

# VineTrust

Connecting People to Change Lives



## CONNECTIONS

Issue 44 - Summer 2024



Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

# Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Welcome to Connections 44!	3
Dr Julia McLean	4
En Route to Lake Victoria	5
School Expeditions Return to Tanzania!	6-11
Snake Bikes, Speedboats & School Kits	12-13
Building Strong Foundations at Kazunzu	14
Global Citizenship Conference	15
“I See The Medical Ship As A Godsend”	16-17
School Expeditions 2025 & 2026	18
Medical Volunteering 2025	19
Vine Trust’s 40th Anniversary in 2025	20
Peru 2003 - 21 Years of Adult Expeditions	21
Moshi Families Support Appeal	22

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# Welcome to Connections 44!

Although it might not feel like it with the weather we've experienced recently in the UK, it's summer time!

For many towns and villages across the UK, summer celebrations centre on their local civic fairs and festivals. Each has its own, very distinct shape and style, often with historical roots that reach back many decades and are cherished by local residents.

Although the activities and traditions in each town are unique, what unites each of these is a sense of community. These relationships provide a feeling of belonging, a network of support and an avenue for individuals to contribute to something greater than themselves.

The value of communities is also a core part of Vine Trust's partnership programmes in Peru and Tanzania. Recognising their importance allows the programmes to foster real, lasting change by encouraging local ownership.

In this latest edition of Connections you'll see just some of the ways Vine Trust partnership programmes are engaging with and impacting their communities.

Our school expeditions to Tanzania restarted again for the first time since the COVID pandemic. We've been

delighted to hear how students and teachers have enjoyed visiting our partners, TAWREF, learning from and sharing with families and communities in the Kilimanjaro region.

At the Kazunzu Village of Hope, the programme has been focusing on strengthening the capacity and sustainability of the work with the families, whilst the medical services in Tanzania will soon be receiving a new ship to support its outreach to island communities.

You'll also find news of some special celebrations we want to have within communities here in the UK in 2025 which we'd love for you to be part of.

We are truly grateful to everyone for their support and interest in the work of Vine Trust and our partnership programmes in Peru and Tanzania. I trust you'll be encouraged as you read this edition of Connections.



Kenny Holt  
*Chief Executive*



# Dr Julia McLean

It is with a heavy heart that we inform our volunteers and supporters of the news that Vine Trust Board member, Dr. Julia McLean, was involved in a fatal accident on Friday 31st May.

Before joining the Vine Trust Board and Medical Committee earlier this year, Julia was already a much-loved, admired, and valued volunteer both in the UK and in Tanzania, participating in several expeditions to support the development of the Jubilee Hope Medical Programme on Lake Victoria.

Julia's voluntary work was driven by her Christian faith and a profound appreciation of the dignity and value of others. She demonstrated a real passion for helping those she served.

Julia will be greatly missed by all at Vine Trust who had the privilege of knowing her.



In memory and thanksgiving for the life of Julia, her family requested that a fundraising page be set up to support the work of the Jubilee Hope Medical Programme in Tanzania.

Further details can be found here: [www.vinetrust.org/u/fac72](http://www.vinetrust.org/u/fac72)



# En route to Lake Victoria!

In our last edition of Connections we shared with you the exciting news of Vine Trust's latest ship, the MV Lady Jean.

A lot of hard work has taken place over the past few months to get the MV Lady Jean ready for transportation and we're delighted to report that the ship is now currently on its way to Lake Victoria. We are particularly grateful to Babcock International for their incredible support in making this possible.

Unlike Vine Trust's other ships, the MV Lady Jean is not sailing under its own power but, rather, transported within a container ship.

