

This year has seen a little more optimism on the covid front, as vaccines have become increasingly available in Ethiopia too. However, the conflict and political uncertainty have made planning a visit to Azezo a dream until very recently. Jean has at last booked flights for Christmas 2022 and, all being well, by the time you read this newsletter the bags will have been packed! She will stay at St Raphael's boarding school for four weeks, gathering at first hand, at long last, news on our activities in Azezo (and bringing back some photos to feature in next year's newsletter!).

Over the course of 2022, the AKT trustees, in their continued optimism, have also managed to organise three fundraising events in London and Buxton, all of which were very well attended and helped raise money that has gone towards meeting the aims of the charity. You will see a small selection of photos from these events in this newsletter.

### 2022 in Ethiopia

The knock-on effects of covid have resulted in schools and universities having to cope with delayed national exam results and graduations. As a result of these various disruptions, the number of university students we sponsor remains the same at 132. Along with these, we are sponsoring 80 high school students. This year, 19 students graduated and we are waiting for the school exam results at the end of November to find out how many of our high school students will be going to university.



As we have mentioned in many of the previous newsletters, it is vital for the education of the young people of Azezo that we increase the provision of IT equipment and access to the internet. Many donors have helped us to provide computing classes for students at Azezo Senior High School; and, thanks again to Gondar (Ethiopia) Eye Surgery (GEES), its trustees and the wife of the late Sandy Holt Wilson, we have been able to continue a series of taught classes for the blind and partially-sighted children at St Raphael's school, using the laptops we have purchased for them.

**Despite all of the turmoil, both within the country and worldwide, our students remain passionate about completing their education, thanks in part to your amazing help.**

A brief update is also in order about one of our former Azezo students, Tedi. Tedi was a lecturer at Bahir Dar university and has been studying for a Masters at the University of Manchester: he is due to graduate in December this year. Well done, Tedi!

---

## Thank you!

---

Once again the successes of the AKT are thanks to the many individuals and groups who never fail to support our work, as well as the coordinating efforts of our volunteer committee in Azezo, led by Melash, Eshete and Getu. Thank you to St Mary's Church (Wilshaw), the parishioners of St Mary's (East Finchley), the Gondar (Ethiopia) Eye Surgery and all of you who donate and assist us from around the world. You all know who you are!



The pictures in this newsletter are of the various fundraising events we have arranged over the course of the last year. In June, we held a set of walks in Buxton and the Peak District (immediately above): we plan to do it again next September 17<sup>th</sup>, with a whole weekend of activities, so put the date in your diaries! On the right, as per tradition, we had six runners take part in the London 10K in July (see also, overleaf). And in September we organised a 'clock walk', where teams tried to find 15 clocks within the City of London, followed by refreshments at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese pub.

Thank you to all of you who took part and supported us at these events, and we hope to see you again next year.

The continuing volatility of the value of the pound means that we may see a reduction of approximately 20% of its value in Ethiopia, while the war in Ukraine and restricted grain exports is impacting on the price of basic commodities in Ethiopia. As a result, 2023 looks like it will be a tough year for our beneficiaries. On her visit, Jean will be looking at ways to minimise this. If you have any ideas, they will be most welcome.

---

## Please support us!

If you're stuck for ideas for Christmas or birthday gifts, you can buy a complete set of school text books (£20), a football for a blind child at St Raphael's (£28) or sponsor a university student for one year (£85, including transport and a monthly allowance). If you are interested, please get in touch and we can send you a card to give to the lucky recipient!

Donations can be made by cheque, payable to The Aysanew Kassa Trust, or by bank transfer (account number 80808350, sort code 20-58-51). If you are able to Gift Aid your donation, please complete the Gift Aid declaration you will find on our website, thus increasing the value of your gift at no extra cost to yourself.