



# Vine Trust

Connecting People to Change Lives

**40th ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION**

# CONNECTIONS

Issue 45 – Spring 2025



Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

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# WELCOME TO CONNECTIONS 45!

Welcome to our special 40th anniversary edition of *Connections*, with 40 pages brimming with updates from our partnership programmes and pioneering projects in Peru and Tanzania.

Forty years is a milestone moment in the history of Vine Trust. When this journey began back in 1985, who could have imagined the places we would go, the people we would meet, and the impact it would all have?

Five medical ships have sailed across the seas and been launched into rivers and lakes. More than 2.5 million free medical consultations have reached remote and isolated villages. Eleven residential centres and 149 family homes have been built, and the foundations of a new village have been laid. Over 4,100 volunteers have joined us - connecting, collaborating, and contributing to communities in the Peruvian Andes and Amazon, on Lake Victoria, and at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro.

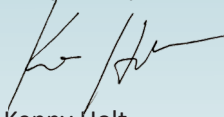
Like all journeys, there have been bumps in the road and barriers to overcome. But challenges are easier to face with faithful fellow travellers - those who smooth the path when the way is unclear, offer encouragement when the road grows rough, and share the load when it feels too heavy.

We are deeply grateful for every single supporter who has been a fellow traveller on this incredible journey over the past 40 years. To all who have donated, volunteered, or lent a helping hand - whether overseas or in the UK - I extend my heartfelt thanks.

While this edition of *Connections* offers a moment to reflect on all of these remarkable achievements, we are also extremely excited about developments unfolding in Peru and Tanzania.

We are thrilled to share highlights from our celebrations in Tanzania marking the launch of our latest medical ship, progress at Kazunzu, and key milestones in Moshi - as well as many ways for you to join us in all of this and more.

The journey continues!



Kenny Holt  
Chief Executive



# MESSAGE FROM VINE TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Friends,

It is my privilege to write to you as we celebrate 40 years of the work of Vine Trust in connecting people to change lives. In 1985 the church community in Bo'ness led by the Reverend Albert Bogle and Reverend Willie McPherson were inspired to take action to make a difference, in whatever way they could, for those living in severe poverty.

Since then, the Trust has collaborated with partners in Peru and Tanzania in their vision to see communities transformed through medical care and shelter projects to isolated and vulnerable communities.

Over 4,100 people have volunteered to travel to take part in these projects in the last 40 years, and like me, have found their lives changed by the experience. I have just returned from my third time volunteering with the Jubilee Hope programme and have once again been reminded of the importance of the work.

As we celebrate this anniversary, I want to extend our thanks on behalf of Vine Trust to all of you who have acted as ambassadors and supported the work, whether by volunteering, fundraising, or giving.

None of this could have happened without teamwork and partnerships. We are grateful for all that has been achieved but we also look forward to the years ahead and we invite you to come on that journey with us.

Many thanks

Dr Claire Bawn  
Chair, Vine Trust Board of Trustees



# Thank you to Robert Alexander

After 16 remarkable years of dedication, Robert Alexander retired from Vine Trust in December last year, leaving behind an enduring legacy.

Throughout his time with the organisation, he played a crucial role in shaping and supporting its work, contributing his wisdom, experience, and commitment behind the scenes. His knowledge and guidance were invaluable, making him a key figure in the success of the Trust's initiatives.



Robert's influence extended across all of Vine Trust's projects where he was instrumental in helping Vine Trust achieve significant milestones.

His impact was felt, not only through his work, but also in the example he set - his quiet wisdom and steadfast dedication made him an integral part of the organisation. He was never one to seek the limelight or recognition, but his kindness, hard work, and passion for the people served by Vine Trust's programmes were evident to all who worked alongside him.

Robert embodied the very essence of Vine Trust's ethos, and while he will be greatly missed in his former role, we are delighted that he remains connected with the organisation going forward.

To honour his years of service, Robert was presented with a certificate of appreciation, signed by Vine Trust's Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, acknowledging his unwavering support and the key role he played in the organisation's success.

Robert's colleagues and friends at Vine Trust extend their heartfelt thanks and best wishes as he embarks on this new chapter.



Vivian, Kenny, Jacqui, Erin and Katie

# VT TEAM UPDATE



Claire

There have been a few changes to the Vine Trust team over the last few months, so we thought we would give you an update on the team based in the Edinburgh office.

We are delighted to share the news that our colleague, **Claire Coyle** and her husband Johnny, welcomed the arrival of their son, Liam, in December. We wish them all the best as a family at this special time!

With Claire on maternity leave, **Erin Seaman** has joined the team to support our medical volunteers and the expeditions in Peru and Tanzania. If you are interested in medical expeditions or general details of how to support our healthcare partnership programmes, please do get in touch with Erin for more details ([erin@vinetrust.org](mailto:erin@vinetrust.org)).

We've also added a new member to the team, with **Jacqui Heasley** joining in February as our new Fundraising & Outreach Manager.