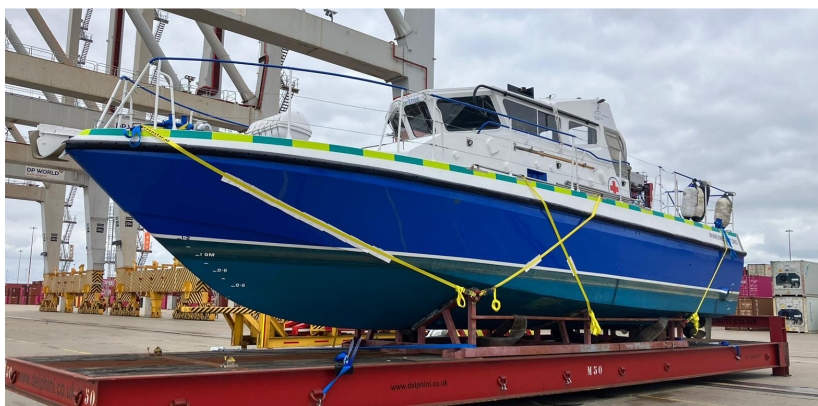
However, like the MV Jubilee Hope, it will cross Kenya overland from Mombassa to Kisumu before making

the final leg of the journey, sailing south on Lake Victoria to the city of Mwanza, Tanzania.

The MV Lady Jean will enter into service with the Jubilee Hope Medical Programme towards the end of the year, significantly increasing its capacity to reach patients on the remote islands of Tanzanian Lake Victoria.

A significant part of this ship's work will be to create a new supply chain of life-saving medication (antiretrovirals) for people living with HIV, as well as enhance existing testing, counselling and treatment services provided by the Programme.

We look forward to sharing with you more news about its arrival!



# School Expeditions Return to Tanzania!

It's only a few weeks ago that Katie Halliburton, Vine Trust's Volunteer Support Coordinator stepped off the plane back in the UK after an extended visit to Tanzania to oversee the return of our school expeditions programme. Katie worked closely with the team from TAWREF (Tanzanian Women Research Foundation) and was supported by highly experienced Vine Trust volunteer, Doug Gillies to provide an exciting range of impactful experiences and opportunities for school students and teachers. We hope you are encouraged and inspired by the following report on her time in Tanzania:



*Doug and Katie in Tanzania*

*We are overjoyed to share that our Vine Trust School Expeditions have been back in action for 2024! After several years of pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our UK students have once again travelled to Moshi, Tanzania.*

*This year, we were delighted to reignite our partnership with TAWREF, giving our students a remarkable opportunity to immerse themselves in community development practises.*



*Side by side with local builders (fundu) and community members, they experienced the vibrant Tanzanian culture and the power of creating lasting change.*

*Giving the students the opportunity to work on-site with the community, families and the fundu not only broke down barriers but also fostered deep, meaningful connections. Our students saw how the homes they were helping to build represented hope, stability, and brighter futures for these families. Witnessing the strength, compassion, and dedication of each student over their two weeks in Tanzania was an absolute honour.*

*Doug Gillies and I were incredibly proud of the impact the students clearly felt but also made - whether by engaging with the local people or sharing joyous moments with the children - the growth in our young people was truly inspiring.*

*Over the month of June, three school expeditions took place, consisting of 58 students and 9 members of teaching staff from various parts of Scotland embarked on this journey.*

*This was made up of Milne's High School from Fochabers, Perth Grammar School from Perthshire, and Galashiels Academy from the Scottish Borders.*

*From the 4th of June to the 1st of July the students, working under the expertise of the fundu, Elly Kimaro and the TAWREF team, helped to construct 5 homes across the area of Moshi in the beautiful Mount Kilimanjaro region.*



*Galashiels Academy*



*Milne's High School*



*Perth Grammar*



## Here are some of highlights of the Vine Trust school expeditions...

### **Cultural Celebration!**

*A particular highlight was the partnership dinner and ceilidh, where Scottish and Tanzanian cultures blended beautifully through dance.*



*The evening began with a captivating performance by local dancers, who even invited our leaders to join them on the dance floor.*

*Following a feast of traditional Tanzanian cuisine, our students took the lead in teaching the TAWREF team Scottish country dancing, marking the first Vine Trust Tanzanian ceilidh held in five years!*

*One memorable highlight was a student from Milne's High School who brought a fiddle and played for the Tanzanian team, creating an unforgettable cultural exchange.*



## Tree Planting!

*Given the critical importance of understanding climate change and educating the next generation about caring for our planet, we were thrilled to include our climate change and tree planting day into our expeditions. This activity featured students from Mwenge Catholic University in Moshi, who presented and discussed the impacts of global warming and climate change on their region in Tanzania.*

