

Ardingly Old Jeshwang Association
Charity Account No. 1024627

1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017

I have examined the documentation and agreed the accounts as presented.



.....
W Bearchell - Honorary Auditor.

Date...02/10/2017.....

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

Chairman's Annual Report 2016-2017

The Trustees are pleased to present their report for the year ended 30th June 2017

AOJA was formed in 1993. Its aim is to provide affordable healthcare to the community of Old Jeshwang, an urban village in The Gambia, of some 20,000 people. To this end, in 2000, we built and equipped a modern health centre, which we now staff. Although unable to support it financially the Gambian government accepts our facility as an integral part of its health care system and is the permanent home of the Area Public Health Officer, overseeing immunisation and blood donation programmes.

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

Registered Office: Avins Bridge Cottage, College Rd, Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6SH

The officers are:

Mr Stephen Doerr: Chairman

Mr Lynn Wilson: Vice Chairman/Secretary

Mrs Peggy Guggenheim: Treasurer

Mrs Barbara Monk : Assist Treasurer.

The trustees are: Stephen Doerr, Lynn Wilson, Barbara Monk and Mr David Ogilvie.

The charity's bankers are Barclays where three of the four officers are signatories.

Finance

The detailed results of the year are set out in the annexed Receipts and Payments Account. The cash funds, without charge, remaining at the end of the year, of £16,705 reflect another busy financial year with the final costs of commissioning the new generator and the construction of a much needed additional medical store. This planned capital investment has been facilitated by the initiation of our sustainability programme by which the Health Centre is now able to give more support to staff salaries using income from the Pathology lab and Dental surgery, allowing us to better plan and fund 'renewal and development'. All of this has taken place against a backdrop of a somewhat turbulent change of government but, we have been able to maintain our 'six month running cost fund' in line with good financial governance and necessary to fulfil our commitment to the monthly salaries of our 45 staff.

Sponsorship

The sponsorship scheme continues to be our main source of regular income with our sponsor pool constant at about 130 supporters, giving a monthly income of around £2000, which underpins the running costs of the Health Centre including salaries and overheads.

Inevitably we lose some of our 'more elderly' long standing supporters but their places are always filled by new sponsors who are often impressed by the directness of our funding chain to the Gambia, which allows little scope for loss or wastage.

The thoughtful loyalty of our individual sponsors, who periodically increase their level of subscription, has enabled us to establish a more regular doctor's presence, with a paediatric clinic in the morning and a G.P surgery in the afternoon. In addition, income from increased

clinic activity continues to enable the Health Centres management committee to fund its own staffing demands and decisions. Separate fund raising in the UK continues to support new initiatives and essential refurbishment. These events have included representation at local country fairs, charity lunches, BBQs, concerts, talks to community groups and individual family initiatives. The association also now benefits from the donation of ‘unwanted items’, including ‘house clearance’, the value for which is realised with the support of a local auction house. We are particularly indebted to our group of corporate sponsors; St. Peters Church Ardingly, St. Nicholas Church Brighton, Worth School, Bidborough Primary School and Redcoat Express Gatwick.

During the year our new website came on-line, aoja.org, which should make it easier to give more regular news updates.

Clinic Activities

The activities of the health centre continue to grow, with the infant welfare clinics thriving. Deliveries at the clinic averaged at around 25 per month close to the expected level for our catchment area. Ante Natal visits continued above 1700 for the year with approximately two-thirds of the women attending delivering their babies at the health centre.

The general out-patient attendance, an important part of the clinics work, continues to increase above 1500 patients per month as we maintain our high standards of care and friendly atmosphere. This has been the first year that we have been able to fund a doctor’s presence all day with a paediatric clinic in the morning, focussing on the under-fives and a G.P. surgery in the afternoon. Retaining this level of a doctor’s presence is likely to be a challenge for the future as doctors remain in short supply.

The completed refurbishment of the Bantaba meeting place has transformed how we deliver some other core aspects of our work, with three smart new offices created around the periphery, for Immunisation, Blood donation (called “the bleeding room!”) and the third room for Stock control. Our disease surveillance unit now based here continues to be at the frontline of reducing the incidence of Malaria with its insecticide nets, education programmes and prompt diagnosis and treatment. The remaining central area, with chairs, tables and benches set out for Community Health Clinics, also serves as a teaching space complete with blackboard. This is being well used by our pathology team for training and also for an increasing number of community health talks. The blood donation facility continues to attract much local support and is enhanced by its new home. During a recent visit to the health centre this area had a real buzz!

The ‘feeding’ programme, initiated to meet any acute nutritional needs continues, as does the Global Health Fund initiative using our Health Centre for the counselling and testing for HIV/AIDS.

Our dental surgery is now well established with the work of our dentist and his technician continuing to be very popular! The team have also been joined by an assistant, whom they are training.

