NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2016

REGISTERED CHARITY 1145455

FRIENDS OF NIXON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL SEGBWEMA, SIERRA LEONE

# New Water Well Complete!

Welcome to the 6th Friends of Nixon Newsletter letting you know of our ongoing work supporting the Nixon Memorial Hospital in Segbwema, Sierra Leone. Despite the many challenges that remain, we are very happy to share news of the successes of recently completed projects at the hospital including a new water well, provision of oxygen facilities and provision of air conditioning for the pharmacy and theatre all of which will have immediate and long lasting benefits for hospital patients and staff. These infrastructure projects have been implemented alongside our continuing longer term commitments to training, essential medicine funding and community health work. We are immensely grateful for the help we continue to receive from our supporters, both individuals and groups, without whom we could not continue this work.

In this issue:


- Hospital Update and Dr. Tom Kenny
- New Water Well
- Oxygen for the Hospital
- Staff Training Update
- A well stocked (and air conditioned) pharmacy!
- Latrine update
- Appeal for Medics

The new water well and pump on the hospital site, funded through Friends of Nixon, has been completed and is now fully operational, improving the water supply at the hospital for patients, staff and students. Dr Missa, the Medical superintendent, reports already seeing a significant decrease of typhoid fever among the students as a result of the new water well.

## Hospital Update & Dr. Tom Kenny

The hospital continues to improve the daily service it provides to the population of Segbwema through much needed outpatient and round-the-clock inpatient medical care. It is starting to see the benefits of significant investment since the resolution of the Ebola Outbreak, including a new triage centre at the entrance of the hospital, a new water well (funded through Friends of Nixon), hand washing facilities and a solar powered electricity supply. The hospital has seen an increase in activity since the arrival of Dr Tom Kenny in March, a voluntary doctor from the UK, who Friends of Nixon is supporting. He has helped Dr Missa, the resident medical superintendent, provide essential medical care. Currently the inpatient wards, particularly the children's ward, have been reaching capacity, reflecting both the huge on-going local healthcare needs and the increasing recognition of the value of the hospital services by the community. Dr Tom has been a great asset to the hospital, delivering training for both nursing students and hospital staff, alongside implementing a number of projects to improve the treatment patients receive. He has been keeping the UK updated with his time in Sierra Leone through his blog which can be read at https://tominsierraleone.wordpress.com

# Oxygen for Nixon!

Many children who arrive at the hospital do so very unwell and late in the course of their illnesses. Giving oxygen to these children as part of their initial treatment can be of potential lifesaving benefit. The provision of oxygen can improve the chance of survival for children suffering from breathing difficulties as a result of conditions including chest infections and malaria. It will also enable improvements in the clinical training of nursing students by teaching them when and how to use oxygen. Piped oxygen or the use of oxygen cylinders is not currently practicable, but since the completion of a solar project providing (almost) 24 hour electricity for the hospital, the provision of oxygen became an achievable goal through the use of oxygen concentrator machines. Friends of Nixon funded the purchase and transport of a new oxygen machine and tubing for the children's ward. This has now been installed and is operational, with children deriving immediate benefit on a daily basis. Following the success of this project on the Paediatric ward, the charity has subsequently funded a further 3 oxygen machines for the hospital (currently en route from the UK) in order that this basic and potentially life saving treatment is consistently available in other areas of the hospital, including the theatre, maternity ward and adult medical wards.

The oxygen machine in use on the Paediatric Ward.

The first patient (Aminata) who received oxygen from the new machine – preparing for discharge with her happy parents and student nurse.

## Staff Training

The 2 nurses who Friends of Nixon funded through midwifery training have completed their course and are awaiting their graduation. They have returned to their full time work at the hospital, doubling the number of qualified midwives working on the maternity ward. Lansana Momoh, a nurse who the charity supported through his final year of public health training (Bsc.), has taken on the role of the public health tutor at the nursing school following completion of his training. The charity is currently assessing the options of how best to help provide further suitable training opportunities for its staff.

In addition, as well as providing ward based training for students and staff, Dr Tom has been providing on site interactive training on the immediate treatment of unwell well children, making use of teaching equipment previously donated by Friends of Nixon.

# A Well-Stocked Pharmacy

Friends of Nixon's commitment to provide funding for essential medications continues to run successfully in its first year. As a result of the initiative, together with the input of partner organisations, including the Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone (CHASL), the pharmacy is now consistently well stocked with necessary essential medication, enabling continuity of medical care.

Boxed of recent purchased medicines waiting to be unpacked outside the hospital pharmacy

Dr Missa inspecting the new air conditioning unit outside the hospital pharmacy

## Latrine Project

Trustee William Hobson is currently in Sierra Leone undertaking an assessment of the progress of the hospital's community work and latrine project, which will help inform the future direction of this valuable health education and disease prevention work.

