

Bansang Hospital Appeal

Newsletter, March 2013

<http://www.bansanghospitalappeal.org>

Charity No. 1064469

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

Mr Simon Scarrow, International bestselling author

75 YEARS LATER. NEWLY BUILT AND REFURBISHED THEATRES AND ANCILLARY ROOMS **OPEN AND READY FOR THE PATIENTS**

I am thrilled to announce the long anticipated opening of our latest project. Theatres and ancillary rooms are now open with all equipment installed and in service. This was an

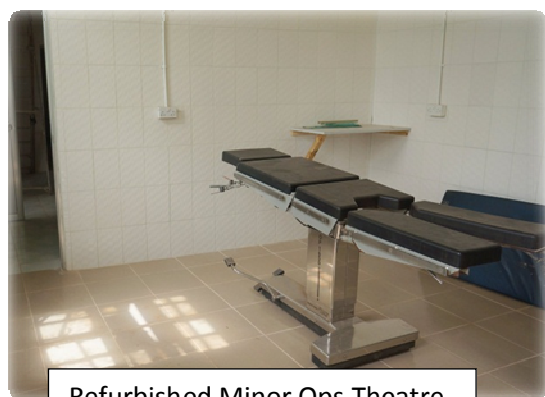
incredible project that would test the in-house maintenance team to their limits. This is the largest project that they have undertaken and we are very proud of their achievements. No longer are patients sent on a 400 mile round trip for an operation.

Special thanks to Brentwood a Becket and Seaford Rotary Clubs, Patron and author Simon Scarrow, Dr Theo and Mathilde Keller and their friends from Switzerland, our friends from across the Channel Terry and Linda Nicholson who formed "L Aide Pour L' hospital Bansang de Gambie" and the many other

friends of BHA who have joined hands in helping to make this possible.



Brand new Theatre



Refurbished Minor Ops Theatre



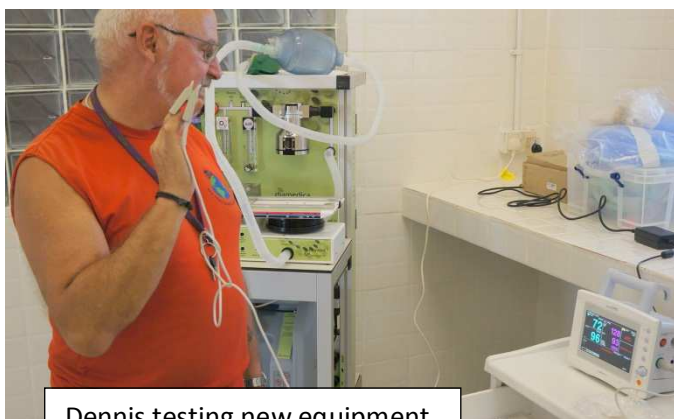
New Sterilization Room



The old Sterilization Room



Refurbished old Theatre



Dennis testing new equipment

DENNIS ROBINSON

LEADER OF THE SCOOTS TRIPS

In January Dennis stepped up to the mark once again to take my place and oversee the charity's work. His patients, understanding and help for his extended family in Bansang is unequivocal.

We have a major problem with subsidence in the children's ward which we opened 7 years ago. The huge task of underpinning the

affected area has begun. We are taking this opportunity to upgrade the ward and install solar windows, tile the shower/ toilet blocks and replace internal windows with glass block screens to prevent infection spreading to our most vulnerable patients in special care and malnutrition wards. You can read Dennis's blog. www.theoldgrumpy.blogspot.co.uk

ROBERT NEIGHBOUR – DIAMEDICA UK

Robert helps design and manufacture sustainable equipment to low resource hospitals around the world. Whilst he was in The Gambia at the main General Hospital installing equipment and training staff, he undertook voluntarily to visit Bansang Hospital. In Bansang he serviced the anaesthetic machines and trained Dennis to service the Oxygen Concentrators; Dennis will then train the hospitals electrician. Subsequently he donated two large boxes of medical supplies for the Glostavents (anaesthetic machines) and the oxygen concentrators. This is a company who asks the professionals on the ground in low resource hospitals what they need - not what we in the west think they need - he then acts upon the information to provide first class equipment and a service to match.



GAMBIA EXPERIENCE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS AS THE PREMIER TOUR OPERATOR BY GIVING MONEY AND FLIGHTS AWAY TO CHARITIES WORKING IN THE COUNTRY

BHA submitted an application for a sustainable community project. We applied for two oxen, weeding and seeding equipment plus fertiliser for a farming project that is led by the hospital staff to help feed the patients. We have been one of the successful applicants and the staff and I are delighted that we were awarded the funds for 2 more oxen 'Serenity' and 'Experience', who will be joining our existing 'Meg' and 'John', and 4 others all of whom are now in training for the coming season. We have one hundred hectares of land which has been donated by a local chief which the staff farm to help feed the patients. I was also delighted to win 2 free flights in the prize draw made recently. The staff are looking forward to welcoming the Managing Director Chris Rowles, Katie Burnell, and Joyce (resort manager) from Gambia Experience. They will be joined by former British High Commissioner to The Gambia and one of our Patrons, Phil Sinkinson.

