

100th Latrine Completed!

After over 4 years of hard work and close collaboration between the hospital, the communities of 20 surrounding villages and key trustees of Friends of Nixon, the construction of over 100 double latrines have now been completed. Overseen by the hospital's public health team, local communities have worked together to build these vital resources in improving basic health and hygiene. Throughout each phase of the project the process has been refined; skills sharing, the introduction of a block making machine and more effective accrual of materials has increased efficiency of this valuable work which the communities are understandably proud of.



Friends of Nixon have been collaborating with the hospital in its next steps in community health care work and education. The hospital is planning to provide each village that has built latrines with a 'Tippy Tap' – a hands-free way of washing hands, operated by a foot pedal, therefore reducing the risk of contamination during the process. Friends of Nixon are supporting this initiative through funding a workshop day where 4 individuals from each village, two male and two female and including the villages community health representatives, attend to learn about how it is used and its benefits. They then return to their villages and share what they have learnt. Following this they will continue to promote the use of the tippy tap and oversee the maintenance of the equipment.

Spring 2018

Registered Charity No. 1145455

www.friendsofnixon.org.uk

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Illustration of the proposed 'Tippy-Tap'

Water Purification



The hospital proposed an application last year requesting funding to instate a water purification system on the hospital grounds. Following the completion of the new water well, funded by Friends of Nixon the hospital team decided its next step was to have the facility to purify its own water. The water passes through an ultra-filtration and is then sealed into plastic packets and sold as individual units or in bulk packs at a small charge. Being able to produce their own water on site that could be sold to patients & their families, student nurses and staff rather than waiting for the 'water truck' to pass through the hospital compound a couple of times a week enables the hospital to better promote the drinking of hygienic water as well as make a small profit for the hospital, encouraging steps towards sustainability.

As production has increased they are now able to take the water out into the community to be sold. The water packets are stamped with the hospitals name. This not only identifies the source of the water but acts as a reminder to local residents that the hospital is there for them when they need it to meet their health needs. The machine is housed in a purpose-built building & a member of staff is employed to maintain the machine and oversee the production of the water. The hospital has registered the activity with Government Department of Water and Sanitation who oversee quality control and have procedures in place to monitor the water quality. Friend of Nixon Trustees who have visited this year have been able to sample the produce themselves (and can vouch for its purity!)



Staff Training and Development

Friends of Nixon's continued efforts to support staff in further training and professional development have this year seen nurse Rachael Koroma successfully complete her first year of the state registered nursing qualification. She returned to work at the hospital during the break between terms and is now well underway in the second year of the course.

We are pleased to report that the two nurses who undertook midwifery training, funded by Friends of Nixon are both enjoying their new roles, implementing their new skills on the maternity ward at the hospital.

Friends of Nixon continues to liaise with the hospital management to offer support for staff members who are identified as potential candidates for further training.

Essential Medicines

The partnership between Friends of Nixon and the hospital to ensure continual access to essential medicines has moved into its third year. The hospital management continues to monitor the needs of the pharmacy to ensure that it is well stocked with vital medicines that contribute to core basic care.



New classrooms and Computer Suite

Two new classrooms funded by Friends of Nixon have now been completed and are being used by the Nursing school to train the nursing students. In addition, a new computer suite with computers donated through the Practical Tools Initiative is now successfully running. The facility greatly enhances the educational experience for the nursing students and staff and is also open to the general public who can pay to use specific programs.



A new motorbike to support community health work

As part of our continual commitment to community health, Friends of Nixon have agreed to fund the purchase of a motorbike for the use of the public health team.

Motorbikes are crucial in enabling the hospital staff to get to the surrounding villages to deliver health promotion messages and follow up on projects already in place, including the latrine building.

The roads to many of the villages are narrow single tracks, not accessible by larger vehicles. Therefore, to ensure the efficiency of their work, a motorbike plays a key role.



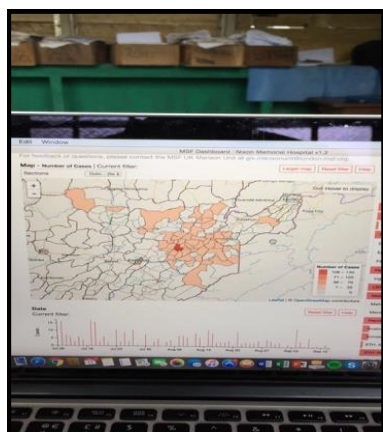
Dr Ed Monk's visit to Nixon Hospital

Dr Ed Monk spent several months working at the hospital from March 2017. As well as supporting Dr Missa in core medical services he also invested a large amount of his time developing a community mapping project. See Ed's initial report below for more details.

Since returning to the UK Ed has visited Segbwema several times to follow up on the project and Friends of Nixon has recently agreed further funding to support the next stage of the work, mapping bed-net distribution in the area surrounding the hospital, and the impact on the incidence of severe malaria in children.

"Before arriving in Segbwema, I had been in contact with an experienced MSF logistician, Ivan Gayton, who was planning a self-funded mapping project within the communities of Kenema and Kailahun districts and we decided to collaborate to implement a custom-made public health tool based at the Nixon Hospital, driven by the data collected by community mapping.

