

What a year it has been for both the Hospital and the charity!

In this, the 14<sup>th</sup> Friends of Nixon newsletter, we share some of the highlights of the year so far.

This year has seen a whole host of progress for the Hospital's community in Segbwema. The re-opening of the nursing school is imminent, the mortuary is near completion and medical personnel at the hospital has had a boost this year, as two volunteer doctors joined Dr Missa the long-standing resident doctor. The highly-skilled Surgical Community Health Officer remains in post and most recently a Sierra Leonean doctor, Dr Jusu James has joined the team.

A range of other initiatives to improve service delivery including a new blood bank, an oral health programme and infant feeding programme have all been initiated this year.

A very generous bursary from the EJ Spice Charitable Trust has widened the scope of support we can offer, including the upgrade of the solar power system. Donations from churches, groups, trusts and individuals are essential in enabling us to provide both practical and compassionate support for the project requests we receive from the hospital, aiming to improve the lives of the community around Nixon.



Drs. Emma Butterfield and Trevor Tan with hospital staff.

*Join us at our AGM  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November  
2024*

**Join us as we showcase all the amazing accomplishments of the charity and the hospital this year!**

*12.30pm Arrival & Reception*

*1.00pm Buffet Lunch*

*2.00pm. to 4.00pm Meeting*

Notting Hill Methodist Church  
240 Lancaster Road, London, W11 4AH

*Please let us know if you can attend:  
Email [janna141@hotmail.com](mailto:janna141@hotmail.com)*

# Solar System Upgrades

With a much appreciated grant from the EJ Spice Charitable Trust awarded to Friends of Nixon earlier in the year, the hospital has been able to action the next stages of the electrical infrastructure plans. Over the last few years FoN has been investing in, and encouraging progress in ensuring a consistent and stable electrical system at the Hospital, crucial for delivering optimal patient care. This next stage, the largest so far, has enabled the hospital to have 24 hour light to all areas, including all wards, the theatre, the laboratory and accommodation as well as powering items used in the theatre, oxygen concentrators, and fridges in the laboratory. Therefore, enabling further investment opportunities from FoN to uplevel services provided, also reported on in this newsletter.

Surveillance systems are in place for the efficiency and maintenance of the electrical system to be monitored remotely which has already shown its worth recently by being able to identify a faulty part in the system which could be fixed in a timely manner without leading to further issues, with the support of FoN funding.



## Blood Bank

Several months ago the Lead Laboratory technician contacted one of our trustees, Michaela Fitzpatrick-Milton, a biomedical scientist, to discuss the potential and need for the Hospital to have a blood refrigerator. After many discussions and much research between them, FoN agreed to support this project. With the new electricity sources stable and increased Laboratory personnel, now facilitating a 24hour Lab service; a safe way of storing blood for emergency use within the hospital seemed a logical next step.



The arrival of the new blood refrigerator.



New blood bank in situ, received by Dr Missa, Dr Trevor Tan and members of the Lab team.

## Mortuary Installation - update

Following the arrival of the mortuary chambers and equipment, shipped from India last year the extensive and complex procedures to installing them have been underway. An experienced technician has been appointed to oversee the additional work required and the necessary safety checks needed. We await its completion shortly.

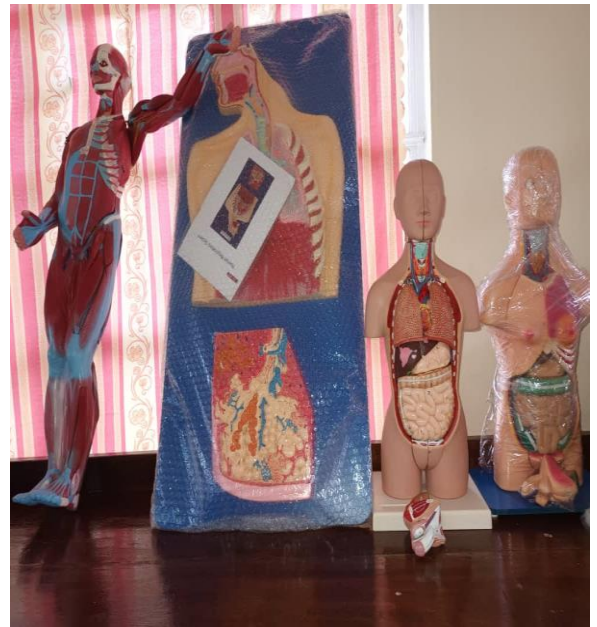
## Striding forward to re-open the Nixon Nursing School – the next stages

In last year's newsletter we reported that Nixon was well on the way re-establishing its once highly-esteemed School of Nursing. The process has been long with much practical and bureaucratic nuisances to navigate but as the hospital strides towards the final stretch things are looking positive for its opening shortly.

