



Hamlin Fistula UK

Supporting the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia

Charity
Number:
1153053

Newsletter October 2018

(All patients' names are changed to protect their identity.)

Hamlin Fistula UK is 50 years old.

How did we begin?

Doctors Reginald and Catherine Hamlin, both gynaecologist/Obstetricians, moved from Australia to Ethiopia in 1959. While working in the Princess Tsehai Memorial Hospital in Addis Ababa they became aware of the plight of the fistula patients.



They were determined to do all they could to help these patients and they became pioneers in performing surgery for women suffering from this debilitating problem. The two doctors soon realised that what was needed was a hospital which they would dedicate to helping these poor patients. Funding was needed for

this massive project and early in 1968 they came to England on a fund-raising tour.

Dr Reg. Hamlin lectured at the Birmingham University Medical School which has an outstanding record as a teaching hospital. Professor Hugh McLaren heard this lecture and he knew the Hamlins, he had been to Ethiopia to work as a locum while Reg. and Catherine had



a well earned holiday. Professor McLaren knew a certain Mr Harry Payne who had made a fortune out of his shoe repair shops. Hugh told Harry about the Hamlins needing money for the work they were doing in Ethiopia. He promptly gave money to the Hamlins. Soon after this, at the end of 1968, our charity was formed.



Professor McLaren and Mr Payne were among the first Trustees, it was then called Hamlin Churchill Childbirth Injuries Fund. In 2007 the name was changed to Hamlin Fistula UK.

The fundraising had to continue. Dr Catherine recalls how quickly they learned to ask for money and says they soon became 'professional beggars'. It was in 1974 that their Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital was finally opened.

The organisation has grown over the years. Five Outreach hospitals have been built, these are strategically placed around Ethiopia so that the 'fistula pilgrims' have shorter distances to travel to access medical treatment.

We have Desta Mender, 'Village of Joy', this is a Reintegration and Rehabilitation Centre for patients who have undergone life-changing surgical procedures. The centre has incorporated a cafe, Juniper Cafe, which is open to the public and is run by the women at Desta Mender who wanted to learn hospitality skills.

Dr Hamlin was eager to put trained midwives out into the remote countryside areas of Ethiopia, so we also have a Midwifery College, training students to a B.Sc. Degree level in Midwifery. The College has celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.

Our UK charity has been raising funds and our trustees making regular visits to the hospital ever since the hospital opened. We have watched it grow from a small family-run unit into the centre of world-wide excellence it is today. Dr Catherine often says, "These women have suffered more than any woman should be called upon to endure. To meet only one of them is to be profoundly moved and calls forth the utmost compassion that the human heart is capable of feeling".

The continuation of the charity is all thanks to you, our donors and people who help us in so many ways. Without you we would not have been able to help as we have for 50 years. Thank you for your on-going support.

How are we celebrating our 50 Years?

We are arranging a special celebration day in October this year.

Date: Saturday 20th October 2018.

Venue: Quinton Methodist Church, Ridgeway Avenue,
Halesowen, West Midlands. B62 9AU.

Time: from 10 am until 4 pm.

Invitations: If you wish to attend, please print off the application form (page 5) – fill in your details and reply by 28th September at the latest.



Hamlin Fistula UK is 50 years old

1968 - 2018

Charity
Number

1153053

You are invited to attend our Celebration Day on Saturday 20th October 2018
at Quinton Methodist Church,

Ridgeway Avenue,

Halesowen,

West Midlands B62 9AU

Coffee and tea will be served in the Hall from 10 am.

This will give you the opportunity to view the time-line exhibition before the proceedings start at 11 am in the Church and will finish at about 4 pm. There is a large car park adjacent to the Church. A buffet lunch is included in the day's proceedings.

Presentations will be given by those who have long associations with the hospital and will include up-to-date details of the hospital, including the Midwifery College. We are delighted that the Dean of the College will be with us. We also have permission to show an early BBC film about the hospital.

Numbers are strictly limited, so bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis. All applicants will receive notification of whether or not we are able to offer you a place. Please bring your invitation card with you on the day.

An application to attend (a maximum of 2 people per application) must be made by completing the slip below and forwarding it to:-

Hamlin Fistula UK
4 Parade Buildings,
Nimmings Road,
Halesowen
West Midlands. B62 9JJ

PLEASE RETURN YOUR APPLICATION BY FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER AT THE LATEST

I hope to see you on this special day.

Malcolm S Hewitt Chairman

.....

(Please complete and return this reply slip)

I (we) wish to attend the Hamlin Fistula 50th Celebration Day at Quinton Methodist Church on Saturday 20 October 2018 (Maximum of 2 people)

(Please use capitals)

Name(s) 1.

.....

2.

.....

Your Address (for the

reply).....

.....

.....

.....Post Code.....

Tel:.....

Email.....

.

