

Bansang Hospital Appeal

Newsletter Summer 2014

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Charity No. 1064469

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

Mr Simon Scarrow, International bestselling author

THE STAFF CHARITABLE FARMING ASSOCIATION

On the last of the three 40ft containers shipped out this year we sent a tractor, trailer and farming implements. These will be used to help the oxen teams in the cultivation of the 100 hectare farm; a project set up by the hospital staff and wider community to help ensure patients are fed nutritious food. These latest additions to the farm will help increase production so that we can grow groundnuts and maize in addition to the cous cous that is already grown. Some of the excess crop will be sold locally to help cover future farm expenditure. Projects such as this are helping to free up extra funds for patient care, and are also helping make the hospital financially sustainable (as far as possible).



Dennis, Anita and the refurbished tractor



Hospital cook pounding the cous cous

We thank the Scooter Team for their tremendous efforts in raising £9,500 for the purchase of the refurbished Massey Ferguson tractor and trailer. The photo shows a proud Dennis Robinson and Anita with the tractor loaded into the container ready for shipment. A harrow, plough and seeder have also been purchased thanks to generous donations from BHA's long term friends. Thanks to the Scooter Team and all involved in this project.

Welcome to the Bansang Family

Vanessa and Paul Myers joined the Bansang family for 8 weeks earlier in the year. They come from a background of Finance and IT, with Paul using his expertise to design a database in preparation for the arrival of large quantities of pharmaceuticals donated by International Health Partners (IHP). Whilst Paul took on the task of the database, Vanessa introduced further play therapy training for our two therapists, Sunkaru and Kumba, as well as organising the new library. We must also thank Paul for his DIY efforts around the hospital. He invariably consumed his downtime with a myriad of DIY repairs!

We are also very pleased to announce that a specialist contractor has built a sustainable kitchen for the hospital (the funds for which were kindly donated by colleagues and friends of the Myers). Previously, our cooks prepared and cooked food for the patients on an open fire, enduring incredible heat and smoke with no protection from the elements. The new cooking facility is designed to enable 4 pans of food to cook at the same time; the smoke is taken away by the chimney flue, using a fraction of the wood used in the old kitchen.



The old kitchen



New sustainable kitchen



Anita, Vanessa, Paul, CEO Baba Jeng and Stewart

Big thanks go out to the charities' long term friend, Stewart Robinson, who joined me last January and installed new telephone lines under the most difficult conditions. He has now visited the hospital 14 times since 2000 – contributing hugely to the dramatic improvement in Bansang's telephone and IT infrastructure (which was practically non-existent before!)

DIAMEDICA UK – ROBERT NEIGHBOUR

Robert designs sustainable medical equipment for challenging environments. His latest invention is a piece of equipment which produces oxygen from concentrators. This important development is not only life saving; it also reduces fuel bills by saving the hospital from making 400 mile round trips to fill old cylinders. This equipment was kindly donated by the World Wide Anaesthesia Charity, to whom we say a very grateful thank you.

BRITISH PLUMBING EMPLOYEES COUNCIL (BPEC)

Following on from Anita receiving the BPEC Life Award (of £15,006.02), I was delighted to welcome 3 of the BPEC Trustees to Bansang. We toured the hospital looking at the works completed by the hospital maintenance teams, which included sewers and bathroom facilities for both staff and patients. This work is ongoing and we hope to complete all the projects by the end of the year. We also made a visit to one of the local villages whilst blood was being harvested for the hospital blood bank. Mark's final parting gift was to donate a unit of blood that will help to save the life of a patient.



BPEC Trustees Mark, Dave and Watson



Mark holding his donated blood

ESCORT LODGE

While the exchange rate for dalasi is so strong, we took advantage and provided funding to build a new Escort Lodge. This will allow those bringing patients to the hospital to sleep under cover instead of outside (where they were facing the elements and mosquitoes). There is a separate room for men and women with the added bonus of two attached offices, one for the Chief Orderly, and one for the Environment Officer.



The new escort lodge



Previously, escorts slept outside

POWER UP THE GAMBIA (PUG)

PUG have now expanded their project to provide solar power in all critical departments. This has helped us escape those awful times when patients faced the electricity lottery; enduring emergency treatment under torchlight because there was no power to run the lights. We are very grateful to have their continuing support.

PHARMACY RENOVATION AND EXTENSION

This department had barely been touched since 1938. We have now completely renovated and extended the pharmacy to include an additional pharmaceutical store, toilet and office. A separate walkway and waiting/seating area has been constructed to enable outpatients

to sit in comfort whilst waiting for prescriptions without obstructing access into other areas of the hospital. Special thanks go to The Rotary Clubs of Brentwood a Becket and Seaford, our friends in France (Linda Nicholson and friends) and the many other organisations and individuals who have made donations specifically for this project.



New aluminium windows/doors for pharmacy



Old dispensing room

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PARTNERS (IHP)

IHP are delighted that the hospital now has a pharmaceutical database and a renovated/extended pharmacy. They have provided large quantities of pharmaceuticals which we have sent on two of our containers this year. Providing large donations of vital drugs allows the hospital to continue functioning in treating patients, relieving pain and saving lives.

NEW STAFF ACCOMMODATION BLOCK

Staff retention is still the key to a fully functioning happy hospital, therefore decent accommodation is vital. The average cost for each unit that we are renovating and extending is £4,000. We have recently completed a block of 8 units, which consist of a bedroom with ensuite toilet/shower and sitting room. For each family home, all of the materials are sourced and made locally, which in turn helps the local economy. Each block of 8 units shares a communal kitchen. Work is well underway extending and refurbishing a second block of 8 family homes for staff.



Old staff accommodation



New staff accommodation

HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

On a personal note, I was surprised and delighted to be the recipient of an Honorary Fellowship from the School of Health at the University of Northampton. I am a Northampton girl, who left school at 15 with no qualifications; to be honoured for my work with the Bansang Hospital Appeal was completely overwhelming. To then find myself

standing upon the Northampton Derngate Theatre stage facing the graduating students had to be one of the most daunting but exhilarating experiences of my life.



Anita's husband Steve, sons Laurence and Grant
and her Mother Barbara

Education is a privilege, which so many in Bansang are denied. The University of Northampton has given today's graduates the skills to achieve wherever they go and we hope to develop our relationship with the university to the mutual benefit of the students at the School of Health and the staff and patients at Bansang Hospital.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

Bob Parfitt of Refugee Relief has supplied staggering amounts of aid and gifts for the staff and their families. This in turn has helped to increase staff morale and make Bansang hospital a very special place. Contributions such as those made by Bob have helped deliver a forward thinking hospital, with an incredibly able and committed management team – all of which is helping us deliver the very best to the 600,000 people that rely on hospital. With the help of Bob and so many others, we will continue to develop other key areas of the hospital to ensure the dramatic improvements we have seen continue into the future. Your support for this hospital and the people within it is both overwhelming and humbling.

How you can help:

If you are a taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation as this will enable us to reclaim tax to the value of 25p on top of every £1 you donate (please request a gift aid form)

Online Donations: To make a donation: please visit www.virginmoneygiving.com, & search for 'Bansang Hospital Appeal'. Remember to tick the Gift Aid box

Mobile Text Donations: You can now donate from your mobile phone through JustTextGiving. This is a completely free service run by the Vodafone Foundation. All you need to do is text **BANS14** along with your donation amount (**£1/£2/£5** or **£10**) to **70070**.

eg **BANS14 £10**

Standing Orders: These allow us to budget on a monthly basis. It does not matter how small the donation; they all make a big difference. Please contact Anita for further details

Spread The Word: Why not 'like' our page on Facebook? Doing so may just reveal the Bansang story to a friend of yours that may well be a future friend of ours!

www.facebook.com/bansanghospitalappeal

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Anita Smith, 4 The Leys, Orlingbury, Northamptonshire, NN14 1JE
anitasmith@bansanghospitalappeal.org // 07783 551945