On arrival to Nixon, I poured over the registration and filing systems of patients' notes and the records of attendances, presentations and diagnoses. The system in place on arrival was surprisingly thorough compared to other hospitals I have visited in Africa, an opinion also held by Ivan when he visited in June. However, the recording of villages only by name, and the coding of diagnoses from quite complex and often chaotic history sheets lead to a) the inability to retrospectively trace a patient and b) incorrect coding of diagnoses.



The first issue was addressed by Ivan and his community mapping team visiting each of the 650 settlements within Nixon's catchment area (found through quadrant analysis of satellite images by OpenStreetMap and 'Missing Maps' volunteers), asking the name of the village, if there are other names, the spelling of those names, the chiefdom, the section, the district (some villages considered themselves in sections which wouldn't previously have been the case looking at satellite images, redefining boundaries), the market days, the water supply, the Chief and health worker's name and contact details. This data was then formed into a 'gazetteer'; a directory which is now used on arrival to the hospital by the points of registration to record the district, chiefdom, section and exact village of origin. This paper ledger record is then transcribed to an Excel spreadsheet by local staff to result in the exact GPS coordinates of patients attending the hospital.

The second issue has been approached by the implementation of a specially designed stamp added to the notes of patients on the arrival to hospital, with a reserved space for physicians to record the presenting complaint and diagnosis. The effects of this are two-fold:

- 1) If the staff member recording the presenting complaint/diagnosis cannot read or understand the entry or an entry is missing, they are now empowered to ask the physician what the presenting complaint/diagnosis should be, rather than choose options from elsewhere on the clerking or making assumptions based on the clinical information provided.
- 2) Physicians have a point of focus and now consider the primary diagnosis for coding, rather than incidental findings or aspects of a presentation which do not give the full picture (eg for severe anaemia secondary to *P. falciparum* malaria infection, a coding of 'severe malaria' is of much greater value than 'anaemia').

The second phase of the mapping project was the implementation of mapping software, designed for Nixon's catchment area, which reads the registration Excel sheets to map diagnoses to geographical locations. There are currently over 300 recordings and the project continues to grow, run by local staff. The full potential of the dashboard software should be met once we have one year of data (estimated to be 2,000 entries), allowing the mapping of trends abnormal to the local areas to be calculated and flagged. This will culminate in a final software update, allowing the rates of diagnoses in each chiefdom and section to be compared to previous months and previous years.



"The potential benefits of such data are immense, both in detecting disease outbreaks and evaluating the distribution of the burden of both infectious and non-infectious disease and the targeting of public health interventions."

Medical Relief and Anaesthetic Training

Following Dr Ed's productive time at the hospital we were pleased to be able support voluntary medic Dr Rachel Pringle to work at the hospital in late 2017. Together with assistance from her partner Jack, she was able to provide some much needed relief to Dr Missa, help embed initiatives started by previous medics on the Children's ward and provide valuable feedback to the work that we do. We are also excited to share the news that UK based Anaesthetic Consultant Dr Chetana Nandanwar is about to embark on a visit to Nixon targeting Anaesthetic training. Through improving education of staff in this key area and sharing her experiences of working in other low resource settings she hopes to improve the safety and comfort of patients needing surgery at the hospital and update staff on practical skills.

Do you read the Methodist Recorder?

Look out for an article about the work of Friends of Nixon and the hospital coming soon!



Thank you for your continued support!

We are immensely grateful for the generous support we receive from individuals, trusts, groups and churches. We could not continue to support the hospital without you!

If you wish to donate either on a regular basis or a one off donation
please contact our treasurer Robert Dixon
11a Denbigh Road, London, W11 2SJ / Robert.dixon@hotmail.com

See also details about online donation through MyDonate on the next page.

For general enquiries or to discuss the possibility of a trustee speaking on the charity's work please contact our Chair Dr Robert Burnie - Robert.burnie@doctors.org.uk



THANK YOU!

Friends Database

We are currently updating the information we hold on our Friends. If you have recently changed address, contact phone numbers or email address do please let us know so we can ensure you continue receiving newsletter and other updates from Friends of Nixon. If for any reason you would prefer to be removed from our mailing list do let us know.

Changes to details can be sent to Robert Dixon.

Robert.dixon@hotmail.com

Friends of Nixon, c/o R Dixon

11a Denbigh Road, London, W11 2SJ

Thank you to all those of you who joined us for our AGM in December. It was a great occasion to hear of the progress at the hospital over the last year, to hear reports from those who have spent time there over the last year and to consider future projects at the hospital.



Come and join us!



Do you know anyone looking for a new challenge?

Friends of Nixon continues to look for voluntary medics to spend time at the hospital.

See the advertisement on the next page.

If you know anyone that might be interested or are able to display the advertisement please get in contact!

For further details contact Robert Burnie

Robert.burnie@doctors.org.uk

Donate to Friends of Nixon Online!



In addition to regular methods of giving, it is also 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.



SINGLE GIFT AID DECLARATION

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and authorise *Friends of Nixon Memorial Hospital* to reclaim the tax through Gift Aid on my donation of £.....

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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 benefited from a solar project giving the hospital 24 hour electricity. It is currently staffed by one Sierra Leonean doctor and a Community Health Officer supported by a small nursing team voluntary overseas medics. 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

Opportunities may also be available for nursing and midwifery professionals, especially those with an interest in education or management.

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))