Jacqui comes to Vine Trust with a very strong background in the charity sector, and we are delighted that she will be using her skills and expertise to help with the development of Vine Trust's work in the UK and in our overseas programmes and projects. If you have any questions about supporting Vine Trust's work either as an individual, corporate, church/community group, Jacqui would love to hear from you ([jacqui@vinetrust.org](mailto:jacqui@vinetrust.org)).

**Vivian Onyeneke** has been with Vine Trust for two and half years. Vivian is our Office Administrator, responsible for the accounting and finance tasks, as well as many other important general office management responsibilities. You can contact Vivian ([vivian@vinetrust.org](mailto:vivian@vinetrust.org)) with any finance-related questions or enquiries about hiring the Vine Trust Barge for events and meetings.

Our Volunteer Support Coordinator is **Katie Halliburton**. Katie joined the Vine Trust team in January 2024, coordinating and developing our school and adult team expeditions as part of our shelter project in partnership with TAWREF. Katie's role sees her making regular visits to schools and she also travelled to Tanzania last summer to lead expeditions of volunteers. Contact Katie ([katie@vinetrust.org](mailto:katie@vinetrust.org)) to learn more about our school or adult expeditions, or ways you can support our construction partnership projects in Tanzania.

**Kenny Holt** is Vine Trust's Chief Executive. Kenny has been working with Vine Trust for the past 11 years, predominately as Programme Manager coordinating the development of the Amazon Hope and Jubilee Hope Medical Programmes and their corresponding volunteer opportunities with local partners. If you'd like to know more about the work of Vine Trust, its partnerships in Peru and Tanzania or how you could get involved in supporting the development of this work, Kenny would be delighted to hear from you ([kenny@vinetrust.org](mailto:kenny@vinetrust.org)).

As well as contacting us by email, you can also speak to the team by calling the Vine Trust office - 0131 555 5598. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

# Celebrating 40 Years of Impact



Join Us in Raising Funds for  
Vine Trust!

This year marks a monumental milestone for The Vine Trust - we're turning 40! That's four incredible decades of planting the seeds of change, supporting communities, and transforming lives in Peru and Tanzania.

**We need YOU!** - As we embark on our fortieth year, we're launching an exciting fundraising campaign to help fuel our next 40 years of growth. Whether you've been with us from the start or you're new to the Vine Trust family, we're asking for your help in continuing our mission.

**Why fundraise?** - It's simple. For the past 40 years, The Vine Trust has empowered communities through sustainable development and healthcare initiatives. But we can't do this work without you and so we want to extend a warm invitation from the Vine Trust team to be part of this incredible milestone by joining the "40 for 40 for 4" campaign.

## 40 for 40 for 4

During 2025 we are setting the challenge of raising **£40,000** in honour of our **40th anniversary**, supporting our **4 key projects**, which will allow us to:

- Provide **75,000 medical prescriptions** to remote communities through the **Amazon Hope Medical Programme**,
- Provide **50,000 medical prescriptions** to fishing communities via the **Jubilee Hope Medical Programme**,
- **Construct 2 rainwater tanks** for families in **Kazunzu Village of Hope** to support domestic and agricultural use,
- **Build a home** for a vulnerable mother and her children in Moshi through our **partnership with TAWREF**, providing safe and secure housing.



**What's happening?** - We are hosting **celebration events** across Scotland, in the Highlands, Perthshire and Edinburgh. We would love for you to join us at these events and share stories of your Vine Trust experiences. Full event details will be published on our website and social media soon but you can join our events mailing list by contacting [jacqui@vinetrust.org](mailto:jacqui@vinetrust.org).

We are encouraging you to join us at the **Kiltwalk 2025**. You can choose to take part in The Mighty Stride (23 miles), The Big Stroll (14.5 miles) or The Wee Wander (3 miles) in either Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee or Edinburgh. To sign up, you need to register on the Kiltwalk website ([www.thekiltwalk.co.uk](http://www.thekiltwalk.co.uk)). We will reach out to you to help you with fundraising tools and then all you have to do is don your tartan and trainers and start preparing for a day of epic walking with your Vine Trust friends!



If you are unable to join us at The Kiltwalk or one of our Scotland events, we encourage you to consider hosting a **fundraising event in your community**. We will be happy to support you in doing so and invite you to get in contact to discuss any fundraising ideas you would like to host!

## Donate Directly to the 40-40-4 Campaign!

You can **text VINETRUST to 70085 to donate £10**. Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message.

**Donate** an amount of your choice **via our website [www.vinetrust.org/donate](http://www.vinetrust.org/donate)**

You can **set up a regular contribution** by completing the **form on page 39** or over the **phone at 0131 555 5598**.

## Let's Make This Year Legendary!

We've accomplished so much over the past 40 years, and we're so excited to see where the next 40 will take us. But we can't get there without you!

(For all event and fundraising enquiries, please email [jacqui@vinetrust.org](mailto:jacqui@vinetrust.org))

# A DECADE OF HOPE

**Celebrating 10 Years of Lifesaving Care on Lake Victoria**

Healthcare on Lake Victoria's remote islands has long been a challenge. Isolated by vast waters and serving as bases for large groups of nomadic fishermen, communities have struggled with limited medical support. So when the MV Jubilee Hope arrived in October 2014, it brought more than just medicine - it brought hope!

