



**Enabling communities
to help themselves**

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2021

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INTRODUCTION FROM SECRETARY

I want to say a huge thank you to the individuals which make up our team:

- Trustees who give so freely their time. Emma Sarton is resigning from the board at this meeting and we thank her for her long service and contribution.
- Thanks to Mark & Enable-Ed for your expert project management, invaluable knowledge and Enable-Ed for sponsoring the Big Give.
- This year we have continued to be heavily reliant on the internet for our communications. This is definitely not the same as meeting face to face but it has meant that we could recruit trustees from across the country. I want to thank our volunteers Lee and David for the many hours they contribute to the social media website and newsletter. Regrettably the Link Up meetings have had to be suspended as we have no one to run them. We hope that we can organise more face to face meetings moving forward and welcome any suggestions.

- Thank you to you our members and followers who have once again been most generous with your financial contributions and your time and effort in fundraising.
- Of course our partners in Nekemte are the people on the ground who make things happen. This year has been incredibly difficult for them with the political unrest and now the huge rise in inflation. Our volunteer Murti has been an absolute hero in delivering our projects and keeping us updated. Huge thanks to Murti and Tesema and the whole DASCC team.
- One of our objectives as we move forward as a charity is to engage more closely with our project workers and beneficiaries in Nekemte. It was with a heavy heart that it has been necessary to terminate our contracts with the project workers as the large, funded UKAid projects have drawn to a close. We thank them for their achievements.

The charity is very much in a state of transition with the disappearance of large funding opportunities, a reduction in active volunteers and a reduced number of board members. We see this as an opportunity to bring in new people and develop closer links with our projects.

By Dawn.

2021 UPDATES:

- 2021 was a hugely challenging year because of the political situation with the projects not being able to work in rural areas because of the presence of security threats.
- Where possible we pivoted support to town schools and other local easier to reach schools (although the team often carried out monitoring visits on foot on 3 to 4 hour round trips).



Libraries and Literacy

- We have supported librarians in 34 libraries, with over 50% being females.
- On average approximately 18,000 students access our libraries per month and over 1000 books are borrowed monthly.
- Our data shows that those students who access the library regularly improve their grades.
- We have also improved 11 schools libraries with more books and furniture.

Some of our Librarians



Libraries and Literacy Continued...

- We have piloted girl's tutorials in six schools to improve girl's literacy.
- We are waiting for full results in but for three schools where the teachers delivered the tutorials (in three others librarians delivered the tutorials) it is looking like it has been tremendously successful. Huge well done to them.



The Inclusive Education Project

- This continued though on a much smaller scale because our UK Aid grant came to an end.
- We were very pleased as it was acknowledged that our project met our outcomes/outputs proposed and in a number of areas UK AID, in particular for primary education, our project greatly exceeded its targets.
- A small amount of additional funding was received from the Waterloo Foundation to help continue the project.

In 2021:

- ✓ 6 more disability clubs were set up supporting 56 disabled children
- ✓ 28 Deaf Students were provided with tutorials in grade 9-12 in Biftu Nekemte
- ✓ 12 Students were provided assistive devices
- ✓ 78 disabled adults and parents of disabled children accessed two new Savings and Loan Associations and over the year they saved ETB £12000 (approx. £200)

- Case Studies overleaf...

DEAF STUDENT CASE STUDY

Name: Ermiyas Solomon

Age: 18

Gender: Male

School: Biftu Nekemte

Ermiyas is an active and outstanding student. He came from West Wollega to Nekemte School for the Deaf, and then went onto Biftu Nekemte school. He is from a very poor family, his father has been in bed for several years paralyzed. He had been going to a normal school, with no translation/sign support, where he could only lip read.

Ermiyas is a brilliant student with a special gift which started on the day he joined Nekemte School for the Deaf. Now in secondary school- he came 3rd in exams in his whole class.



Exeter Ethiopia Links Involvement:

- ✓ **TUTORIALS FOR THE DEAF:** 3 months prior EEL's Inclusive Education Project started to provide tutorial classes for 12th, 11th and 9th grade deaf students of Biftu Nekemte secondary school, in key subjects, Ermiyas wrote an application letter for support. We agreeded to support this clever student.
- ✓ **EMPLOYMENT:** Ermiyas is now employed through EEL funding as the Deaf Student Librarian for the school, earning ETB.1200.00 a month.