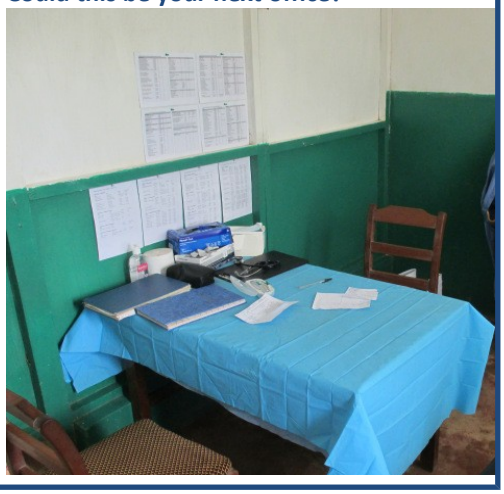
## Air Conditioning for Pharmacy and Theatre

At the hospital's request, Friends of Nixon recently funded two air conditioning units for the operating theatre and for the pharmacy to ensure medications are stored in the correct environment. They were installed at the end of July and are now functioning well.

# Appeal for Further Voluntary Medics

Dr Tom Kenny has been a great asset to the hospital, but unfortunately his time at the hospital is nearing its end. There remains a huge need for further doctors with relevant medical or surgical experience to help support Dr Missa (the sole permanent Sierra Leonean doctor at the hospital) provide care to the people of Segbwema. Friends of Nixon is actively trying to recruit such individuals and can provide a bursary to cover basic travel and living costs. An advert is attached at the back of the newsletter. We would warmly welcome further distribution and or interested enquiries.

**Could this be your next office?**



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT

**We are immensely grateful for the generous support we receive from individuals, trusts, Groups and Churches ; We could not continue without you!**

**If you wish to donate please contact:**

**Mr Robert Dixon (Treasurer for FoN), 11a Denbigh Road, London, W11 2SJ**

**Email: ROBERT.DIXON@HOTMAIL.COM**

**Chairman & Newsletter co-ordinator: Robert Burnie Email: ROBERT.BURNIE@DOCTORS.ORG.UK**

**Website: www.FriendsofNixon.org.uk**

**Trustees are more than happy to consider speaking on the work of the charity.**

# Donate to Friends of Nixon Online!

Donate to us through mydonate BT The free online donation service

In addition to regular methods of giving, it is now possible to donate to the charity online through "MyDonate", a commission free service offered by BT.

Please see https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/friendsofnixonmemorialhospital or follow the link on the home page of our website.

FRIENDS OF NIXON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL SEGBWEMA, SIERRA LEONE

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To qualify for Gift Aid what you pay in Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax must be at least equal to the amount that will be reclaimed this tax year.

Email: Robert.dixon@hotmail.com

Post: Friends of Nixon Attn. R. Dixon, 11a Denbigh Road London W11 2SJ

# Nixon Memorial Hospital, Segbwema, Sierra Leone

## Medical Opportunity Advertisement : Medical Doctor

Applications are sought for the post of a Medical Doctor at Nixon Memorial Hospital, Segbwema, Sierra Leone. A minimum of 2 years post-graduate medical experience is required (Completion of UK foundation Programme or equivalent) together with full registration with the GMC or equivalent. Experience in obstetrics, paediatrics and emergency medicine is desirable as is some experience of working in a low resource setting or an insight into tropical medicine.

***About the hospital:*** *Nixon Memorial Hospital is a mission hospital in rural eastern Sierra Leone, approximately 330km from Freetown. It serves an estimated population of 30,000 providing daily outpatient and 24 hour inpatient care across 5 wards including paediatrics and maternity. It has a functioning operating theatre and laboratory offering basic investigations. It continues on a programme of rehabilitation and progress after its destruction during the Sierra Leone civil conflict which ended in 2002. It was briefly closed during the Ebola Epidemic which impacted significantly upon the hospital, as it did all health services in Sierra Leone. However since the end of the epidemic the hospital has continued to make progress in providing much needed care to its local population and has most recently benefited from a solar project giving the hospital 24 hour electricity. It is currently staffed by one permanent Sierra Leonean doctor and 1 visiting British doctor. Nixon Memorial Nursing school is attached to hospital and students undertake their clinical experience at the hospital.*

**The role**: Will include provision of inpatient and outpatient clinical care across medical specialities, although there is scope for the successful applicant to additionally focus and potentially lead care on an area of particular interest.

The opportunity will enable the successful candidate to:

- Gain exposure to, and develop skills in managing, common tropical diseases.
- Improve clinical skills and decision making in a low resource setting with minimal laboratory investigations or imaging support.
- Gain leadership skills and management skills through working with a multi-disciplinary team of nurses, midwives and students and being part of the hospital's management team, overseeing the day to day running of the hospital and its strategic development.
- Develop teaching skills and experience through working alongside the attached Nixon Memorial Nursing School.
- Develop clinical improvement processes, protocol or guidelines in their area of interest.
- Play a role in guiding and assisting the re-development of the hospital to meet the needs of its community.

**Remuneration:** The post is voluntary. A bursary of up to £3000 can be awarded to the successful candidate to contribute towards flights and living costs. Accommodation is provided free of charge as is transport from Freetown to the hospital on arrival.
Registration with the Medical and Dental Council of Sierra Leone is required and can be organized on arrival in country on production of original medical qualifications.
**Duration:** Applicants should be able to commit for a minimum of 6 months.
**Start date:** Flexible
**To apply** or for further information please contact Dr Robert Burnie
Email: Robert.burnie@doctors.org.uk Mobile: (+44) 07742765819
(Chair, Friends of Nixon Memorial Hospital, Segbwema, Sierra Leone (UK registered charity no.**1145455**