*Hearing about the effects first hand helped our students grasp the visible signs of climate change, such as the ever-shrinking snow cap on Mount Kilimanjaro.*

*The activity concluded for all schools with a visit to a much more arid region of Moshi, where they participated in a new reforestation initiative aimed at providing much-needed shelter and shade in areas severely affected by deforestation for fuel. Each student planted five trees in school grounds or along riverbanks. In total, our three school expeditions successfully planted 335 trees over 5 weeks, marking a significant step towards environmental restoration and sustainability.*



## Immersing in Tanzanian Traditions!

*On Sunday afternoons, the students visited the Chagga Caves and Coffee Plantation. They learned about the rich history and customs of the Chagga people, one of the largest tribes in the region.*

*After a long day of exploration, the students observed the entire coffee production process - from*





*picking and de-husking to toasting and grinding the beans - before enjoying a taste of the freshly made coffee. This experience was not only educational, offering insights into Chagga traditions, but also highlighted how many locals make a living through coffee farming and sales.*

*The final part of each school trip was a Safari organised and run by our fantastic partners, KLM Safaris. This two-day adventure offered students the incredible experience of game drives through the breathtaking landscapes of the Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire National Park. Over the course of the three school trips, students had the thrill of spotting all of the Big Five: lions, zebras, elephants, giraffes, and even a leopard!*



## **Empowering Global Citizens: The Impact of Vine Trust School Expeditions...**

*Before our students embark on their journey to Tanzania, we strive to instil in them a sense of responsibility as global citizens and the importance of becoming advocates for change. Upon reflection after the expeditions, it was evident that the experience itself had a profound impact beyond what our words could convey.*



*Being deeply immersed in the local culture, meeting incredible people, and learning about the work of organisations like TAWREF leaves a lasting impression on our young people, and it has been an honour to be part of this transformative journey.*

*We hope the expedition leaves a lasting mark on our students, who may return home with a newfound passion, a clearer sense of direction, or simply cherished memories.*

Here is just some of the amazing feedback we have received from students:

*“I’ve enjoyed my time here, I feel like I have found a true purpose in my life, to just help where I can. I showed I can be a leader and take a bit of responsibility and show I can be someone people can always ask for advice and help.”*



*“This trip has helped me explore different cultures. It has helped me in building new views on life. The trip often made me emotional. I am proud of the work I have done and I hope to experience more of these trips in the future.”*

*“This trip has changed my view of how we live and given me a completely new perspective of the world. This trip has been great and has made many memories.”*



## Working in Partnership to Change Lives...

*We want to express our gratitude to Dafrosa Itemba, Elly Kimaro and the fantastic team at TAWREF for welcoming us so warmly back to Tanzania, helping to organise and collaborate in making our expeditions such a success. The kindness and passion they show for the work they do across their many projects in the Mount Kilimanjaro region is incredibly inspiring and left a lasting impact on us all.*

We'd love to connect your school with our partnership programme in Tanzania. See [page 18](#) for more details. You can also support this partnership through our [Moshi Families Support Appeal](#) on [page 22](#).



# Snake Bites, Speedboats and School Kits

We're delighted to share with you an update from Amazon Hope's National Director, Roman Rodriguez, as he reflects on all that has been happening in Peru so far this year:

*"Like every year, 2024 began with challenges and much to do in the Amazon communities. Our local team and volunteers, aboard the Forth Hope ship, have carried out five 20-day expeditions along the Amazon and Ucayali rivers, visiting rural and indigenous communities with little access to health services. Thus, during this first semester, 51,677 services were provided!"*

*One of the most shocking stories was that of Carlos (photo right), a farmer from Sargento Lores community, who suffered a poisonous snake bite. His leg was swollen, very painful and bleeding. He had already been treated at a health post, but there they did not have enough medicine. On the boat we gave him medicine, took care of him all night and the next day he was walking and very relieved. If the ship had not been there, this man could have lost a leg.*





*Over these months we've also had 27 international volunteers join the expeditions to provide help to people who live far away, crossing many borders, whom they have never seen before, whose past they do not know, but who want to do something to improve their future. These are beautiful acts of kindness and solidarity that must be recognised and sustained.*