Earlier in the year the equipment funded, sourced and acquired by FoN for the 'Skills Laboratory' was set up ahead of the appraisal visit by the Nursing and Midwifery Council. (see photos)

An agreement of partnership with Eastern Technical University in Kenema has been finalised and application forms for the prospective first cohort of students wanting to study as State-Registered Nurses at Nixon have been received, with eager new students awaiting to hear if they have successfully met the criteria to study at Nixon.

With upgraded staff and student accommodation ready we anticipate hearing news of a start date and opening very soon!

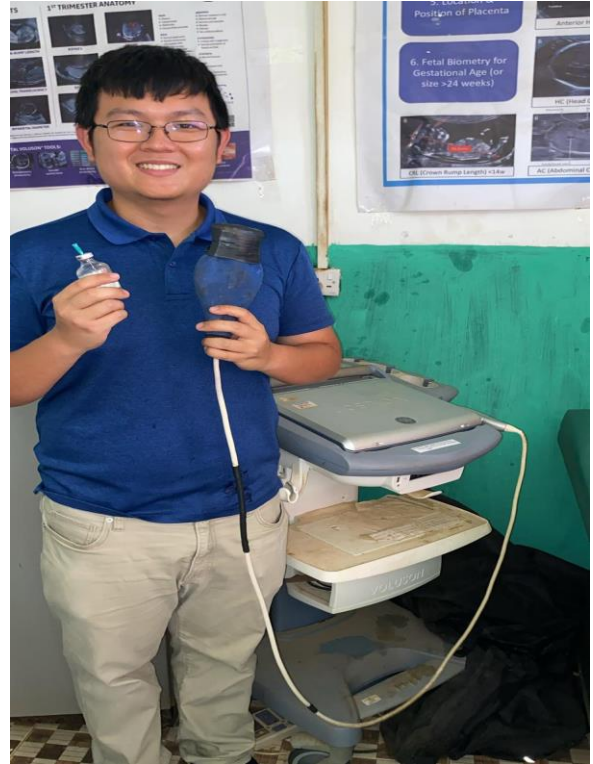


## Two voluntary doctors join the team at Nixon

This year saw Friends of Nixon start up their recruitment of voluntary doctors again. We have actively been seeking healthcare professionals that are eager and willing to give their time serving at Nixon, supported by a small bursary to cover travel and basic expenses.



Left: Dr Missa, Centre: Dr Emma Butterfield, Right: Elizabeth Faley, Trustee of FoN



Dr Trevor Tan

### Dr Emma Butterfield

Following work with the Air Ambulance in the UK and extensive and impressive experience working in resource-poor settings around the world Emma joined the team at Nixon for 4 months earlier this year. We are truly in awe of, and grateful for all the hard work she put in during her time there, including her support setting up an infant feeding programme (see more on the next page). Since returning to the UK Emma has taken up a training post in Anaesthetics and has agreed to join FoN as a trustee.

### Dr Trevor Tan

After studying for the Diploma in Tropical Medicine in Liverpool, Trevor got in contact with FoN looking for real-life experience relating to his studies. Trevor has been a huge asset to the team at Nixon and his generosity has known no bounds. Most recently he coordinated an Oral Health Training Course to support develop staff's skills in dealing with dental problems – an increasing need at the hospital.

*For more information about joining the team at Nixon, please get in touch!*



Patients already benefitting from the introduction of the Food Programme.

(Patient's and parental permissions granted for photos)



## Infant Feeding Programme

One of the many successes during Dr Emma Butterfield's time at Nixon was to work closely with Hospital Manager, Augustine Iscandari and the team to put together a proposal for an Infant Feeding Programme. Augustine describes their intentions for the 18-month pilot programme below:

*The purpose of this Project was to establish a comprehensive feeding program aimed at providing nutritious meals for patients. It seeks to address the critical issue of malnutrition among sick children and their mothers, and its negative impact on recovery outcomes. Patients' concerns about accessing food during a hospital admission also contribute to delays in seeking timely care at the Nixon Memorial Methodist Hospital. By ensuring that children receive healthy meals, we aim to promote better nutrition, enhance cognitive development, and improve overall recovery. We also intend to feed the mothers of admitted children: healthy mothers nurture healthy babies.*

Whilst still in its very early stages, the implementation of the programme has already shown an increase in patients in children's and female wards. Community stakeholders are using the feeding programme to encourage families to take their sick children to hospital with positive community feedback and clinicians are seeing evidence of more rapid recovery in patients.

