

INTERPLAST (UK)

Registered Charity No 328688

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

It is with great pleasure that I present my first Annual Report as Secretary of Interplast (UK), although my involvement began at a time of sadness for our charity. In August 2014, Marjorie Wheatley, Secretary from December 2010, died suddenly. Marjorie took part in several missions, working tirelessly to aid administration and to support colleagues, patients and their families in whatever way she could. Her contribution was much appreciated and she is sorely missed.

Activities this year (May 2014 to April 2015) have included:

New trustees: Mrs Ivy Boardman stepped down as a trustee and we welcomed as new trustees Mrs Celine Alexander-Brown and Mr Guan Lim.

Website: www.interplastuk.org is now available to make it easy to let people know about our work

Online giving facility: secure online giving with a Gift Aid option (which adds 25p to every £1 donated) is now available on <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/interplastuk>

Financial support: Many individuals have supported our work, but I would like to mention the following in particular -

- Relatives and friends of Marjorie Wheatley, who honoured her memory by giving to Interplast (UK)
- Zeenat Hussain, who kindly invited Charles to speak about our work at a meeting in Bradford of the Islamic Society of Britain on 25th January. Charles' presentation was well-received and those attending gave generously. Zeenat is a busy lady and has also involved one of her local schools in fund-raising for us.
- Towlers Chemist once again donated supplies.

Missions: All of the above is, of course, in the service of the purpose of our charity – to bring much needed surgical expertise to those who would otherwise have no opportunity to receive it.

- Mission to Kumi Hospital, Uganda in October 2014 - more than 70 operations were carried out, despite difficulties with an anaesthetic machine. Charles will provide more details on this mission.
- There was a request to take a team urgently to Peshawar following the school massacre there in December 2014. Although the team was not, in the end, required, it was heartening to find so many of our medical contacts would have been willing to drop everything and go.
- Charles tried hard to facilitate a mission to Pakistan in March of this year but it did not in fact take place until May. During this mission to Kashmir, 448 patients were seen and 74 were operated on – a busy time indeed.

- Arrangements are currently underway for a team of around 12 people to return to Kumi Hospital during the last two weeks of October 2015.

As we look forward to another year in the life of Interplast (UK), I would like to thank Charles Viva for his vision and passion for the work, David Otter for his rigour in relation to our finances, Christine Brewer for her work as Chairperson and all trustees for your ongoing interest and support.

Lynn Fletcher
Secretary