Over the past decade, this pioneering medical ship has transformed access to healthcare, reaching thousands who would otherwise go without. Having the first medical ship to operate on Tanzanian Lake Victoria, the Jubilee Hope Medical Programme has worked in partnership to enhance healthcare provision, becoming the largest provider of medical services to the Kagera



Islands. The programme has now delivered over 500,000 consultations, improving treatment access for both permanent and itinerant fishing communities.

Alongside the services provided on-board the ship, the Jubilee Hope Programme has been a catalyst for wider community development through a consistent and impactful health education programme.



*Simon Shayo (GGML), Dr Claire Bawn (VT) and Archbishop Magwesela (AICT) at the 10th anniversary celebrations*

The work has also greatly benefitted from almost 300 medical volunteers who have travelled to share with and learn from the Jubilee Hope team. This collaboration with volunteers has enhanced the delivery of medical care on the expeditions, which includes strengthening the local team's capacity through training in hypertension, diabetes, and ultrasound diagnostics, enabling them to provide improved care to the island populations.

This February, a landmark celebration event brought together partners, supporters, and community members to mark ten years of the Jubilee Hope Programme. Held on the shores of Lake Victoria, the event was a moment of reflection, gratitude, and renewed commitment to the work being done. Representatives from Vine Trust, Africa Inland Church Tanzania, Geita Gold Mine Ltd, government agencies, and other key stakeholders paid tribute to the dedication of the medical teams and the life-changing impact of the programme, reaffirming the importance of collaboration in sustaining and expanding this vital work.

We want to thank all Vine Trust supporters who have been part of the Jubilee Hope Programme's development, whether as a donor and/or as a volunteer. As the programme enters its second decade, we remain committed to improving access to high-quality healthcare for Lake Victoria's island communities and we are excited about what lies ahead with the introduction of the new medical ship, MV Lady Jean.

# MY JOURNEY WITH THE JUBILEE HOPE MEDICAL PROGRAMME

Dr Uzia, Head of Medical Services



For almost eight years, I have been a doctor with the Jubilee Hope Program, bringing healthcare to the remote island communities of Lake Victoria, Tanzania. This journey has changed me in many ways, making me more grateful, humble, and compassionate. It has strengthened my commitment to helping those who need it most.

Before joining the program, I never imagined working as a doctor on a ship, sailing across Lake Victoria. I thought I would be in the mainland hospital or clinic, like most doctors. At first, I wondered how we would manage with so few resources. But I quickly realized how special this work is. Here, I can focus only on my patients, without worrying whether they can afford treatment. No one is turned away because they have no money, and that is a rare privilege in medicine.

One of the best parts of this job is the teamwork. We have a saying: *“When we are sailing, we are all sailors, and when we are providing healthcare, we are all healthcare providers.”*



No matter what challenges we face—medical emergencies, rough waters, or stormy weather—we face them together.

The support from our local team and international volunteers keeps us going. We help each other, solve problems, and always do our best for the people we serve.



There are many moments I will never forget, but one stands out. A young mother came to the ship in critical condition after childbirth. She was bleeding heavily because part of the placenta had not been delivered.

Without quick medical care, she would not have survived. That day, teamwork, skill, and determination saved her life. This is what Jubilee Hope is about—compassion, dedication, and hope.



Over the decade, Jubilee Hope has provided care to over 500,000 people who had little or no healthcare. Our international volunteers have been a big part of this, sharing their skills with kindness, while also learning from the local team. Their support helps us reach more people and improve the care we give.

As Vine Trust celebrates 40 years, we reflect on how much this journey has changed us. Jubilee Hope has brought hope, strengthened communities, and made a lasting impact on everyone involved. As we look ahead, we remain committed to reaching more people, improving lives, and continuing this mission—one patient at a time.



# EXPANDING MEDICAL HORIZONS

The launch of the  
MV Lady Jean

On the shores of Lake Victoria, on the 8th of February, Vine Trust's latest ship, MV Lady Jean, was officially launched into service signalling a significant expansion of medical support for remote communities through the Jubilee Hope Medical Programme.

The launch event was attended by the Regional Commissioner for Mwanza, as well as by key partners and stakeholders, including representatives from Geita Gold Mine Ltd, Babcock International Group, AICT Diocese of Geita, the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA), and various NGOs. Dr Claire Bawn and Kenny Holt were in attendance in representation of Vine Trust.

The new ship will significantly enhance healthcare access for remote island communities, offering vital medical services through more than 100,000 free consultations each year.

One of the most critical aspects of the new vessel's mission is the establishment of an antiretroviral supply chain for island communities where up to 25% are living with HIV. This initiative aims to improve the distribution of life-saving medication, ensuring consistent access to treatment in hard-to-reach areas.