# SIERRA LEONE ORAL HEALTH OUTREACH

Saving Segbwema from Ludwig's Angina

13TH-20TH  
OCTOBER  
2024

Featuring:

- Dental Consultation
- Oral Surgery
- Preventive Dentistry
- Restorative Dentistry
- Oral Health Education
- Distribution of Oral Health Kits

NIXON  
HOSPITAL,  
SEGWEMA  
SIERRA LEONE

To Support/Donate

<https://gofund.me/364b0d3b>

For more enquiries

[info@oralhealthafricaninitiative.org](mailto:info@oralhealthafricaninitiative.org)

Proudly Supported by: Dr Trevor Tan Yong Xin,  
Friends of Nixon Memorial Hospital



## Dr Trevor's report:

Due to previous cases of dental abscesses I saw in the ward, I asked my friends to send dental instruments from Taiwan. After I figured out that nobody can perform tooth extraction, I invited Oral Health Africa Initiative to come to Nixon hospital, not only to provide dental service, but also train our doctors and nurses for long term substantiality, hoping that after this training program they will be able to provide dental services themselves in the future.

Before the dentists arrived, I had been giving some lectures to our staffs for 4 days so that they would have basic dental knowledge before the practical training program started. We also went on radio for health promotion, invited people coming for dental service.

After they arrived on Saturday, we started some lectures and practices on Sunday. We also invited the dentists to review two of our patients who were admitted (one was dental abscess, the other one was traumatic head injury with retained root).

Although it took some time to set up the dental unit on Monday, we improved our dental services gradually day by day. During the whole dental training program, we managed to see 100 patients in 6 days. The dental condition of the patients were so much worse than we expected (a lot of dental carries and retained roots). Hence, we spent more time (more than 30 minutes) on each patient so that we could provide better care.

Saidu Ba, Darbor and Elizabeth were trained to perform basic dental skill (Scaling and polishing). Dr James and Asanatu (CHO) were trained to perform advanced dental skills (Scaling and polishing, dental filling, tooth extraction and removal of retained root). During the training, Dr James was eager to learn and practice, Asanatu was talented in performing all dental skills, even the dentists from Nigeria also gave high complements on her performance.



## VOLUNTEER

Are you or do you know someone working or recently retired from the Healthcare Sector? We are looking for volunteers to spend 3-6 months working alongside local staff at the hospital.

## FUNDRAISE

Hold an event in your Church or community

## CONTACT

[friendsofnixon.org](http://friendsofnixon.org)

Chair: [robert.burnie@doctors.org.uk](mailto:robert.burnie@doctors.org.uk)

Treasurer : [fon.robertdixon@gmail.com](mailto:fon.robertdixon@gmail.com)

## DONATE

Set up a standing order with us or give online through 'Wonderful' see QR code and link below:

<https://wonderful.org/charities/1145455>



# IN SIERRA LEONE

*Supporting healthcare in  
 Segbwema through....*

- Training healthcare staff
- Supplying essential medicines and equipment
- Providing doctors
- Developing Feeding Programmes
- Empowering communities



## Gift Aid

Gift Aid enables charities such as Friends of Nixon to claim an additional 25% of a donation made.

Whether you wish to make a one-off donation or set up a standing order and are eligible to, please ensure you have completed a Gift Aid Declaration Form, either using this form or contacting our Treasurer, Robert Dixon for further assistance.

## *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 by **standing order** or a **one off donation**

please contact our treasurer Robert Dixon *11a Denbigh Road, London, W11 2SJ*  
[robertdixonfon@gmail.com](mailto:robertdixonfon@gmail.com) OR **donate directly**

Friend of Nixon Memorial Hospital, Lloyds Bank Sort code 30-97-41

Acc. No. 02687413 and please remember to **Gift Aid** if you are eligible (see form below).

To donate online, our provider is Wonderful: <https://wonderful.org/charities/1145455>

For general enquiries or to discuss the possibility of a trustee speaking on the charity's work please contact our Secretary, Janna Burnie – [janna141@hotmail.com](mailto:janna141@hotmail.com)