JEANNETTE & CHRIS PAYNE RETURN TO CONTINUE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Jeannette has been instrumental in training staff on the management of burns dressings. BHA supplies these expensive dressings which enable faster healing, less pain as dressings need only be changed every three days and nurses are able to spend more time with other patients on the ward.

Jeannette and Tanya Robbins an obstetric surgeon who is with us for 8 months, trained the staff to recognise babies that are susceptible to malnutrition. Last year one of Jeanette's projects was to train staff in keeping the ward cupboards in order/stock rotation.

At the fourth annual awards ceremony this additional award for the most organised cupboard went to the Female Ward. A TV was presented to the Male Ward from monies donated by staff from the neo natal unit at Kettering General Hospital.

Chris/Mr Shelf Man, focussed this visit on shelving for the staff accommodation, the new theatres and staff library. His help is much appreciated.

Jeanette and Chris are also involved with the Ise Valley Scouts from Kettering, who with the Scooters In The Sahara team have provided tents for the Bansang scout group, which is being run by the staff from the hospital and local school for the boys and girls.



A young burns patient

DR BELLA NOEL SPECIALIST OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGIST

This was Dr Bella's first visit to Bansang and we know it won't be her last. During her stay she was able to assess how her skills could be best utilized within the hospital and to plan for her future visits.

SIMON SCARROW International bestselling author and patron of BHA. Simon supports various charities including ourselves, and his most recent young adult book, *Son of Spartacus*, the third in the Gladiator series, carries a dedication to Anita. This was a huge surprise and a great honour. We thank Simon for continuing to spread the word about the on-going work at the hospital.



POWER UP GAMBIA (PUG) in association with Global Energy

A charity that is based in Pennsylvania who's main objective is to put light in every government health facility. Anita will be meeting with their Executive Director Lynn McConville and her husband Leyland in Bansang. We are hoping that very soon all emergency areas and equipment will be solar powered. The hospital is very grateful to PUG and all their friends in the US who will be bringing a continuity of power into the hospital and thereby saving yet more valuable lives



BABY JULIE'S MEMORY LIVES ON, PROVIDING NUTRITIONAL FOOD FOR THE PATIENTS

A patchwork of neatly tended plots of carrots, tomatoes, lettuce, onions, plantains, cassava, interspersed with mango, papaya and banana trees. Julie died 38 years ago aged 8 months and now she will always be remembered in this magnificent vegetable and fruit garden which is run by the staff. With 2 tanks holding a total of 4000 litres of water the plants will no longer perish in this hostile landscape as it is slowly being turned into an oasis. Thank you to Julie's Mummy and Daddy who have also provided 2 oxen for the hospitals farm and provided a very special play therapy room dedicated to baby Julie.



WE WELCOME NICK FOLEY TO THE BANSANG FAMILY

Nick supplied and fitted plumbing materials that we shipped out to Bansang. We now have impact water saving showers and taps throughout the children's unit and female ward. On his return Nick was quick to source and supply more valuable materials and he is planning to return in November. Such is Nick's commitment that he is auctioning his beloved motor bike to help with funding staff accommodation, amazing!

A FIRST FOR BANSANG

AUDIOLOGY DEPARTMENT SPONSORED BY SOUNDSEEKERS/HARK

I await further news on the opening of the department from Malcolm Garner who is presently in Bansang. It is vital for small charities to join hands and work together to provide greater care and facilities for those vulnerable people in society. Together we can make a difference; together we have made a difference.

WHAT'S NEXT IN 2013

Staff accommodation is an urgent priority so that we can attract and retain dedicated medical staff. This is the key to a successful hospital. The next phase of extending and refurbishing will be started this year so that we can offer 8 family homes for staff. We will also be creating a further 3 bed sitting rooms on the ground floor of the MITIE House that is home to 12 single nurses, 2 guest suites, library and a large multi-purpose community hall.



FINALLY A WORD FROM ANITA

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for your love, your prayers, cards, and gifts that I have received during the past 4 months as I have undergone surgery and treatment for breast cancer. I have been quite overwhelmed with your love and support and it has helped me cope with a difficult situation. I am blessed with a caring and loving family that have made this journey a great deal easier for me. I have now finished the radiotherapy and will have on going treatment for the next five years. We are so blessed to have a health service that can react quickly and positively to these diseases and I will be forever grateful to everyone at Northampton and Kettering hospitals.

I am greatly relieved and excited at the prospect of returning to a normal life (did I say normal!). To that end, I will be returning to my beloved Bansang family in March.

How You Can Help:

Donations: To make a donation please visit www.bansanghospitalappeal.org/donate/

Standing Orders: The appeal is very fortunate to have a good number of regular donations – large and small. They are incredibly helpful as they allow us to budget more effectively over the long term. You can find out how to set up a standing order by visiting www.bansanghospitalappeal.org/donate/.

The Bansang Hospital Appeal.

4 The Leys, Orlingbury, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN14 1JE

01933 679001 / 0778 355 1945 / anitasmith@bansanghospitalappeal.com