*We have not only served the communities on the Forth Hope ship. With costs covered by authorities, we've been travelling by small plane and speedboats to reach much more distant areas such as Andoas, near the border with Ecuador, where the services have benefitted many people.*



*This year we've also been able to use our links and access to remote communities to support education initiatives. In coordination with other Peruvian partners, we delivered 200 school kits to several communities. These materials are essential for kids to successfully advance in their educational process and have better future opportunities.*



*In this way we have worked during this first semester, bringing health, education, solidarity without borders and hope to the neediest places in the Amazon."*

# Building Strong Foundations at Kazunzu



The vision for the Kazunzu Village of Hope is to have a strong, flourishing community which can impact the lives of the thousands of people in a wide variety of ways. Central to the success of this vision are the families living there. Recognising this important fact, the main focus of the work taking place at Kazunzu since the beginning of the year has been on strengthening the support for the families through counselling, access to grant funding, and skills training opportunities.

The Women and Children Department within AICT Geita Diocese continues to play a key role in working alongside the families to provide support and guidance, with Department Coordinator, Martha Marko and colleague, Joyce Mathias making regular visits to the village.

In our last edition of Connections, we shared our 'Seed Funding' appeal to help with support for a variety of agricultural projects at Kazunzu which, in turn, would provide training, food for the families and also to generate income as part of the self-sustainability targets for the village. We are delighted to have received very positive reports they have already had successful maize, rice and tomato harvests, and there are plans to expand these in the coming months. Many thanks to everyone who supported this appeal through their generous donations.

As well as providing training and capacity building for the families, the project has also been strengthening the knowledge and skills of the Kazunzu Management Team to help them deliver in their vital role as they work with the families to develop the project. We look forward to seeing the work at Kazunzu continue to grow as they build upon the strong foundations which are being laid with the families and local leadership team.



# Global Citizenship Conference

On Saturday 25th May, the sun shone on Leith as Vine Trust held its 'Global Citizenship Conference', bringing together over 60 delegates from across the UK to meet with representatives from its partnership programmes in Peru and Tanzania.

The event celebrated the impact of volunteering, both national and international, on the work Vine Trust has supported over the years, and reflected on global citizenship in 2024 and beyond.

The morning session focused on Peru, with presentations from Roman Rodriguez, Director of Amazon Hope, and Frank Guardia, Volunteer Coordinator, who shared insights from his years of supporting Vine Trust volunteer medical professionals and students in the Amazon.

In the afternoon, a video presentation by Elly Kimaro highlighted the value of volunteers through the Tanzanian Women Research Foundation in Moshi, followed by a report from Samuel Limbe on the Jubilee Hope and Kazunzu projects.

A number of UK-based Vine Trust volunteers also shared personal testimonies about the expeditions' impact on their lives.

We would like to thank everyone who took part on the day, and look forward to holding other similar events in the future.



# “I See The Medical Ship As A Godsend!”

Behind all of the statistics of patient consultation numbers and work achieved, there is an individual story of a patient whose life has been changed through the compassionate and caring work of the Jubilee Hope team.



This wonderful truth was highlighted again recently during a recent visit to the islands, when the team met up with a patient who had accessed its services over the years.

The patient, Zaituni is 53 years old, a single mother of two who has been living with HIV since 2010. Zaituni shared with the team about how one particular visit to the ship brought life-saving help and a big surprise. Here’s an update from the Jubilee Hope team about Zaituni’s story:

*“In 2017, Zaituni was seriously ill, with no nearby healthcare facilities and limited financial resources, so she started using natural herbs suspecting she had malaria. Despite her efforts, her condition was even worse after two months, leaving her with worrying symptoms. The cost of travelling to*



*the mainland for medical help was difficult leaving her feeling helpless and isolated.*

*After two months, she still could not understand what was wrong. Her body was changing and she had severe vomiting. At that time, the MV Jubilee Hope arrived at her island and she decided to go for a checkup and some tests. The testing revealed that she did not have malaria but was actually pregnant! Zaituni remembers the shock, noting “this was a miracle to me and very strange because I thought I was no longer able to have children”.*

*Despite the unexpected pregnancy, Zaituni was overjoyed at the welcoming of her second child.*

