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## Volunteering for a medical and educational Charity in Ghana

As we leave Quainton, I want to share with you the opportunity that I have had to work in sub-Saharan Africa, in mid and north Ghana.

Having retired from the NHS, I regularly volunteer in Ghana for a medical and educational charity MOTEC Life-UK. We work in the sub-Saharan country, where resources are few. Our charity seeks to support health where the access to care is limited or non-existent. The skill of our UK surgeons and anaesthetists share best practice with the local teams to develop their knowledge and improve surgical outcomes. What we would consider to be basic care in the UK, is a luxury in Ghana where, other than in private care near Accra, facilities are very limited. Lack of basic equipment is commonplace, no blood pressure machines, ECG machine, the only oxygen cylinder is in the operating room. There is no running water.

A few years ago I appealed to Quainton to donate any unwanted but working sewing machines, which you very generously provided. These were shipped to Ghana and are now in use, and allow ladies and men to earn a living by sewing clothing. Outside of the main cities, all clothing is made in the villages. Thank you for giving the means for these people to make a living. Here is a photo that I took in November 2018 with two of our machines in use. Now these two are able to earn an income and provide for their families, whilst supporting the local villagers. Evidence that your generous donations of unwanted sewing machines has made a life changing difference. Thank you.



### Children with special needs

Whilst working in the villages, we find that children with physical challenges are, together with their mother abandoned by the father and the other villagers. They are outcast from mainstream education and there are no recognised institutions to support their care. There is little folic acid in the soil or in food, and the result is a high number of children born with spinal defects such as spina bifida. We are able to seal the spinal leak and then the children learn to walk. For some children however, there are severe abnormalities and for them life is very difficult. Unable to walk, talk, often blind their life is very dark and isolated. Having found one child such as this a couple of years ago, we have since found many more, and have been able to support the mothers and children with a facility for support and a trained teacher specialising in children with special needs. Soft toys and clothing that we have taken have been their first gifts, and the softness has brought smiles to the faces of the children and mothers.

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A typical school in the villages is one of four poles, thatch roof and bench seating. A single blackboard serves to record the education of the day. This presents many challenges with keeping out the elements – both sun and rain, when it rains it rains very heavily. MOTEC Life-UK knows that education is key to helping the young people find an income and offer opportunity for their future and has identified a single school which serves eight villages. Children as young as 5yrs of age walk several miles every day to reach the school, returning home in the afternoon.



*A typical classroom in a village school*



*The Senior school classrooms.  
What a difference from UK High Schools.*

Our plan is to build a school building which will protect children from the elements, provide seating and desks and to provide several classrooms so that the students can study according to their ability and age.

Here are the school children in their best school clothing dressed up to meet and welcome a visit from MOTEC Life-UK.



Thank you for your generosity in the past, and if anyone is looking for a charity to support, I can highly recommend MOTEC Life-UK. One hundred percent of donations goes to providing the facilities required to give the children and people of villages in Ghana hospital care when needed, education and training. If you would like to know more about the charity, then the website is: [www.moteclife.co.uk](http://www.moteclife.co.uk) UK Registered Charity 1118994  
Thank you for your support, Jane and Nigel Jackson

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