlic

1 tbs diced ginger

Half a cup of oil for frying

1 lb beef cut into small cubes or strips

Salt to taste

2 medium peppers

1 tsp rosemary leaves

½ tsp cardamom

1. Heat a pan over medium high heat. Add the onions, garlic, ginger and oil and cook until golden brown.
2. Add the meat and sauté for about 20 minutes.
3. Add peppers, salt, rosemary leaves and cardomom to the meat and simmer for a few more minutes. Done !!

Cathy Kiddle

Recent Fundraising:

Ø The Rita Pankhurst talk and Ethiopian evening eventually raised £1300 so particular thanks to Peter and Hirut von Lany for selling so many CDs and photos.

Ø Jeff Sleeman's Acoustic Café event back in October eventually raised £500 so thanks to him too for all his hard work.

Ø Cathy Kiddle arranged a pub quiz in Totnes just before Christmas and, thanks to her, that raised over £200.

Ø The Christmas Gift Catalogue organised by Ella Huffman raised £420.

Many thanks to all involved in these crucial fund raising activities and also to those who supported them.

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:

Mark Howells (Chair) tel : 01392 202 713

Email: mshowells@blueyonder.co.uk

(for membership)

Ella Huffman tel : 01404 871 372

Email: ellahuffman@lycos.com

or view our website:

www.exeterethiopiaink.org

*Any copy for future newsletters can be sent to the editor, Bruce Hebbard, at Cedar House, Pincus Road, Exeter EX2 9EN
tel: 01392 437 479 or by e-mail to hebbard@cooptel.net
Exeter-Ethiopia Link
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