

VineTrust Connections

Issue 35 - Autumn 2019



Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

Connecting People to Change Lives

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The Vine Trust Barge
Prince of Wales Dock
Edinburgh
EH6 7DX

0131 555 5598

www.vinetrust.org

 facebook.com/vinetrust

 [@vinetrust](https://twitter.com/vinetrust)

 [@vinetrust](https://www.instagram.com/vinetrust)

 admin@vinetrust.org

Welcome to Connections 35!

We had a bit of fun in the office wondering whether this edition should be known as 34.5 in anticipation of marking our 35th Anniversary as a Trust in 2020. Common sense however has prevailed, though no doubt we will be celebrating special events in 2020 to mark our story and the partnerships that we have forged with our overseas partners, volunteers and supporters who together have created the Vine Trust story to date.

We really are all in this together as we seek to respond to the hopes and ambitions of our overseas partners and the communities they serve as they connect with people in order to change lives.

There is much to report and much to mark, but I especially hope that as many people as possible will come to our first residential gathering for the entire Vine Trust family at Tulliallan near Stirling 16th – 17th November (page 13). It would be great to welcome you and share our plans for 2020 and beyond and celebrate our stories, memories and achievements as together we embark on the next stage of the Trust's service and journey.

So enjoy Connections 35 and do come along in November to help us build on what has already been achieved.

With every best wish and thanks for your support,
involvement and interest.

Willie McPherson, Chief Executive



The Forth Hope visits one of the remote communities along the Amazon river, Peru

Kazunzu - 'Village of Hope'

This summer saw an exciting milestone for us and our in-country partners based in Mwanza, Tanzania, as we welcomed the arrival of our first volunteer team to begin construction at our new project, Kazunzu Village of Hope.



Kazunzu is situated on the shore of Lake Victoria and is our largest construction project undertaken to date. The islands of Lake Victoria have the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Tanzania, and our hope is that this village will provide stability, security, and sustainability to some of the most vulnerable orphans and widows in these communities.

In May, a group of 12 from Falkirk Trinity Church, were welcomed by members of the local community with great celebration through song and dance. Representatives from the local ward and executive officers from the local government were also there to greet us, and together we laid the symbolic foundation stones. By the end of the expedition, the first two houses were completed to lintel level – an incredible start to the Village of Hope. Our volunteers embarked on their journey home, sad to be leaving after what had been a life-changing experience. As one volunteer remarked, *“a little bit of Tanzania will be forever in our hearts”*.

Three teams will have visited by the end of 2019, including our first individuals to go to Kazunzu in October and our Babcock International team in November.

Would you like to be part of the Kazunzu Village of Hope journey?

Join one of our teams for individual volunteers:

15th April - 29th April 2020

24th October - 7th November 2020

Find out more & apply at www.vinetrust.org

If you would like to discuss creating a bespoke expedition for a group from your business, church or community organisation, get in touch with our Expeditions Team:

expedition@vinetrust.org

Celebrating 1000 School Volunteers!

In 2019 we had over 150 school volunteers travel on expeditions with us. With our summer groups came an incredible milestone: the 1000th Vine Trust School Volunteer!

We want to extend a great thank you to all of our summer school volunteers who have supported our building projects in Tanzania and Peru. Many of our schools return every other year to continue their legacy of working alongside Vine Trust to support the provision of shelter and security to those living in some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. A Perth Grammar volunteer said,

“I went to Tanzania to help, but the people helped me more than I could ever imagine helping them. They helped me to understand what’s really important and how far hope, happiness, hard work and resilience can get you, and how many materialistic things I have at home that clouded this view.”

If your school would be interested in being involved in a Vine Trust Expedition, please get in contact with us at: expedition@vinetrust.org.



Education Partnerships

We are continuously striving to develop and improve our building expedition volunteer experience and looking for opportunities for our volunteers to gain an insight into Tanzanian culture and environment. Climate change impacts Tanzania with higher temperatures, more flooding, droughts and a rise in sea level and is threatening agricultural production and livelihoods for millions of Tanzanians. Many of those living in the Kilimanjaro region have seen significant impact to Mt Kilimanjaro and its habitat.

This summer we were lucky to have Dr Francis from the Department of Geography and Environment at University of Dar es Salaam to speak to some of our school volunteers about the effects of climate change from a Tanzanian perspective. His insightful presentation gave our volunteers a comprehensive picture of the ways in which climate change is impacting local communities in the Kilimanjaro region.

Following the environmental talk, a group of school volunteers had the opportunity to work with Environmental Studies students from Mwenge University. The students shared their knowledge on environmental issues in the region and paired up with our volunteers to plant a number of trees around the home of Mama Mbise, which the volunteers assisted to build. The conversations between Tanzanian and Scottish students covered a wide range of topics from the different political landscapes in Scotland and Tanzania, to favourite football teams.

It was a great day for all, and as one of our volunteers remarked, the day was spent learning, planting trees, and *“making many good friends along the way”*.



A Visit From The District Commissioner

Vine Trust and the Tanzania Women's Research Foundation (TAWREF) had an exciting opportunity this summer to welcome the Moshi District Commissioner Hon. Kippi Warioba to one of the homes under construction in the Kahe region.

It was a momentous occasion for the people in Kahe, with a large number of local community members present to greet the District Commissioner.

After an empowering speech about the importance of the village working hand-in-hand together to support each other, the District Commissioner and the members of the local community worked alongside our Clifton Hall school volunteer team to move hundreds of bricks closer to Mama Mbise's house to speed up the construction process.

It was a rewarding and uplifting moment for the local community members and our volunteers alike, with the District Commissioner reinforcing the value of our building expeditions in providing shelter and security to some of the most vulnerable families in the Kilimanjaro region.

Vine Trust are proud to continue supporting TAWREF's work to address UN Sustainable Development Goal No.11.1: access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a call for action by all countries to build a better world for our people and planet by 2030.

Vine Trust are contributing towards a number of these goals through our work with local partners, with particular focus on reducing poverty & improving health.



The Amazon Is Changing

There is no better way of understanding the value of any work than to speak to the people most impacted by its activities. Ruddy Rodríguez, the Amazon Hope Programme's Head of Administration, grew up in one of the villages which the Programme works with and still has family living there today. She shares with us what life was like and the role of the Programme today:

"As a child I lived in the community of La Pedrera on the banks of the Ucayali River. A few metres away from my house was a medical post for a population of approximately 1,500 inhabitants which was manned by a nursing technician. Sadly, there were no medicines available and the nurse technician was often absent as her home was in Iquitos, a full 3 days away by boat. This situation meant getting sick was always terrible because of the lack of services and the restrictive cost of traveling to the city in search of medical care. We felt like a forgotten people.

I got sick very often with stomach infections from the contaminated water I consumed, and because of the poor education that the population received about the use of water. For several weeks each year I did not attend school, which was one of my favorite places. The only thing you could do was to eat some plants that an elderly woman in the community recommended, perhaps with intuition that it might bring some relief.

This was the reality you had to live if you were born far from the city. Motivated by these challenges, one of my older sisters was excited to go to the city of Iquitos to work and study nursing.



As she studied, with her limited knowledge, she would provide my mother with medication so that I could be stable and continue going to school. I lived with these ailments until the age of 11 when we migrated to Iquitos, thanks to the efforts of my siblings to get us out of this beautiful but forgotten village. This is what many in our Amazon aspire to, to improve their situation.

We made a life in Iquitos, my health improved. I went through secondary school and then graduated from university in Accounting. Shortly afterwards I started working with the Amazon Hope Programme. I feel so complete and committed to the fundamental role we play in the Amazon, reaching many communities in which there are no alternative medical services. It is satisfying to see children, adults and the elderly leaving with a smile after receiving their care and medications.

They are always attentive to the talks we offer at school or in the boat. Children are no longer afraid of vaccines and the mothers are aware of how important it is to attend vaccination services so that their children can have a better development. The 'little boat', as they call us, is changing lives.

We have achieved something very important with the communities – their trust. Wherever we go we also always receive thanks. They know that they are not alone, we return to them, for the children who are seeing improvements in the health of the Amazon thanks to the Amazon Hope Medical Program of Peru.

I appreciate having the joy of belonging to this Programme and being part of the change so that there are no more children with the childhood that I had. I can say that, with great effort, the Amazon is changing.”

Pictured: The Amazon river, Forth Hope Volunteer



Why We Send Volunteers

At Vine Trust, we have seen huge value arise from our medical volunteering programmes. However, this view is a frequently discussed topic within the international development sector, facing particular critique about the need to send volunteers overseas instead of solely supporting projects financially. We asked Dr Uzia Mohamed from the Jubilee Hope Medical Team to share his perspective on the value of volunteering,

“Volunteer support is undeniably valuable as they invest their time, money, skills and knowledge to treat patients and by offering a helping hand in the pharmacy and lab during each voyage. We consider every volunteer part of the Jubilee Hope family.”

When speaking to our volunteers about their expeditions, we share three key areas which we believe mutually benefit both our individual volunteers, and our local partners and staff.

Innovation

In the medical world, skills sharing can be an invaluable method of improving practices and health outcomes. When volunteers and the local medical team work together, they help each other to find sustainable solutions. Knowledge, and teaching methods, can be shared in both directions, as volunteers and staff learn together. Dr Uzia shared more of his thoughts on these benefits,

“The teaching approach can be truly remarkable; I remember a volunteer drawing a face on a balloon and attaching it to a pillow, just to illustrate their point!

It’s the small things that we overlook and don’t give enough credit for, that have made us gain a lot of experience, knowledge and skills, but at the same time, create a valuable bond with our volunteers.”

Pictured: The local Forth Hope team make friends with volunteers from all over the world.