The journey of MV Lady Jean to its new home was no small feat. Initially transported by sea to Mombasa, Kenya, the vessel was then moved by



*The MV Lady Jean was officially launched by Mwanza Regional Commissioner, Said Mtanda*

road to Kisumu before making its final voyage south across Lake Victoria to Mwanza, Tanzania.

The launch of MV Lady Jean reinforces Vine Trust's commitment to supporting our local partners and empowering communities to deliver healthcare to isolated communities, bridging gaps in medical access, and improving the quality of life for countless individuals in Tanzania.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has made this project possible, especially Babcock for their outstanding support in refitting the ship into the medical vessel it is today.



*David Lockwood (Babcock CEO) and his wife, Sarah visited the Jubilee Hope Programme in February*

# A LIFE-CHANGING ELECTIVE EXPERIENCE

## A Medical Student's Journey with the Jubilee Hope Programme

Many final year medical students join a Vine Trust expedition as part of their elective, which is a wonderful way to learn new skills and develop a deeper understanding of delivering healthcare in a different context from home. Australian medical student, Chloe Molnar, was a recent recipient of support through the Dr Julia McLean Grant Fund and participant on the February Jubilee Hope expedition:

*“Joining Vine Trust’s Jubilee Hope Expedition on Lake Victoria in Tanzania was one of the most life changing experiences, and I’m so grateful for the Dr Julia McLean Grant Fund for helping to facilitate it.*

*On the ship, we were encouraged to take histories and manage patients, to spend time in the lab and assist with minor procedures. I really valued the independence we were given to determine our own differential diagnoses and patient management plans, which we then discussed with the national or volunteer doctors. I had so much support and learnt so much through being actively involved in the process.*

*Even the most straightforward cases were opportunities to learn, both about tropical diseases which we just do not see at home, and about life on the islands in Lake Victoria. Every patient had their own story and it was such a privilege to be able to hear these stories, gain a greater understanding of different perspectives of health and illness, and be able to appreciate how much of an impact Jubilee Hope is making by bringing healthcare and access to medication to so many people on each expedition.*

*Taking part in the Jubilee Hope Expedition really pushed me outside of my comfort zone, but taught me more about medicine and life than any university course ever could. I am already looking forward to joining another expedition in the (hopefully near) future!”*

To learn more about how to join a Jubilee Hope medical expedition as well as the Dr Julia McLean Grant Fund, visit [www.vinetrust.org](http://www.vinetrust.org).





# Join the Jubilee Hope team on medical expeditions to the islands of Lake Victoria!



We have availability on expeditions  
on the following dates:

- 05 Apr – 19 Apr
- 03 May - 17 May
- 31 May – 14 Jun
- 05 July – 19 July
- 18 Oct - 01 Nov



Contact Erin for more details:

- [health@vinetrust.org](mailto:health@vinetrust.org)
- 0131 555 5598

# 2025 EXPEDITIONS





# 150 HOMES AND COUNTING!

IMMINENT SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE THROUGH  
PARTNERSHIP WITH TAWREF

In June this year, the ground will be broken on the 150th family home to be built through the Vine Trust's partnership with Tanzanian Women Research Foundation (TAWREF).

This marvellous milestone is a source of great joy and testament to the excellent work that TAWREF do in their community, the power of partnership and the tremendous support from thousands of Vine Trust volunteers and supporters, who played such a vital role in making this possible.

Dafrosa Itemba, TAWREF's Executive Director reflects upon what this partnership has meant to their work in Moshi, Tanzania:

*"What a blessed partnership! It was in 2011 when Vine Trust approached me to share their vision of connecting the lives of young children orphaned by AIDS with hope, self-esteem, dignity and decent homes to live in.*

*Since then there has been great transformation in many families. The impact has not only been on the families but also on promoting equity in the villages with homes being built in 4 districts of the Kilimanjaro region.*



*TAWREF's credibility, visibility and professional growth owe a lot to the Vine Trust's many years of partnership. The passion of the school, corporate and church group volunteers will always remain in the families' hearts."*

Elly Kimaro, TAWREF's Project Coordinator, has also been a vital part of this journey, and he has written some of his own personal insights into the impact that these homes have made on families, volunteers and also himself:

*"Over the past 12 years, my journey supporting the partnership with Vine Trust has been transformative. Working alongside dedicated Vine Trust staff and volunteers, sharing a common goal of supporting orphans and vulnerable people in Moshi, has shaped my understanding of community and resilience."*



*The expeditions foster deep connections between volunteers and the Moshi community. Witnessing their enthusiasm and commitment is inspiring. It reinforces that small actions can lead to significant changes in people's lives.*

*The volunteers bring diverse skills, backgrounds, and perspectives. Their willingness to immerse themselves in a different culture speaks volumes. I have seen firsthand how their efforts, through fundraising or construction, have created tangible improvements in the lives of orphans. The joy on children's faces moving into newly built homes is a testament to their impact.*



*The Vine Trust and TAWREF partnership has been key in responding to the poverty and housing issues facing some Tanzanian communities. Having 149 homes built in my community is a huge contribution. Families without safe shelter are now protected and comfortable.*

*Collaborating with UK leaders and volunteers has been enriching. Working alongside passionate individuals has taught me invaluable lessons in leadership, empathy, and teamwork. Each interaction has provided insights into communication and problem-solving across cultures.*

*The benefit of Vine Trust volunteers is strengthening the partnership between Vine Trust and TAWREF. Volunteers see where funds raised are going and are part of the building team. This brings transparency, trust, and partnership.*

*I hope to see more building teams in Moshi and continue the transformation of individuals and families empowered by the Vine Trust volunteering programme.”*



You can read about some of the families who have been impacted by these homes on pages 22 and 23, as well as from school students, teachers and participants on our adult team expeditions who have been connected with our TAWREF partnership work on pages 24 to 27.