*The Doctors aboard the Jubilee Hope provided her with medical advice, in particular about the importance of continuing her HIV medication and managing her pregnancy safely. Due to some other medical conditions she was suffering from, the doctors warned that childbirth could be complicated and advised her to travel to the mainland for a safe delivery when the time came.*

*Zaituni followed the advice and when she went into labour, she travelled to the mainland where she delivered safely her son, Yusuph with an emergency operation.*

*Zaituni said “You can imagine if the medical ship had not arrived at my island, I would not have known I was pregnant and would have endangered my baby. I see the medical ship as Godsend because I could have died years ago!”*

*Today, Yusuph is a healthy five-year-old, having tested negative for HIV, which is a testament to the successful intervention of the Jubilee Hope team. Zaituni remains hopeful and prays for the continued visits of the medical ship knowing that many on her island are in need of medical care and support.”*





# School Expeditions 2025 & 2026



Embark on a transformative 2-week journey with Vine Trust's international volunteering for school students! As you can see in the update from the recent expeditions (pages 6-11), there are so many positive impacts that these experiences can have on students, teachers, families, and communities.

A Vine Trust school expedition extends beyond constructing homes for families. Our volunteering opportunities are designed with local partners and schools to foster personal growth and academic enrichment. Students engaging in international volunteering gain invaluable life skills such as teamwork, cultural awareness and appreciation, empathy, adaptability, and resilience.

By connecting with the Tanzania Women Research Foundation (TAWREF), students spend quality time with contacts in the local community, hearing individual stories as well as the impact of wider issues such as climate change. We'd love to connect your school with our partnership programme activities in 2025 or 2026. If you'd like to know more, contact [katie@vinetrust.org](mailto:katie@vinetrust.org) or call the Vine Trust office.



# Medical Volunteering 2025

We are excited to announce that our 2025 medical expeditions to the Peruvian Amazon and Lake Victoria, Tanzania are now open for registration. Our in-country partners are seeking healthcare professionals and final-year students to work under their guidance, providing essential and high-quality support to isolated communities. If you or someone you know would be interested in participating, please contact us at [health@vinetrust.org](mailto:health@vinetrust.org) for more information. Here are the trip dates for 2025:

## Amazon Hope (PERU)



- 19 Feb – 5 Mar
- 28 Feb – 14 Mar
- 23 Mar – 6 Apr
- 1 Apr – 15 Apr
- 30 Apr – 14 May
- 9 May – 23 May
- 31 May – 14 Jun
- 9 Jun – 23 Jun
- 1 Jul – 15 Jul
- 10 Jul – 24 Jul
- 7 Oct – 21 Oct
- 16 Oct – 30 Oct
- 7 Nov – 21 Nov
- 16 Nov – 30 Nov

## Jubilee Hope (TANZANIA)



- 8 Feb – 22 Feb
- 8 Mar – 22 Mar
- 5 Apr – 19 Apr
- 3 May – 17 May
- 31 May – 14 Jun
- 5 Jul – 19 Jul
- 6 Sep – 20 Sep
- 18 Oct – 1 Nov
- 15 Nov – 29 Nov





# Vine Trust <sup>40</sup>

## **Vine Trust celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2025**

In 2025, Vine Trust will celebrate its 40th anniversary! To commemorate and celebrate this important milestone, Vine Trust is planning to hold a number of special events across the UK.

The events will take on a variety of different formats, each with the opportunity for past and present volunteers to meet together, celebrate everything that has been achieved and look forward to all the great work still to be done in the years ahead.

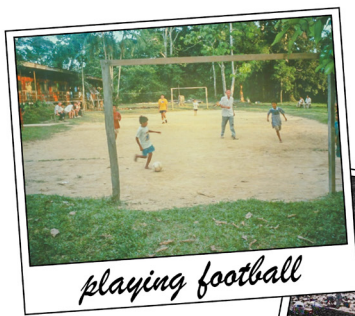
It will also be a great opportunity for anyone interested in knowing more about the work of Vine Trust and how they can get involved to support our partnership programmes' development and expansion.

Keep an eye out for email updates and our social media channels for event announcements. We look forward to celebrating with you and sharing Vine Trust's vision for the years ahead.