Greetings from Dr Hamlin.

“I send my warmest congratulations to the UK Trust for reaching 50 years of service to the poor women of Ethiopia. Your support of the patients, and particularly to me, has been quite exceptional and I send you my heartfelt thanks for all you have done.

I remember the sterling work that Clive did in moving the charity forward in a very positive way that enabled the UK to continue to support us so well.

Clive was also the driving force that led him to declare at the opening of Yirgalem that the UK would support the hospital ‘in perpetuity’ - a statement that is still true today.

In particular I remember John Kelly and Brian Hancock for their skill and knowledge in the operating theatre and for their overwhelming support.

The UK has supported us in many other ways also. Buying nurses watches for each of the graduate midwives, and buying much needed equipment at the College. You helped fund the new Guest House at Metu and have always responded so positively to our requests for support.

The colourful shawls that you send us so regularly have been a great boon to the patients and have acted as a real advertisement for us when they return to their villages.

From our conversations when we meet it is clear that all your trustees play a big role in running the Trust and for that I will be eternally grateful. Please thank them all.

This has been a wonderful partnership over 50 years and it has been a real privilege to work with the UK Trustees. Long may you continue.

“This place will go on for many years until we have eradicated fistula altogether – until every woman in Ethiopia is assured of a safe delivery and a live baby.” – *Dr Catherine Hamlin.*

**10th Anniversary of Hamlin College of Midwives
(8th Class Graduation) 14th July 2018**



One of our trustees was fortunate to be in Ethiopia for this 10th Anniversary of the Hamlin College of Midwives and was able to take part in the celebration of the Graduation of 8th class graduates.

Message to Graduates from Dr Hamlin:

“How fast time goes! It has been over a decade since we opened the Midwifery College at Desta Mender. Midwifery is one of the oldest and noblest professions in the medical field. It deals with saving human life, normally saving two lives at a time - the mother and the baby. Midwifery is always full of fast decision making at the local level and whenever referral is the option it must be done promptly.

The school is aimed at quality midwifery training which ties theory with practice and maximal competence. The graduated are deployed in selected areas in the

four big regions of Ethiopia.

I am glad to realise from time to time that Hamlin is becoming a brand when it comes to quality. All the preparations are being made to continue midwifery at Masters level which would allow graduates to be equipped with more knowledge and skills.

I congratulate the 8th Class Graduates for this Graduation and thank the staff and all contributors to the 10th Anniversary of the College.

Finally, my deepest gratitude goes to the government of Ethiopia for all the support provided for our organisation, the moral support given and for all the necessary assistance. My sincere thanks also go to our International Partners, Board of Trustees and all the staff members of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia. *Catherine Hamlin.*

There were congratulatory speeches from others present, a selection is included here:

Message from Ato Tesfays Mamo, A/CEO Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia

My sincere congratulations go out to you on your graduation from the Hamlin College of Midwives. Your hard work has paid off - the hardships you have endured have not been in vain. HMC is poised to make a genuine difference in the maternal health of Ethiopia. It is driven by the belief that there should be 'a midwife for every woman'. As Hamlin graduates you must be proud because you are a part of a renowned midwifery college in Ethiopia, which has a history of 100% pass of its graduates in the pilot National Midwife Licensing Examination.

The Dean of the College, Ato Zelalem Belete:

Dear Graduates, It is with great pleasure and honour to congratulate you all for successfully completing the four years of midwifery education at Hamlin College of Midwives.

Your success today is the result of cumulative efforts made by the government, Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia, health care facilities and your families.

I would like to assure you that we are always with you whenever you need our

support in any problem you may encounter when holding this new position. I would like to wish you all the best in your future endeavour.



Sr. Marit and Ato Zelalem
pictured after the ceremony.

Message from Sr. Marit, Vice-Dean Hamlin College of Midwives.

I would like to congratulate you and your families for your success and completion of your four years of study and for beginning another chapter in your life.

The Hamlin College of Midwives has been recruiting and training midwives who are committed to serve the community they came from, with special attention to women and their babies who are at risk of childbirth complications. You will now be tasked with this sweet privilege and honour of attending and facilitating safe childbirth with your own responsibilities.

You all know that you will spend hours and hours with women during prenatal care, getting to know women and their families, providing support when they have health problems and giving excellent and often life-changing education based on their need. As qualified midwives you can contribute a lot to the reduction of maternal/newborn morbidity and mortality.

I am confident that you will make a difference in the field of the midwifery profession. I wish you all the best and special success in your future career.



For this special 10th Anniversary the student midwives wore pink tops depicting a picture of Dr Hamlin on the front, and the words – Dr Hamlin, Emaye (*meaning ‘mother’*) co-founder of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia. On the reverse



is a picture of a student with the words ‘Hamlin College of Midwives. “A Midwife for every Woman”’. 10th Anniversary 2007 - 2018

Family attendance at the Ceremony.