## Siael, Indiael & Ahimidiwe

In 2017, the shelter project helped reunite siblings Siael, Indiael, and Ahimidiwe, who had faced immense hardship after losing both parents to HIV & AIDS. Their father passed away in December 2002, and their mother in January 2007. After the loss, the children were separated and lived with different relatives. With the support of Vine Trust, the siblings were brought together again under one roof.

Today, Siael is a secondary school teacher, teaching English, Kiswahili, and History to over 1,000 students. Indiael works as a social development officer, serving over 4,600 people in her community. Ahimidiwe is pursuing a degree in marketing and entrepreneurship at Moshi Cooperative University. The family has also improved their living conditions, installing electricity, water, and growing vegetables to support themselves.

“Having a permanent house since 2017 brought us together as a family. We have managed to plan together, to perform well in our education, and we are feeling home as others do in a very peaceful area. You can also see that we are now employed, and our youngest sibling is at university pursuing his bachelor degree.”

Indiael



## Mary Kwayu & Children

Before receiving support from Vine Trust in 2017, Mary Kwayu and her five daughters lived in a small, rough timber house in Himo, Moshi. They struggled to have enough food and lacked basic amenities, with no mattresses. After the death of their father, the family lived apart, and Mary worked hard to support her children. Rose, who has a disability, required extra care, adding to the family's challenges.

Vine Trust, in partnership with TAWREF, helped Mary and her daughters move into a safe, secure home. Neema and Anita started a successful food business, while Faith found her talents in wedding decorations and hairdressing. The family improved their living conditions, installing electricity, buying furniture, and receiving community support for a latrine. Mary now has a stable home, and her children are becoming self-sufficient.

“I will never forget Vine Trust in my life, I love them. They have changed my life, and now I have a voice to speak in front of people. I have been able to join a community savings group and now I have my own income. My children have started to become self-sufficient, and I can provide for all of Rose's needs, who is unwell.”

Mary



## “My experience in Tanzania was life-changing.”

Finlay Bicocchi, who travelled to Tanzania in 2024 as a student with Perth Grammar School, will be returning to Moshi this summer as a Young Leader. It’s clear to say that his time on the expedition had a huge impact on his life:

*“My time in Tanzania was life-changing. The experience that I gained was huge, no matter if it was from the house building, planting trees or the safari it was all incredible.*



*Being on the expedition helped my leadership and teamwork skills after being in a team for two weeks and working together to be as effective as possible. Everyone took a sense of responsibility to work towards completing the house.*

*My first expedition also really changed the way I look at life from a leadership perspective. Tanzania truly showed me how important leadership is in day-to-day life and how important it is to care and look after others.*

*It also showed me how vital communities are and what people can do if they work together to create something truly special.*

*In my upcoming expedition I will be a Young Leader as a part of the Millburn Academy 2025 Expedition. I’m really looking forward to being back in Tanzania and being in Moshi around all the friendly people. I also look forward to building more homes for more families.”*





## “All I can think about is going back out to Tanzania”

2024 Milne’s High School student, Lauren Murray, shares about her time in Tanzania on a Vine Trust expedition:

*“Building homes in Tanzania was an incredibly transformative experience, witnessing the immense gratitude and resilience of the families opened my eyes to the power of community and the importance of helping others.*

*I will forever be grateful for the experiences we had during our time in Tanzania, from being warmly welcomed by everyone who we met, to working with the builders and the children, to exploring the local culture, and bonding with everyone who I went out with.*



*For me, the highlight of the trip was the last day on the worksites, as even though it was very difficult and we were all very emotional to be leaving, being able to see what we had helped to build and the impact made was an incredible and indescribable feeling.*

*My priorities and opinions have shifted for the better because of the expedition, I have a new found gratitude for the simple but important things, like having a stable and safe place to call home, and being able to have 3 good meals a day.*



*My perspective on travelling has definitely changed. In the future I would love to do more trips that involve giving back, since coming home from our expedition, all I can think about is going back out to Tanzania, I would love to go as part of the adult expeditions with the Vine Trust.”*



## “Connect with people and change your life”

**B**rian Donlin, who has led 3 school expeditions as a teacher, reflects on how these experiences foster deep connections and lasting change:

*“When I first investigated about an expedition with the Vine Trust in 2016, I remember seeing the slogan ‘Connecting People to Change Lives’ and thinking relatively little of it. This was a mistake. Connecting people and changing lives isn’t just a catchy tag line for badges and business cards, it’s the reality of the experience I, and everyone I’ve been privileged enough to work with on my expeditions, has had.*”

