

ARDINGLY OLD JESHWANG ASSOCIATION: A.O.J.A

Chairman's Annual Report 2010-2011

The Trustees are pleased to present their report for the year ended 30th June 2011

AOJA was formed in 1993. Its aim is to provide affordable healthcare to the community of Old Jeshwang, The Gambia.

The Charity registration number is 1024627 and is governed by its Constitution dated 6th August 1993.

Registered Office: The Mount, Selsfield Rd. Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6TJ

The Charity is managed by a committee of 12 persons, including the officers:

Mr Stephen Doerr. : Chairman
Mrs Peggy Guggenhiem. : Secretary / Administrator
Mrs Barbara Monk. : Treasurer.

The trustees are the above and in addition: Mr Lynn Wilson, Vice Chairman
Mr David Ogilvie.

The charity's bankers are Barclays and all three officers are signatories.

Dr. David Jenkins

This year the committee lost one of its founding members, Dr. David Jenkins. He had worked tirelessly with the previous chairman Dr. John Dale to establish our clinic as a centre of excellence and was a source of constant support even as his terminal illness took hold. David was a joy to know, a privilege to work alongside and his passion to pass on his knowledge and experience to young doctors will be greatly missed.

Finance

The detailed results of the year are set out in the annexed Receipts and Payments Account. There was an excess of receipts over payments of £8,434 which includes £2,313 set aside to complete the refurbishment of the pathology lab. The cash funds remaining at the end of the year of £18,055 (£20,368-£2,313) have put the association in a much more secure position; bearing in mind it is responsible for the monthly salaries of 37 staff, from midwives, path lab technicians to administrators, groundstaff and cleaners. In particular the association will be in better position to ride out adverse fluctuations in the exchange rate which have been a cause of concern in the past.

This improved financial base will also give the opportunity for greater investment in the infrastructure of the clinic to make it more self sufficient – a long term objective of the association.

Sponsorship

The sponsorship scheme continues to flourish as our main source of regular income. We now have some 150 sponsors giving a monthly income of around £2000 which

almost covers the running costs of the Health Centre including salaries and overheads. Separate fund raising events have continued to help redress any monthly shortfall.

These events have included, coffee mornings, charity dinners, BBQs, and concerts. We are particularly indebted to our corporate sponsors at St. Peters Church, Worth School, Bidborough Primary School, and Balcombe cubs.

A significant legacy of £5,000 and a similar grant from the Order of the Knights of St. Lazarus is enabling the association to plan for future development with some confidence. These funds will be used to complete the refurbishment of the pathology lab in 2011 and build new living accommodation for a watchman/caretaker, in 2012.

Visits and Future development.

Throughout the year groups have gone out from the UK to give specialist support in midwifery, primary health care, medical research projects and building maintenance. The retention of high standards in all these areas continues to be a priority and is often commented upon by visitors to the centre. A main focus of next year will be a review of our plans for 'sustainability' and the next phase of the development for the whole health centre compound.

Clinic Activities

The activities of the health centre continue to grow, with the infant welfare clinics thriving. The general out-patient attendances, an important part of the clinic programme, increases relentlessly.

Deliveries continue to increase as news of our 24 hour care spreads. Approximately two-thirds of the women attending the antenatal clinics are now delivering their babies at the health centre.

The appointment of a new senior path lab technician is enabling us to expand our range of testing.

The 'feeding' programme, initiated to meet any acute nutritional needs, continues, as does the anti malaria 'bed net' project. The bed nets now arrive pre-impregnated which has made for a much smoother operation.

Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS)

The elective programme, started a few years ago, continues. Brighton and Sussex Medical School has been keen to see a structured programme for their students and plans have now been finalised in conjunction with the Medical Research Council (MRC) in Fajara. Students will stay at the MRC for 6 weeks, spending Monday and Tuesdays at our Health Centre, the busiest days and the remainder of the week at the MRC. Two students from BSMS are due to go out in September 2011, under the new arrangements.

Research

With the increasing number of births at the health centre we are now in a position to audit the birth outcomes. A study is underway to examine the effect of maternal anaemia during pregnancy on the well-being of the mother and baby at delivery. This study will indicate what can be achieved in The Gambia in a health centre with facilities such as those available at Old Jeshwang.

For this data collection, ethical approval is being sought locally from the combined ethics committee of the Gambian Government and the Medical Research Council. It has been a long process but a positive response is expected by the end of the year.

Pharmacy

The revolving drug fund continues to keep us adequately stocked but the system still requires review in terms of suppliers and rate of consumption of some items. Backary our cashier is now taking a greater role in the day to day management of the centre and taking more of the workload off our hard pressed administrator. This year saw Backary successfully complete Stage 2 of his accountancy exams funded directly by the association. This support will be continued for his stages 3 and 4 next year.

Buildings and Plant

The buildings remain in good condition, with the continuation of our rolling plan of redecoration and visits from groups of UK sponsors who are always able to put their varying skills to good purpose.

Our magnificent generator still cuts in most days to cover for the regular power cuts which are a feature of Gambian life! However its overhaul this year revealed that some new parts will be required! The new cashier's office, has transformed the way he works. New access arrangements to our Public Health Officer have ensured that the library is no longer used as a waiting room.

Old Jeshwang (OJ) Management Committee

The O.J. management committee continues to be ably led by its chairman Emmanuel Stafford who in supporting our administrator, Abdoulie Sowe, is developing a good team spirit and sense of ownership amongst the staff.

Risk Assessment

The trustees have identified and are aware of any risks to which the Charity is exposed and will keep this under constant review to establish procedures to mitigate those risks.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Chairman.