DISABLED STUDENT CASE STUDY

Name: Saron Adugna

Age: 10

Gender: Female

School: Merkefa Primary School

Saron is physically disabled, using crutches to get around. She has a spinal cord problem.

Despite her physical disability, she is sociable, has good memory skills, is a hard worker, with a gentle manor.

Saron is a role model for other disabled children at her school.

Her academic performance shows that she stood 1st in her class for 2 years continuously and has received two awards from Inclusive Education project.



Exeter Ethiopia Links Invoivement:

- ✓ **DISABILITY GROUP / SAVING & LOANS GROUP:** Saron is from a very poor family. She & her parents benefited from our Disability Club and the Parent Support Group (which are official legal organisations, offering loans & saving opportunities) these have enabled Saron to continue to attend school.

The Bike Project

- Our little bike club launched in 2021 has gone from strength to strength with it getting considerable media attention.
- Some new bikes have been bought, existing ones repaired and all the girls now have a bike outfit



The Bike Project:

The bike club has even appeared on the BBC and Voice of America

Shamarreen Ingilaand turte akkamiin Naqamteetti kilaba saayikilii shamarranii hundeessite?

6 Guraandhala 2022



Shamarree Murtii Dhugaa Sanyii Magaala Naqamteetti dhalattee kan guddatte yoo ta'u, biyya Ingilaand keessatti kilaba saayikilii hawaasummaa 'Pelsall Social Cycling Club' jedhamu keessatti hirmaachaa turte.

Amma gara biyyaatti deebi'uun manneen barnootaa lama keessaa shamarran 13 calaluun kilaba saayikilii shamarranii hundeessite.

Yeroo ammaatti gara biyyaa deebi'uun kilaba saayikilii hundeessuun cinatti hojiilee tola ooltummaa hojjechaa akka jirtus BBCti himteerti.

Gaafiifi deebiin BBCn shamarree Murtii Dhugaa Sanyii waliin taasise kunooti.

BBC: Gara biyya Ingilaand maaliif deemte ati?

Murtii Dhugaa: Gara hiya alaa kanin daamef maatiinkoo arbi iirsachaa waan

Isin hin darbiin

KALLATTIIN Waraana Raashiyaan Yuukireen irratti banteen namoonni saddet ajjeefaman

'Lammileen Itoophiyaa Yuukireen gara daangaa Poolaanditti baqatan jiru'-Lammii Itoophiyaa Kiyeev jirtu Sa'aatii 2 dura

Yuukireen keessa qabatamaan amatti maaltu ta'aa jira? Daqiiqaa 53 dura

Maaltu haasa'ama?



Masrii fi Sudaan hidhi haaromsaa anniisaa maddisiisuu eegaluun 'waliigaltee faallessa' jedhan

21 Guraandhala 2022



Oduu BBC Afaan Oromoo

30 Amajjii 2020



YEAR OF THE TREE



- In a promising start to the Year of The tree in January 2020 members and friends of EEL participated in the planting of an oak tree in Belmont Park, Exeter. Unfortunately, Covid-19 meant future fundraising events had to be cancelled. One such event was the Taste of Ethiopia Banquet but thanks to the generosity of people not requiring refunds we have money to go towards are next project.
- A tree, planted in memory of John Rainger, an active member of Exeter Ethiopia Link for many years was thought be a fitting end to the Year of The Tree. Again the pandemic prevented such plans but in cooperation with the people of Kings Nympton on the 2nd June of this year a Crabb Apple (John's favourite) was planted prior to lighting the beacon as part of the Queen's Jubilee.

Some of the wonderful trees drawn by the children from Burka Bekumsa School in preparation for the short lived but fruitful Year of The Tree.



EEL UPDATES: MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

- A big thank you to all our members who continue to subscribe to EEL and to those who donate to specific projects throughout the year.
- Membership currently stands at 102 members.
- With your help we hope that this will increase over the next year.
- So please spread the word:

EEL Enabling Communities to Help Themselves

CURRENT MEMBERS = 102



TREASURER'S REPORT

Von Mathieson from Exeter Community Accounting has examined our accounts for January to December 2021 in line with financial legislation, and submitted her report to the Trustees.