Family members are invited to attend this important occasion for their daughters. Jean was able to talk with the father, brother and sister of Eyerusalem Tassew. Her father was very proud of his daughter’s achievement and she said, “Thank you dad for everything that you have been doing for me”.

Student Selection.

The students' selection, training and deployment are linked and carefully followed. One criterion is that they have an interest to be midwives and a commitment to serve women in their rural areas after graduation. Forty deliveries are a prerequisite before graduation and many students are delivering far more than this number.

Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia provides medical equipment, offers ambulance service, renovates delivery units, provides accommodation for midwives, supplies water and installs solar lights to delivery units. The ambulances are stationed at Hamlin Fistula centres and these services have definitely contributed to minimise birth injuries and save lives of mothers and newborns in rural Ethiopia.

Our organisation believes that a healthy mother and baby and family integrity must be the focus of high quality maternity services. This holistic approach should be free and accessible to everyone at the point of need.

Every year, as the graduates take their oath of commitment, each of them holds a lighted candle. Why?

Way back in the 1960s Drs Reg. and Catherine Hamlin decided to stay in Ethiopia and “light a candle for Africa”. We must not let that candle go out.

Thank you for helping us to keep the candle burning.



Our Office is manned by our Company Secretary and volunteers and it is not open every day. If you need to contact us your message and telephone number can be left on our answer-phone and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

John Chassar Moir was a professor of obstetrics and gynaecology in Oxford who achieved distinction for his repair of vesico-vaginal fistulae. He wrote: No branch of surgery calls for greater resource, never is patience so sorely tried and never is success more dependent on the exercise of constant care both during operation and even more perhaps, during the anxious days of convalescence. But never is the reward greater.

The Hamlins first came to Birmingham in 1967 on a fundraising tour. Dr Reginald Hamlin lectured at the University of Birmingham, which has a Medical School with an outstanding record as a teaching hospital. The Charity was formed immediately after this visit to support them in their wonderful healing work.

There are many ways you can support us.

A direct gift of cash

A regular gift by 'standing order'

A gift by CAF cheque

Payroll giving

A CAF Card or Credit Card through our secure website– just click on 'Ways of Giving'. There are special arrangements to give relief from Inheritance Tax on bequests, and from Capital Gains Tax on gifts of shares.

If you wish your contribution to be a Gift Aid donation, please complete and sign the form below and return it to the Company Secretary

Mr Laurence Parkes,
Hamlin Fistula UK,
4 Nimmings Road,
Halesowen,
West Midlands, B62 9JJ

Please accept the enclosed donation for the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital through the Charity **Hamlin Fistula UK**.

Cheque attached £.....

Title..... Forename(s).....

Surname.....

Address.....
.....
.....
.....

If you wish to Gift Aid this donation, please tick and sign below

Signature..... Date

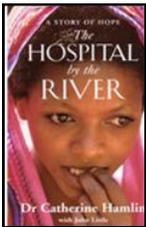
I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations; it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

**Hamlin Fistula UK is a Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England. No: 08457433**

Merchandise for Sale

Please phone office to arrange time for personal
Collections: 0121 559 3999

Orders by post will be despatched on receipt of payment



Dr Hamlin's first Book "The Hospital by the River"
£5 each (if collected from office) or **by post £8 each**

Qty:Book(s) @ £8.00 (within UK) £



Dr Hamlin's second Book "Catherine's Gift"
£5 each (if collected from office) or **by post £8 each**

Qty:Book(s) @ £8.00 (within UK) £



Logo Lapel Pin

£1 each (if collected from office) or **by post in multiples of 4 pins at £5**

Qty:packs of 4 pins @ £5 (within UK) £.....



Hamlin Fistula Key Ring 2 cm diameter.

£1 each (if collected from office) or **by post in multiples of 4 rings at £5**

Qty:packs of 4 rings @ £5 (within UK) £.....



Notelets **£2.50 per pack of 6 (if collected from office)**

or **by post in multiples of 4 packs of 6 at £12**

Qty: packs of 6 notelets @ £12 (within UK) £.....



“Two for One”

This 16 page soft cover A5 book tells the story of the life of a fistula patient. **£1 each or by post -4 copies for £5**

Qty: X 4copies @ £5



Bookmarks

£1 each or by post – up to 15 bookmarks please add £1

Qty:@ £1 each plus £1 p&p - for up to 15 bookmarks
£.....

Do you internet shop at Amazon, eBay, John Lewis, Next and many more favourite retailers?

May we suggest that you Register at: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and then put it in your Favourites. (Bookmark).

Instead of going directly to Amazon, etc. find the retailer through [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

Click on it and shop.

Remember to say you are supporting **“Hamlin Fistula UK”** - every purchase makes a contribution to the Charity with no additional cost to yourselves. Do investigate it.