

Shops, Sales and Volunteers

Our shops continues to thrive, although we have been **very** short of volunteers recently in the Beverley shop. If anyone would like to help, please let us know! Sue Falcus is our new shop manager in Beverley (pictured overleaf). Across all the Jacob's Well sites, volunteers gave almost 26 000 hours of help over the past 12 months. A big THANK YOU to all who helped! Our next Toll Gavel book sales are **23rd July, 20th August, 24th September and 22nd October.**



We have arranged an exciting **fundraising evening**. There's an arrival drink, 3 course dinner, Soul & Motown music with live 7 piece band "*The Rogues of Rythm*" and lead singer & D.J. *Sean Finch*. Cost £40. Dress up, dress down, bring your friends and have fun. Or, why not make this your Christmas staff night out! We will do a special promotion for businesses buying tables of 10. Donations of raffle prizes welcome. For more info; Bridget Conroy at the office.

We are always grateful for your generous support which enables us to continue sending this precious aid to those who need it the most.

Jacob's Well Appeal. Tel. 01482 881162. Email office@jacobswellappeal.org

www.jacobswellappeal.org



Registered Charity No. 515235



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Syria

Syria has been very much on our heart for the last couple of years, but up until now we couldn't find a way to get involved. So we felt that it was an answer to prayer when we were asked by an organisation *World Share* if we could send a container of **clothes and blankets** to Macedonia to be given to the refugees as they trudged through the winter snow on their way to Europe. We were overwhelmed by donations – literally tonnes of clothes poured in over a few weeks, enabling us to send a full 40 ft lorry. Thank you to all who gave!

Later in the year, we linked with *Samara's Aid Appeal* to send our first container of **medical supplies** to war-torn Syria. Since the conflict began in 2011, over 300 000

people have been killed within Syria – more than the entire population of Hull! At the same time, over 9.5 million people have fled the country. What is less known is the extreme crisis facing the hospitals there. During the conflict, over 177 major hospitals have been destroyed, many in attacks that have deliberately targeted health-care facilities. In 2015 alone, 697 medical personnel lost their lives in these targeted attacks. Health-care workers are leaving the region in droves. 60% of Syria's hospitals are now either closed or functioning at a seriously reduced capacity. At the same time as hospitals are closing, the need for emergency medical care has never been higher.



SYRIA Contd. With over 25 000 people injured each month in the fighting, the hospitals that are left are filled with very pitiful scenes of human suffering imaginable. Patients with very serious injuries are lying all over the floor. Long queues snake down the corridors and out into the streets, as people wait for hours to be seen. The few health workers that remain are working around the clock, re-using equipment that was designed to be thrown away after one patient, making do with no anaesthetic, drugs or bandages.

Following a special appeal, we put together a very valuable 40ft container full of medical supplies, including items like medication, bandages, medical disposables, operating equipment, hospital beds, prosthetic limbs and crutches, all of which are in very short supply. Again, thanks to all who supported that appeal, especially to Anne and Trish who raised over £1800 with their sponsored cycle ride.

Mobile River Clinic

Over the summer we are planning to ship a **Mobile River Clinic Boat** out to *The King's Village* near Tamale, Ghana in one of our medical aid containers. This boat, built by a ship



-builder in Hull and paid for by a grant from the Rotary Club, will be used as a mobile health clinic on the White Volta River to bring medical care to the many villages along the river that can't be reached by road. The mobile clinic, which will be staffed by a doctor and a couple of nurses, will be fully equipped to enable them to provide medical care in remote places. It will also be used as an ambulance to transport sick patients to hospital. We are excited to be involved in this project, although there is still a significant funding gap and no money in place as yet for the long-term running costs. This project is a partnership between And Albert, The Rotary Club, King's Village Ghana and Jacob's Well.



Ghana

At the beginning of the year our new Doctors, Alistair and Margaret Robertson, visited Ghana and saw both the agricultural and fruit tree projects as well as visiting several hospitals that receive our aid. Unfortunately, Sandra, our field leader, is currently back in the UK with serious health issues, and will be unable to return to Ghana in the short to medium term. She would value your prayers for a complete and speedy

recovery. Sandra's friend Ruby who was working with another aid organisation in Ghana, has stepped in to help us continue our projects. Now is the agricultural season, and our three tractors are working in poor communities around Tamale, enabling the local villagers to increase their food production significantly. In addition, our "**Seed Bank**" lends seed to local women, enabling them to grow crops that they otherwise couldn't afford. At harvest time they return to us the amount of seed they borrowed, but they keep all the surplus!

Fruit Trees for Life

We are now working with another charity in the North of **Ghana** to plant fruit trees for several very poor, remote communities. One of the major causes of blindness in Africa is Vitamin A deficiency – this will be eliminated if we can grow mangoes etc in these communities, as well as helping to prevent malnutrition and hopefully providing fruit to sell in the market. In **Burkina Faso**, after successfully planting several fruit tree plantations last year, we are currently engaged in 10 new plantation, with a further 20 lined up! The orchards are planted in very poor needy areas and make a real long term difference to the communities.

