



Livingstonia  
Hospital Partnership

## Partnership News

Issue 5 October 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

As Halloween rapidly approaches and will soon be over our attention will turn to Christmas – this year the Partnership will again have Christmas cards for sale, some with the same designs as last year and others with designs especially drawn for us with Christmas themes, please see the promotional leaflet with this letter. There is no calendar this year but I hope you will support the ethical Christmas gifts as these provide much needed aid and equipment such as the mosquito nets which can save lives and the water heater that is so simple and yet can revolutionize life especially for women.

In May this year I returned for a short visit to the hospital – it was good to see old friends and to appreciate first hand both the work that continues to be done and the problems faced by management.

The Management Committee is facing hard decisions about the need to make savings and will have to implement reduced salaries or cutting staff if they are to remain within their budget. Getting agreement between the Committee, the Board and the Staff has not been easy but DGMH is not immune from the world financial crisis and so even these low paid workers will have to take a cut.

The Partnership continues to send regular support to DGMH - £4000 per month. It was lovely at the AGM in May to hear first hand from Mr Young Soko and Mr Lovemore Mkandawire what this support means to patients and staff at the hospital. They were over in Northern Ireland for a short visit after spending some time in Scotland learning how to operate and maintain the new boat ambulance which is now stationed at Mlowe.

We had a very entertaining evening at Belfast Bible College and Young and Lovemore were delighted to receive new uniforms for the hospital football team.

It was with regret that I learned recently that Mr Robertson Gondwe has been transferred to Ekwendeni hospital. Robertson has been in charge of DGMH since 2006 and has done a great job in very difficult circumstances – throughout his time of leadership he has managed to keep the hospital functioning well. He has successfully negotiated a Service Level Agreement with the District Health Officer and this has increased the workload. There have continued to be development in buildings and services. As I handed over the care of the hospital to him I was very comfortable knowing I was leaving it in capable hands. He will be missed at Livingstonia, but he is returning to the hospital he started in and so will perhaps feel he is returning home.



Mr Penjani Sichinga is taking over as In Charge. Penjani was sponsored to attend the Developing Health Course by the Partnership and visited Northern Ireland in 2007. His main interest is in surgery. We wish him well in his new, difficult role and pray that he will be given full support by all staff and will have wisdom and strength to make the necessary difficult decisions.

Once again I would like to thank you for your vital support over this year. We depend on you to help the hospital and are delighted that through this support the David Gordon Memorial Hospital continues to serve the community and can look forward to its 100<sup>th</sup> year celebrations in 2010

If you would like to receive communications electronically please email your address to the address below.

Thank you,

Maureen Stevenson  
Chairperson

For email communications please email your details to [info@livingstonia.org.uk](mailto:info@livingstonia.org.uk)

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