*The opportunity to find out about the people on your expedition is incredible and starts long before you leave the UK. The variety of work, from fundraising to foundation building, reveals a huge amount about what drives people. The expedition challenges everyone differently but you meet these challenges together and grow as a team.*

*A Vine Trust expedition offers the opportunity to meet people from a new country with a different culture and experiences. The people you meet—the team at TAWREF, the volunteers, the builders, the people around Moshi, and most importantly, the families—will change your life.*

*One of the longest-lasting connections is with yourself. The idea of ‘finding yourself’ can feel like a cliché, but I can attest to it. This expedition isn’t just about seeing a new part of the world, meeting new people, or improving lives—it’s all of these and more. This is what a home-building expedition with the Vine Trust offers. This is what will let you connect with people and change your life.”*





## “The abiding memory will be connecting with the families”

Throughout Vine Trust’s partnership with TAWREF, we’ve had the pleasure of connecting many adult teams to the amazing work taking place in Moshi.

Neil and Anne Johnstone were part of the latest team to visit the project last year:

*“In August 2024 we joined a group of 20 adults from across the UK.*



*The main impact for us was the completely humbling and deeply rewarding experience in which we saw that hope can be realised through compassionate works. No matter what you read or see on TV, that first-hand experience of community hardship and poor living conditions was very chastening.*

*But it was not just an educational trip. We spent six days of teamwork on two sites working under the guidance of the local builders. Within the fortnight both houses reached roof level with the local builder tasked with completing the roof and windows.*

*We were in-country as five other houses were finished from Vine Trust school groups which had visited earlier that year. It was the most thrilling, emotional day attending all five of these handovers, as the families entered their new homes for the first time.*

*Each handover ceremony was witnessed by neighbours and community leaders who ensured these were moments to remember. The whole expedition was topped off by cultural visits, Swahili lessons and a safari but the abiding memory will be the core activity of connecting with the families and changing lives to improve their wellbeing and prospects. And it changed our lives too!”*



# SCHOOL EXPEDITIONS

## 2027 & 2028



Contact Katie for more information:

- [katie@vinetrust.org](mailto:katie@vinetrust.org)
- 0131 555 5598

We'd love to hear from schools interested in joining a transformative expedition to Tanzania with Vine Trust, where you'll connect with local communities, immerse yourself in a new culture, and work alongside Tanzanian teams on impactful community projects.

Build friendships, gain new perspectives, and experience the warmth, resilience, and generosity of the people who make this journey unforgettable!



# BRANCHES

Vine Trust and Branches are both celebrating their 40th year in 2025.

Branches, a not-for-profit gift shop in Bo'ness, was founded in the 1980s in response to the Ethiopian famine. It made the initial donation to start Vine Trust and continues to support its work, donating 50% of its profits.



Branches not only supports Vine Trust but also strives to trade ethically, offering a welcoming space for customers and giving greater meaning to their purchases, whilst being staffed by a team of dedicated volunteers, including Isobel, Joanne and Ann:

*"My journey as a volunteer with Branches started just over 35 years ago. I find it a joy to see many people come into the shop and sometimes not buy anything, but just have a chat and hope that they feel better after leaving the shop. The money that is generated from sales is donated to various good causes, locally, nationally and internationally". (Isobel Angus)*



*"I first began volunteering with Branches in December 2023. Meeting new people and chatting both with volunteers and customers has been particularly enjoyable and I also enjoy creating eye-catching shelf and window displays. Knowing that I am making a small contribution to the Vine Trust and the humanitarian work they do, as well as other good causes, makes my volunteering all the more worthwhile". (Joanne Roberts)*

*"Having been involved with Branches for a number of years, I have to admit to being happy and glad that I decided to accept the invitation to join the team. On a personal level I enjoy the camaraderie with the other volunteers and also the interaction with the customers. Knowing that the profits of Branches is disbursed to good causes is very satisfying." (Ann Braid)*



We want to thank everyone at Branches and congratulate them on all their amazing work over the past 40 years and the incredible support they have given to Vine Trust since the very beginning. If you're in Bo'ness or the surrounding area, drop in and say hello to the amazing team of volunteers!

# BRINGING HOPE TO THE HEART OF THE AMAZON



Dr Ronald Ramirez is the Head of Medical Services for the Amazon Hope Medical Programme and, by far, the longest-serving member of the team. As Vine Trust celebrates its 40th anniversary, Dr Ramirez reflects on the amazing impact the Amazon Hope Medical Programme has made in riverine communities in Peru:

***A**s a doctor, I have dedicated more than twenty years of my life and work to Vine Trust's Amazon Hope Medical Project. During this time, I have witnessed first-hand the economic, cultural, social, and geographical barriers that people in the Amazon face in accessing healthcare. I have also seen the gratitude and happiness of these communities when they receive free medical care during our visits to their villages, schools, and homes.*

*The impact of our work is clear, particularly in the health of children under five, where we have achieved significant reductions in anaemia and made*

*a tangible difference through preventive and recuperative care. I have shared in the relief of those living with diabetes and hypertension as they gain access to essential medicines and medical support that help them manage their conditions in our absence. There has also been a dramatic decline in severe skin infections, parasite infestations, chronic malnourishment, and other preventable illnesses.*

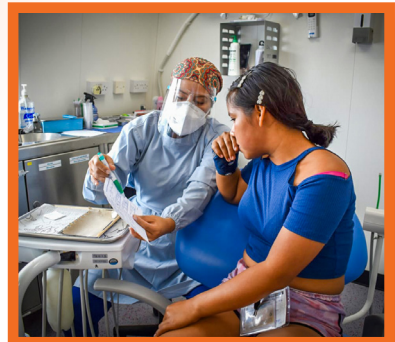


*For these reasons, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Vine Trust, which has been dedicated to serving the people of the Amazon and transforming lives. I also extend my thanks to all donors, the Peruvian and international volunteers, the medical staff and crew, and our local partners, including district municipalities and many NGOs who have helped us achieve incredible milestones.*

*Together, we have provided over two million healthcare consultations, averaging 100,000 per year, while reaching more than 400 rural and indigenous villages.*

*We have expanded access to preventive and restorative oral healthcare, educated thousands of local people on health and self-care, and empowered communities to take charge of their wellbeing.*

*Additionally, international volunteers have gained a deeper understanding of the healthcare challenges faced in the Amazon, broadening their perspectives and shaping their roles as medical professionals.*

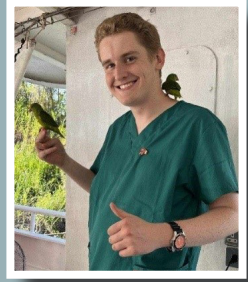


*These achievements illustrate how we are connecting people and changing lives.*

*However, much remains to be done, and we still need support to help develop the work in the years to come. And for any medical volunteers interested in joining us - welcome aboard!*

# “OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME”

**Simon Onions shares his experiences as a Medical Student with the Amazon Hope Programme in Peru**



Spending two weeks on the Peruvian Amazon as part of my medical school elective was an unforgettable and unique time that I never thought I'd experience as a student. It was a very useful clinical and cultural experience for both my personal and professional development, and one I know that I will look back fondly on for many years.

Organising an elective can be super overwhelming, but I found the Vine Trust team provided amazing practical support and advice which helped with booking flights, kit lists, medications, and general trip logistics. This made me feel very relaxed and helped take a lot of the pre-expedition stress away.

I learnt very quickly that there wasn't a typical clinical day or consultation! At times, it could be one patient on their own, or an entire family in one go which could be 3 different generations of family members. I really enjoyed providing care to patients of different ages, which included newborn baby checks, common condition consultations and chronic disease checks.

For the first time in my life, I found I enjoyed waking up early as we did a daily jungle walk to explore the nearby village where we were stationed for the day. Alongside the wildlife, I found

exploring the nearby villages really insightful to gain a better understanding of how these communities of patients lived, what facilities they had and what normal daily life looked for them. I always enjoyed spending time in the villages at sunset as well, as there was always time for a bit of football or volleyball with the crew.

It really was an opportunity of a lifetime to see how real remote medical healthcare works and how a peripatetic facility can improve outcomes for people's lives. It gave me a true taster of volunteering abroad in low-resource settings, which I am very keen to do once I fully qualify.

I wholly recommend the Vine Trust to any healthcare students who are keen to do some travelling but also want to try something a bit different, you won't regret it!





# PERU MEDICAL EXPEDITIONS 2025

Join the Peruvian team to deliver vital healthcare and support the development of services to remote communities in the Amazon!

We have availability on expeditions on the following dates:

- 01 Apr - 15 Apr
- 30 Apr - 14 May
- 09 May - 23 May
- 31 May - 14 Jun
- 09 Jun - 23 Jun
- 01 Jul - 15 Jul
- 10 Jul - 24 Jul
- 14 Oct - 28 Oct
- 23 Oct - 06 Nov
- 14 Nov - 28 Nov
- 23 Nov - 07 Dec



Contact Erin for more details:

- [health@vinetrust.org](mailto:health@vinetrust.org)
- 0131 555 5598



# KAZUNZU PROGRESS

## Foundations Laid For New Phase of Development

People are at the very heart of the Kazunzu Village of Hope project. To see the guardian parents and the children flourish individually and as a community is what drives every action, each phase of development.

This past year the activities have been focused on working closely with the families, providing training, encouragement and counselling. The Kazunzu project team have been supported in their work by AICT's Women and Children department to

provide guidance for the guardian parents, ensuring they have the resources needed to nurture and lead their families with confidence.

The expansion of agricultural activities at the village has also been hugely encouraging. Families have been improving their knowledge and expertise in applying agricultural methods that have increased harvests. This has helped secure a steady supply of food for each family and also provided opportunities for selling



surpluses to supplement household incomes. You can find an encouraging report on pages 36-37 from guardian parents, Jeremiah and Esther.