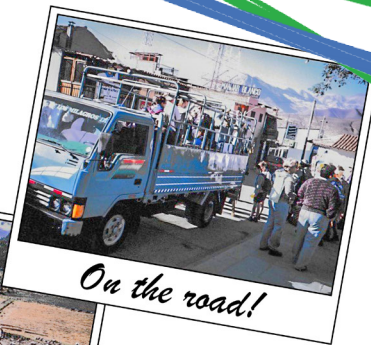
## **Would you like to join an adult team expedition in 2025?**

Vine Trust are organising an adult team expedition to Moshi, Tanzania to work with our partners, TAWREF and their homebuilding project. If you'd like to know more, contact Katie ([katie@vinetrust.org](mailto:katie@vinetrust.org)) or call the office (0131 555 5598). You can also sign up now via the website: [www.vinetrust.org/trips](http://www.vinetrust.org/trips)

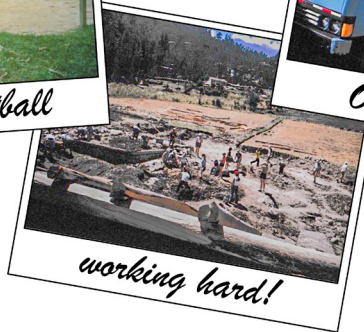




*playing football*



*On the road!*



*working hard!*

**PERU**

**2003**

On 21st July 2024, Vine Trust marked the 21st anniversary of its first adult volunteer expedition to Peru. This pioneering group of 30 volunteers, connected through Bo’ness Old Parish Church, Barclay Church, and other networks, embarked on a journey that set the stage for future expeditions.

From 21st to 28th July 2003, the volunteers stayed at a hostel in Caraz. They began work on a new centre for street children at Kusi in the Yungay Valley, laying foundations and building the much-needed facility.

Neil Graham, a Vine Trust Trustee and long-term volunteer, led this initial expedition. He fondly recalls, *“Since there was no on-site accommodation, we travelled daily from the hostel in Caraz on a blue truck, which was ideal for cooling down after a hard day’s work. We made 20kg adobe mud bricks with our bare feet and left them to dry in the sun.”*

During the second week, from 28th July to 4th August, the volunteers visited Puerto Alegría, a jungle centre for street boys, an hour upriver from Iquitos. This visit highlighted the crucial work supporting vulnerable children in the Loreto region.

These expeditions have evolved, but the initial ‘work party’ provided invaluable insights into creating impactful volunteer opportunities. Neil reflects, *“Connecting with the children and families we supported has always been central. Playing football with local kids and receiving friendship bracelets to sell for fundraising were special moments.”*

# Moshi Families Support Appeal

**TARGET: £6,500**

Vine Trust's partnership with TAWREF (Tanzania Women Research Foundation) is well established and has helped provide nearly 150 homes for vulnerable children and women in the Kilimanjaro of Tanzania. Although the focus of the partnership in reports is often on the wonderful new home that these families receive, a vital element of TAWREF's work is the ongoing support that they provide afterwards.

Vine Trust seeks to partner with TAWREF in this support for the families. This takes a lot of time, hard work and dedication, and has been fundamental in helping the families take the next steps forward after having received their home through the TAWREF-Vine Trust partnership.

To help facilitate this essential support for the families, we are reaching out to our supporters and volunteers to ask if you would be able to help provide funds to allow Vine Trust to strengthen its assistance to TAWREF so that they can continue supporting the many families that are part of this wonderful community programme.

To support this work, you can either use the donations slip on the next page or donate to our special fundraising page on the Vine Trust website through the below QR code or the following link: [www.vinetrust.org/u/fae40](http://www.vinetrust.org/u/fae40)



Your Details	
Title:	First name(s):
Surname:	
Address:	
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Email:	

## Moshi Families Support Appeal

£ \_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like my Standing Order to support (please tick one):

General Operations

Peru Medical Programme

Tanzania Medical Programme

Kazunzu – Village of Hope

Where the Need is Greatest

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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**

The Vine Trust is registered in Scotland as a Company Limited by Guarantee. Company No: SC268073. Registered Charity No: SC017386.

Registered Office: The Vine Trust Barge, Prince of Wales Dock, Edinburgh, EH6 7DX



# VineTrust



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