The ambulance continues to provide key transport for patients from home to Health Centre and emergency transport to hospital. With its distinctive Old Jeshwang Health Centre logo it makes an excellent advert for our services. However, the steep rise in the cost of petrol is currently of some concern.

We continue to work closely with the Area Public Health Officer based on our site. This year we have been able to further support her work by providing a new room for vaccinations in the Bantaba which will also take some pressure away from the main clinic area.

Pathology Lab

The lab, offering over 25 different tests, goes from strength to strength. The enthusiastic team of 9 staff are well led and continue to run their own training course for path lab assistants. We remain conscious of the need to update and add to their essential equipment - as soon as we can identify a source of funding!

Given their significant contribution to the success of the health centre, with over 15,000 tests carried out annually - this amazing, well- motivated team deserve some extra support.

Pharmacy

The revolving drug fund has kept us adequately stocked but the system still requires monitoring in terms of suppliers and rate of consumption. An audit is planned next year to review its whole operation. Additional deliveries from the UK and other sources have helped to maintain stocks of essential items but with provision in the Gambia continuing to be uncertain our health centre can often be the only source, for the general public, of some key drugs.

Education

The association continues to facilitate educational needs as they arise within the health centre with grants for staff training in specialist areas such as midwifery and accountancy. Individual children continue to be supported at primary and secondary level through our network of sponsors. 2016/17 also saw support for a second university student through to their degree.

Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS)

The elective programme continues to be available with Brighton and Sussex Medical School and involving the Medical Research Council (MRC) in Fajara. Students stay at the MRC for 6 weeks, spending one day a week at our Health Centre, usually a Monday or Tuesday the busiest days, and the remainder of the week at the MRC. Generally two students from BSMS go out at a time, when they are able to visit other local medical facilities apart from helping with our Ante-natal and Infant Welfare Clinics.

Provision also remains to support students studying for the M.Sc. in Global Health. So far we have had 6 students using data from OJHC for their MSc Dissertations and expect at least another in 2018.

Research

With the increasing number of births at the health centre we continue to audit the birth outcomes. This study to examine the effect of maternal anaemia during pregnancy on the well-being of the mother and baby at delivery has been extended to include the association between many risk factors and subsequent adverse birth outcomes. After some 7 years with various political and administrative hurdles surmounted we now have some of the first fruits of this research and expect them to be available in 2018. It will also indicate what can be achieved in The Gambia in a health centre with facilities such as those available at Old

Jeshwang. The association is pleased to continue its support of this successful partnership with BSMS, in its various forms, to improve primary health care in The Gambia.

Buildings and Plant

The new generator is now fully operational, looking very smart in its completely rebuilt generator shed, and frequently giving hourly backups to an increasingly erratic national power supply. Due to the critical part it plays in our day to day service we now have it on a monthly service contract with a Dutch company based in Banjul. However, due to its increased use and the steep rise in the cost of fuel some modifications may be required.

The reconfiguration and refurbishment of the Bantaba building is now complete and is a local centre for the embryonic national blood transfusion service.

The roof has also now been thatched making it a cooler place to work and a much more welcoming venue. The Gambian Health Authority is already using this facility to extend their 'Health in the Community' programmes.

During the year it became obvious that a new large general store was needed. (We never addressed this issue when the old sea containers used for general storage were removed and the retained items redistributed around the Centre). The new large store will be next to the generator shed which, hopefully, will also help to maintain a 'decluttered site'. The foundations for this have already been laid and will be known as 'Mary's store'. (see below)

The buildings generally remain in good condition but the cycle of redecoration is relentless and the external toilets still require re-ordering.

Future development.

Throughout the year individuals and groups have continued to visit our clinic to give specialist support in midwifery, primary health care, medical research projects and building maintenance. The retention of high standards in all these areas remains a priority and continues to be commented upon by both visitors and new patients to the centre.

The increased income from the Dentist and expanded Path Lab is now on- stream giving the centre some real financial independence. Although this is not part of the AOJA accounts, we expected for transparency that this was likely to require additional monitoring by OJHC. To this end a new accountant has been appointed to audit and regularise the increased cash flow.

The retention of a doctor's presence is likely to be a critical issue in the future and the provision for on-site accommodation for visiting doctors and nurses which was on the original plan could be part of a solution.

Old Jeshwang (OJ) Management Committee

The O.J. management committee continues to be ably led by its chairman Emmanuel Stafford, although the unexpected and untimely death of his wife Mary, this April, has inevitably precipitated some unsettlement. However, Abdoulie Sowe, our administrator retains a good team spirit and continues to strengthen our staff structure to meet the demands of the Health Centre's increased use.

The system of monthly reporting continues, enabling us to respond more accurately to changing circumstances at the centre where our staff work in an uncertain economic climate.

Risk Assessment

The trustees have identified and are aware of potential 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

Stephen Doerr
Chairman.

31st July 2017