Beyond the fields, investment in the Kazunzu project management team has taken place through training and capacity building activities so that they are better equipped to guide the families and also prepare for the next phase of developments.

A new rainwater collection tank has also been built with the support of Christian Engineers in Development, who facilitated training to the guardian families on how to build the tanks and also provided funds to cover a significant part of the construction costs. More tanks are planned as part of a wider strategy to provide access to safe water in the village.

All of this progress in the past year has brought an increased sense of hope, determination and satisfaction within the families and Kazunzu team. Building upon all this encouraging progress, a new Project Manager has been appointed. Rebeka Masalu is a Horticulture graduate and has previously been involved in the training on agricultural techniques with the families. During 2025, Rebeka will take on a full-time role with the project, strengthening its capacity to expand existing activities and implementing new initiatives.

We look forward to sharing more updates on progress at Kazunzu over the coming months.



# FIELDS OF CHANGE

## ‘Seed Fund’ Appeal Transforming Livelihoods at Kazunzu

Jeremiah Joseph, a 44-year-old father from Kazunzu Village of Hope, is married to Esther Kisandu, 40. They have seven children, four biological and three orphaned children which they have welcomed into their family.

Jeremiah’s devotion to orphaned children stems from his own painful childhood, having lost both parents as a baby. Raised without the



warmth of a mother or father, he longed for a nurturing family and a chance at a better life. His promise to himself was to open his heart and home to children in need if he ever had a family of his own.





Since moving to Kazunzu in 2020, Jeremiah and the other families have received training in modern farming techniques building upon his previous experience in traditional methods.

Initially sceptical, Jeremiah decided to try the new methods. He cultivated three quarters of an acre using a new spacing technique, manure, and improved seeds. The results exceeded his expectations, yielding 14 bags of maize. With this surplus, he was able to meet his family's needs by selling maize to generate extra income.

Encouraged by his success, Jeremiah expanded his planting of maize to two acres the following year, harvesting over 30 bags. He now

stores the grain carefully, ensuring maximum profit.

*"I felt a deep responsibility to find a better way to support my family and fulfill the dream that brought me to Kazunzu",* reflects Jeremiah on the progress of the past few years. His wife, Esther, supports him fully, and they work together on the farm. *"Our family is very happy",* Esther says.

Jeremiah is grateful for the support from Vine Trust and the Diocese, which helped him live his dream. His children are healthy, and they enjoy nutritious meals daily. Jeremiah has also ventured into vegetable farming, ensuring year-round food security. He hopes for more opportunities to further empower his family and community.



## **£40,000 to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary to support 4 key community projects**

We hope you've been encouraged as you've read all the many updates and personal stories about the impact Vine Trust's partnership programmes and projects have made and continue to make in the UK, Peru and Tanzania.

To help us build on and expand the reach of our work, we need your help to raise £40,000 during 2025.

£40,000 will allow us to provide 125,000 free prescriptions through our medical projects in Peru and Tanzania, construct rainwater tanks for the families at Kazunzu Village of Hope, and build a home for a family in Moshi in partnership with TAWREF.

### **How Can You Get Involved?**

**1. Join Our Celebration Events!** Celebrate with us in the Highlands, Perthshire, and Edinburgh. Connect with fellow supporters and share in our achievements. Details will be on our website and social media, or email [jacqui@vinetrust.org](mailto:jacqui@vinetrust.org) to join our mailing list.

**2. Take on the Kiltwalk 2025!** Join events in Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, or Edinburgh. Sign up at [www.thekiltwalk.co.uk](http://www.thekiltwalk.co.uk), and we'll support your fundraising efforts. Lace up your trainers and fundraise for Vine Trust!

**3. Host Your Own Fundraiser!** Get creative—host a bake sale, quiz night, or challenge. We're here to help with your event, so get in touch for more details!

**4. Text VINETRUST to 70085 to donate £10**

**5. Visit [www.vinetrust.org/donate](http://www.vinetrust.org/donate) to donate an amount of your choosing.**

**6. Call 0131 555 5598 to set up regular giving or use the form on the page 39.**



**Donation / Standing Order Form**

Your Details	
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Surname:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone No:	
Email:	

**40-40-4  
APPEAL  
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£ \_\_\_\_\_

Standing Order	
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Sort Code:	Account No.:
Please pay Vine Trust the sum of £ _____ on the date of _____	
And (please circle) monthly / quarterly / annually thereafter until _____	

**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate!**

*Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. In order to Gift Aid your donations you must tick the box(es) below:*

I want to Gift Aid all of my Standing Order /Donations and/or

any donations I have made in the past 4 years

*'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.'*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thank you!**

We couldn't operate our programmes without you.

**Please send this form to:**  
**The Vine Trust Barge, Prince of Wales Dock,  
Edinburgh, EH6 7DX.**

**We will register the standing order in our records and then forward the form to your bank**

**Please notify the charity 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  
If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

**Patron: HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL**

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# VineTrust

Connecting People to Change Lives



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