The Link has finished 2021 with total funds of £42,993.00 (2020: £51,869.73). This decrease is in part due to the funding cycle of our ongoing projects. We have received the last of the monies for the ongoing Inclusive Education Project and the Schools, Libraries and Literacy Project. In addition we have carried out fund raising, including the very successful Big Give towards the end of 2021 (This is reflected in the restricted line for "Librarians"). Some of the monies raised through the Big Give were transferred to our accounts at the beginning of 2022, and so have not come into this account reporting.

Covid and the current socio-political situation in Ethiopia has impacted activities in Nekemte again. This has led to some alteration in activities in line with the goals of the funded projects. This has allowed us to continue with the project objectives and is reflected in the expenditure of £763.28 (general funds) and £46,863.15 (restricted funds).

Further expenditure on the projects has continued in the first half of this year, and will be accounted for in the accounts for 2022 (these will be presented in the 2023 AGM).

Currently the accounts for the Exeter Ethiopia Link are healthy, with totals of £16,864.88 in unrestricted funds and £26,129.13 in restricted funds (£42,993.00 total).

The Link has finished 2021 with total funds of

£42,993

(2020: £51,869).

(See separate Financial Report for detail)

What's Next:

We have reached the end of funding from the government Small Charities Challenge Funding for our projects around inclusive education and libraries and literacy (and librarians). This may mean that forward planning of projects and activities will need a close eye, with targets matching the reduction of funds coming in. However, we are financially in a good place to focus on key activities, and increase fundraising efforts to keep our contributions to Nekemte effective.

GOVERNANCE, PEOPLE AND ROLES

TRUSTEES:

Continuing Trustees	Trustees Standing Down	Ex-officio Trustees	Candidates for Election
Penny Pullen	Emma Sarton	Dawn Swettenham (Secretary)	NA
Ella Sadler	Anna Pawlyn	Kirsten Pullen (Treasurer)	
Annie Bainbridge			
Liz Horsefield			
Dawn Swettenham			

GOVERNANCE, PEOPLE AND ROLES

OFFICERS:

Role	Officer
General Secretary	Dawn Swettenham
Treasurer	Kirsten Pullen
Membership Secretary	Annie Bainbridge
Fundraising, social media, publicity	Lee Davies
Website Editor	David Scarbrough
Projects Coordination	Enable-Ed
Treasury Team	Kirsten Pullen + Von Matthieson
Volunteers	Oscarine & Sue Parks

2022 STRATEGY

I. ATTRACT NEW ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS, WHETHER THAT BE AS TRUSTEES, MEMBERS OR VOLUNTEERS

HOW:

- Local activity in Exeter – respect festival
- Encourage followers on social media
- Encourage sign ups to the newsletter
- Advertise locally and on volunteer recruitment websites
- Engage with schools nationally and reigniting our link up scheme
- Improve access to our partners in Nekemte through video links and a project manager employed by EEL

2. MAINTAIN FUNDRAISING

HOW

- Repeat The Big Give
- Make our projects relevant and give donors a clear idea of the issues and how their donation of either money or time will make a difference
- Continue with our annual Year of the.... Focus. See *next slide*. This is working well but we need to be aware of the need to provide continuity for certain projects.

3. PROJECT EFFICIENCY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

HOW:

- Employ a project manager in Nekemte, who may be supported by Murti
- Use the skills and expertise of new volunteers
- Continue to work with Enabled

2022 FOCUS: YEAR OF THE GIRL...

To reduce inequality and promote health, safety and wellbeing for girls living in the Nekemte area of Ethiopia.

We hope to fund:

- £50 a month to support 60 girls - less than £1 per girl per month
- £75 a year to support a female librarian.

Additional Projects:

- £200 per year to employ a deaf librarian
- Supporting Girls Clubs

What is certain:

Whether it be raising literacy skills or providing a safe space to learn, every penny raised will go towards identify and helping girls in need.



PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT