

BANSANG HOSPITAL APPEAL

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2012

<http://www.bansanghospitalappeal.org>

Charity No. 1064469

Patrons: Mr Phil Sinkinson OBE, former British High Commissioner to The Gambia

Mr Simon Scarrow, International bestselling author

Sahara Scooters backup vehicle with tents and supplies



Precious moment in time. Baby girl leaves hospital with her Grandma after weeks of life saving treatment.



New furniture for the male ward staff room bought as a birthday present for Jeanette's Mum.



Thanks to Ballast Nedam for coming to our rescue.



Help and hope. Lives being saved.



Scooter team member and dentist Michael White at work in the hospital.



The new scooters arrive at Bansang to a great welcome.

A 14 strong intrepid team set out from the UK to cover 4,000 gruelling miles to Bansang in February. They

used little Honda C90's, and crossed through Spain, Morocco, Mauritania and the Sahara. On arrival they donated their scooters to the hospital. This year the bikers were shown how these scooters have benefited the hospital and the surrounding area. The team visited villages out in the bush to see the patients cared for in the community and witnessed the collection of vital, life saving blood supplies. As usual the team were led by the invincible Dennis Robinson, who is so dedicated to this continuing project. The team included dentist Michael White who ran non-stop clinics, while other team members turned their hands to all manner of jobs around the hospital.



Scooters enable staff to collect vital blood supplies from donors in outlying villages.

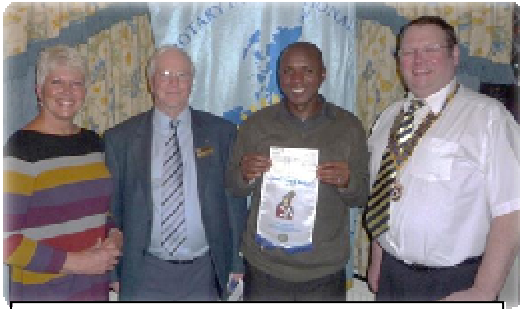


The mad and wonderful scooter team



Wandifa with new plough and oxen

Over and above the donation of the scooters, the team have also raised over £11,500. Of this, £2,500 has bought basic farm machinery and 4 oxen to pull it, also tons of fertilizer to be used on the 55 hectares of land kindly donated by a local Chief to the hospital. The Charitable Farming Association, run by the staff of the hospital, use this land to produce food for the patients. The remaining money will be used for the refurbishment and building of our 2 new operating theatres.



Rotary Club of Brentwood a Becket.
Anita, Ray Ball, Wandifa and
President Steve Dempster

Wandifa visits the Rotary Club of
Norwich to thank them for the
specialist equipment for the Burns Unit.
Laurence Smith, Chris Ayling, Kim &
Nick Brighthouse, Anita Smith,
Andy DeAth, and Wandifa.

Wandifa Samateh MSc – Principal Nursing Officer
Wandifa has successfully completed his Masters
course in Leadership in Health Management & Social
Welfare at Ruskin University in Cambridge. Funding
was provided by the BHA and Dr Annabel Kerr.
Wandifa visited the Rotary Clubs of Brentwood a
Becket and Seaford to thank them for their support
since 2009 towards the obstetric suite, the present
theatre build and other supplies and equipment.



Ballast Nedham – Holland – What an Achievement



They have completed the 290 kilometres of
much needed road, which passes the hospital;
and the first stressed concrete bridge for the
whole of sub Saharan Africa. For Bansang this
means we will no longer have to wait for
ferries to criss-cross the river on our trips back
to Banjul and patients will no longer be
subjected to such a long, slow and painful
journey to the main hospital.

After talks with the Managing Director
Pieter van der Bijl and Project Manager
Erjan Klaassen they generously agreed
to help upgrade our disintegrating
sewer system. This was the result of
erosion of land around the hospital and
collapse of the old colonial pipes. The
sewage was contaminating the water
supply nearby, leaving the local
families with no access to clean water.

The situation had become desperate but the work has now been completed. Ballast
Nedam also supplied laterite to level out the grounds in the hospital to enable easier
access for vehicles, and we are so grateful for all their help and expertise.



The Hospital CEO Mr Jammeh with representatives from
Ballast Nedham, who so generously tackled the broken
sewers and levelled the grounds around the hospital

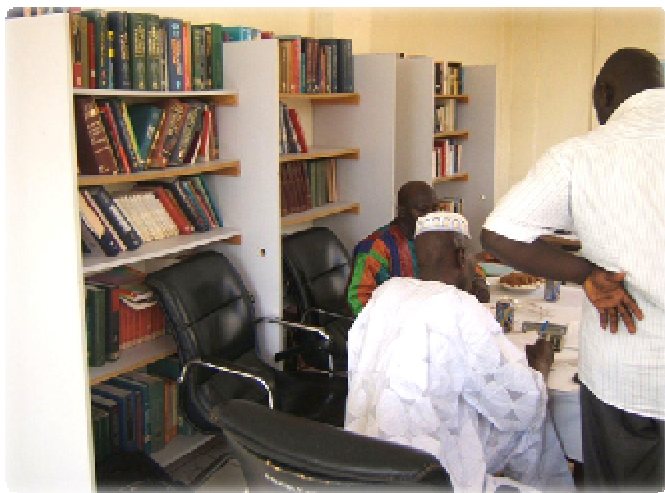
Breast Milk Bank and Library



Asha - a Nutriologist volunteer from Uganda

Gareth Jones, a medical student, whose prime objective was to assess whether we could set up a Breast Milk Bank, worked alongside the nutrition team to establish if it was feasible. On leaving Gareth's final thoughts were - *"I would like to thank everyone for welcoming me in such a way that allowed me to have a genuine experience of both living and working day to day in Bansang"*.