Pictured: Jubilee Hope volunteer and translator work together to treat patients

Encouragement

Alongside knowledge and skills sharing, the participation of volunteers on board our medical ships can be an encouragement to staff involved in the work longer term. Volunteers often act as a catalyst by motivating the team to work collectively. As Dr Uzia shared,

“It’s through these interactions with volunteers that we are inspired, feel challenged to go beyond the limits and become better people. We are more resilient, creative and innovative, not just in the work we do, but also at a personal level in our lives.”

Inspiration

Fuelling everything is inspiration. Working alongside people with different cultural backgrounds and contexts can encourage individuals to be more considerate, flexible and reflective of their relationships with colleagues and patients:

“Volunteering helps you enjoy not endure work and go beyond your expectations.”

Working with a local team and treating patients from rural communities can be the inspiration for new solutions and perspectives that would otherwise have been neglected. For both volunteer and local team member, working together forms a pool of experiences and knowledge to draw from, during their expedition and for a long time afterwards.

Vine Trust is passionate about the value and impact of volunteering in the communities we work in. From innovation to inspiration, this unique partnership has proven to be an enriching experience for everyone involved.

Fundraise While You Shop

Did you know you can support Vine Trust while shopping online? If you already use Amazon, why not start using Amazon Smile?

Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of your online purchases to the charitable cause you select.

Go to www.smile.amazon.co.uk and select Vine Trust to start supporting us today!

Join Us!

Vine Trust have opportunities for everyone. We have volunteers from ages 16 to 70!

If our building expeditions inspire you, why not join one of our Tanzanian trips as an individual, or with your corporate or community group! All information can be found on our website or by enquiring at: expedition@vinetrust.org

We also host home-building expeditions for secondary school volunteers as specialised education trips. Let your local school know about this excellent opportunity with Vine Trust.

If you have a healthcare background, we invite you aboard our medical ships for a voyage to reach the remote communities on Lake Victoria in Tanzania or along the Peruvian Amazon. Make sure to check our website for our upcoming voyages. Get in touch with our team: health@vinetrust.org.



THE GATHERING

Three streams, one vision.

16 - 17 November 2019 Police College Tulliallan, Kincardine

Join us for our annual gathering to be part of a global community
'Connecting People to Change Lives'

Through a full conference programme including speakers, energising discussion and ideas sharing, we will celebrate the achievements of the year and look forward to lift-off action on our new 2020s vision. You won't want to miss it.

Conference streams for medical, building & school volunteers

Engaging future focused discussions • Refreshments and lunch

Talks from our in-country partners • Evening reunion dinner

Overnight accommodation and breakfast included

Tickets now available at www.vinetrust.org



Welcome & Thank You

We are delighted to formally welcome Sinéad Conway to the Vine Trust team as our new Programme Coordinator for Overseas Expeditions and Education.

We also said a big thank you and farewell to Eilidh Quinn for previously serving in this role.



Gifts That Keep On Giving!



Our Gift Aid Cards directly support the work of our programmes. Each card bought supports our work and features a stunning picture, as well as space for your own message, making them a truly meaningful, alternative gift.

We are also excited to release our new 2020 Calendar, following the success of our summer photo competition. The calendar features 14 inspiring photos by Vine Trust volunteers, and with space for all your important events, it is the perfect way to keep track of the year ahead.

As with all our items, you can order these using the form opposite or online at www.vinetrust.org/store.

Also available are our country-themed notelets. With a unique volunteers' insight into the countries in which we deliver our programmes, these notelets make a great stocking filler! Each pack has 6 different cards which come with an envelope and are blank inside for your message.





Please make cheques payable to 'Vine Trust' and post with this form to: **Finance, Vine Trust Barge, Prince of Wales Dock, Edinburgh, EH6 7DX**

Amazon Hope Gift Aid Cards	Amount	Jubilee Hope Gift Aid Cards	Amount
A1: Mother and Child Services (£5)		J1: Medicines (£5)	
A2: Dental Services (£10)		J2: Child Services (£10)	
A3: Reaching Remote Communities (£20)		J3: HIV Support (£20)	
Shop Items	Amount	Kazunzu Gift Aid Cards	Amount
2020 Calendar (£7)		K1: Sustainable Agriculture (£5)	
Tanzania Notelets (£6)		K2: Education (£10)	
Peru Notelets (£6)		K3: Skills (£20)	
Donation	Amount	Donation	Amount
General Operations		Amazon Hope Programme	
Jubilee Hope Programme		Kazunzu Project	
Total :			

Title: _____ Forename(s): _____
Surname: _____
Address: _____
_____ Post Code: _____
Telephone No: _____ Email: _____

Did you know that Gift Aid can be claimed on your donation if you are a UK Tax Payer?

For every £1, an extra 25p will go to Vine Trust, at no extra cost to you!

'I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference'

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Vine Trust – SC017386

Please notify Vine Trust if you:
- want to cancel this declaration - change your name or home address - no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

VineTrust

Connecting People to Change Lives



www.vinetrust.org

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