Joining and helping Gareth was Katie Kwok, Forensic Psychologist in Training, from Her Majesty's Prison Service. Her main objective was to set up and record all the medical and general resource books for a library within the MITIE House. The library also includes adult and children's literature.



The new library is enthusiastically used by staff

Thanks to the generosity of Linda Wilton, who lives in Spain, the library will have air-conditioning, fans and security bars. Books are a rare and precious commodity in Bansang. When I first arrived 20 years ago there was not a single book at the hospital. Staff are hungry for information and knowledge and I am delighted this facility is now available to them.

Linda has also, in memory of her Gambian father, paid for the travel and community/living expenses of 6 of our SENs who are presently in their final year of training. This has enabled them to no longer worry how to feed and house themselves when they are away on placements around the country.



Theatre Project –The End in Sight

The Hospital Maintenance Team are working 12 hour days to finish this project. This includes the complete renovation of the existing theatre and minor injury theatre, plus the building of a second theatre and sterilization room. Also included in the new suite are facilities such as a scrub room, toilets, and preparation room and recovery area.

PUG (Power Up Gambia –www.powerupgambia.org), a charity based in America, will be supplying and fitting solar power for all the theatres and critical care areas, plus basic lighting on the wards.



The Bansang Hospital Maintenance Team

My thanks go to the incredible maintenance team who take such pride in their work, and have such determination to improve their hospital.

This major project has been funded by so many of our loyal supporters. To single out anyone is difficult, but I would like to thank Dr Theo Keller, his wife Mathilda and their friends from Switzerland who are providing a lot of the equipment for one of the theatres, plus a container of pharmaceuticals; Linda and Terry from France, and their band of friends/supporters who are now a registered charity specifically raising funds for BHA; Mike Lyness from The Three Cranes at Cransley Village in Northamptonshire who, with his buddies, have supported BHA with regular golfing events and The Kettering Medical Society for years of support. Forgive me for not having the space to mention and thank all those individuals and organisations that have contributed to this project.

Theo and Mathilda's drugs have arrived



The Shelf Man, Chris Payne, at work



Lastly I would like to thank Jeannette and Chris Payne for their continued support. Jeannette is Sister of Neonatal Intensive Care unit in Kettering, and has just completed her 4th annual visit, supporting and training the staff. Her husband Chris joined her for the third year running and has been nicknamed 'shelf man', his expertise can be found in every ward, cupboard or nook and cranny - thanks Chris.

For The Future

Staff accommodation is a continual problem. We have already refurbished and extended 27 units of accommodation plus the MITIE House which accommodates 12 single bed sitting rooms and two guest suites. We are planning to refurbish and extend an existing block into 8 family units of bedroom, living room, and bathroom. The present block should have been condemned years ago. It has no water, ceilings have caved in, bat droppings are everywhere, doors and windows disintegrating etc. Staff have to live there as the Hospital has nowhere else for them to go. It is crucial we retain our well trained staff, and that means them having living quarters that are not squalid and unfit for purpose. Each unit will cost £4,000 including locally bought furniture. Would you or your organisation be interested in sponsoring a unit and having it named after you?



Accommodation block to be refurbished.
Staff still have to live in these rooms.



Toilet Block

Latest News

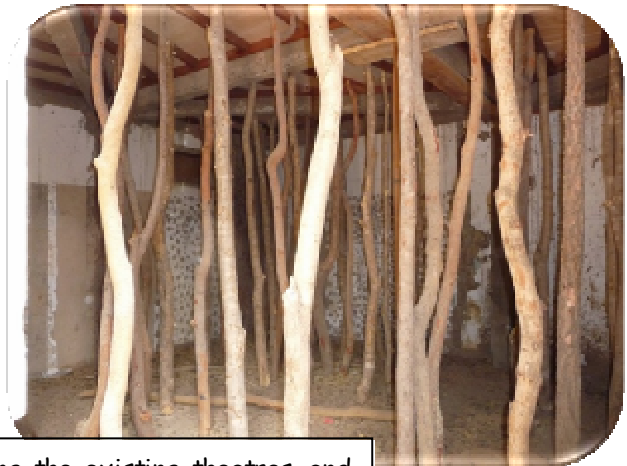
Due to the hostile environment we have suffered subsidence under part of the Children's Unit. Recent storms have also damaged the roof and ceilings. It is a BHA priority to ensure we maintain building standards across the projects we have funded and this work is now being treated as an urgent project by the Appeal.

How you can help:

Donations: To make a donation please visit www.virginmoneygiving.com, & search for 'Bansang Hospital Appeal'. Alternatively please get in touch using the contacts at the bottom of the page.

Standing Orders: These allow us to budget on a monthly basis. It does not matter how small the donation - all are gratefully received.

If you are a tax payer, Gift Aid will enable us to reclaim tax on your donation.



Working on refurbishing the existing theatres and construction of the new theatre block.



Anita and Phil Sinkinson OBE, one of the Appeal's Patrons, on a visit to the hospital.

The Bansang Hospital Appeal.

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