



*Carol with the 4 kids.*

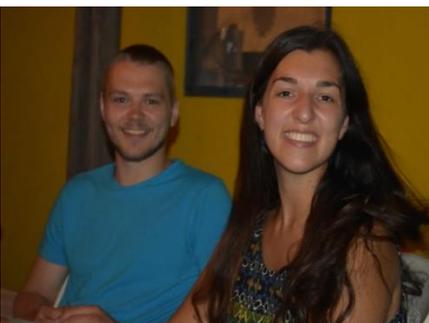
The graduation of our son Alex and the dedication of our latest granddaughter Imogen were just 2 of the highlights of a wonderful one month break in the UK. Doing very little other than spending time with children, grandchildren, parents and siblings made for a very relaxing and much needed break for the both of us. But, we're back now and have hit the ground running.

Our time away from the hospital, (HCBH), meant that we missed seeing the huge branch which overhangs the



*HCBH Cafeteria; we have branches everywhere!*

hospital cafeteria come crashing down through it's roof, leaving the building badly damaged, structurally unsafe, and the dining area unusable. Thankfully, there was no one dining there at the time, so no injuries – phew! But, this has now created an ideal opportunity to re-plan a more practical layout for what is an increasingly busy lunchtime social space for hospital staff, patients and visitors alike. We hope to be able to extend the indoor eating area as well as create an outdoor decked area. All we have to do now is find some money(!) and a way of getting the enormous branch off the roof and the remains of the tree out of the ground. Oh for a crane and a few sticks of dynamite – and some spare cash of course!



*Dave and Jen think "Yorkshire's proper champion"*

Among the visitors who were there to greet us at the Village on our return were 2 wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> year medical students David and Jennifer, from

Leeds University. They have spent 3 weeks with us and have been working enthusiastically with doctors and medical staff in the Neo natal intensive care unit, (NICU), Maternity and the Emergency Department at the hospital. Although both from the south of England, they have decided to settle in Yorkshire after completing their studies. Wise choice!



Among our other village guests are a team of 4 French Canadian student engineering technicians from Montreal.

*"Pass me that big 'ammer"! Intricate work in the biomed dept with the PC2 engineers*

They have spent the last 6 weeks working with and providing training to our hospital biomedical engineers. They also installed a new software application to help better manage our inventory system and to provide an improved process for equipment repair and maintenance. The team have already helped our Haitian engineers repair several items of medical equipment. This is really great work as repaired equipment saves lives! Bonne travaille, l'equipe de Montreal!

Our first week in August included saying goodbye to Sophie and Rob. Sophie, who you may remember from previous newsletters has been with us for 3 months and will be greatly missed by all in our village and hospital family. But she is coming back in October to do some more work on our Maternity Pre-Eclampsia project.



Rob had kindly and enthusiastically given of his time and skill in standing in for Andy and Carol during their July leave. He has done amazing things at the village in the month that he's been there, including installing various types of mozi traps, touching up the paintwork on our old

*Rob & Sophie: "Diesel" be greatly missed!*

ambulance and most significantly, (with the aid of the hospital electricians) managing to trace the cause of our solar power failure. This means we are now able to have

24 hour electricity with less than 25% of the previous generator usage; thus saving a significant amount of money on diesel; an answer to prayer request no.6 on last month's newsletter!

We talk a lot about our great doctors and nurses and admin staff who work at the hospital. HCBH is a Haitian run facility and the hospital employs over 270 Haitian staff. All of them carry out vital work and a lot of it is behind the scenes. Like our gardeners and groundsmen. Many patients and visitors often comment on how beautiful the hospital gardens look. And that is due to the work done by these four guys pictured here. They work really



*Cutting crew – the hospital gardeners*

hard – in temps often in the 30°'s - to keep the grounds looking tidy and beautiful. And it is all done mostly by hand (and a big machete) and always with a smile!

Talking of smiles, our Maison kids were really thrilled a few days ago when a big folder of letters, drawings and photos arrived from the UK. The kids at the Maison had



*Kervens and Mitch - UK relations with Haitians!*

the UK. The UK children in turn send out the lovely pack and they enjoyed some very thoughtful and interesting lessons talking and learning about life in Haiti and what it means to have a disability. It is great to see kids connecting in this way together across the world. And as you can see from Kervens and Mitch above, it made our Maison kids feel really special too.

After a seemingly endless time of busyness with a long stream of volunteers at the hospital and village, things are finally beginning to quiet down. And now is the opportunity to crack on with some of the many things that had previously been put on hold.

The hospital chapel was completed towards the end of last year. Earthquake proof, this chapel was designed by



former resident of Haiti, British architect Guylee Symmonds (Google him!). Not quite here long enough to see the total completion of this

*"Rafter" such a long time! Andy finally applies the finishing touches.* state of the art construction, Andy vowed he would at least finish the wood staining of the timber-laden roof space. Thanks to his youthful, gazelle-like agility, Andy is able to brush his way effortlessly through the forest-like roof space, leaving beautiful chestnut stained beams in his wake!

One of the great joys that the hospital experiences from time to time is the sight of a shipping container packed full of all sorts of much needed equipment, hospital supplies, tools, furniture, arriving at the hospital and being unloaded. The process however of getting a container through customs – Dominican or Haitian – is a bit of a nightmare to say the least. We are bracing ourselves for not 1 but 3 containers (just like buses!) that will probably all arrive at the same time over the next few weeks. All will be revealed – hopefully in our next newsletter...

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Give thanks that the hospital is somehow able to get through each day, despite the constant daily problems and challenges.
2. Give thanks for the help, assistance, expertise and training provided by visiting teams and individuals.
3. For the safe, intact and trouble-free arrival of 3 much awaited containers.
4. Resolution of long ongoing problems with the hospital electrical system.
5. Speedy arrival of promised second hand generator from a Dominican company.
6. Wisdom and vision for the hospital Admin team at the start of this new and very challenging financial year.
7. Speedy recovery for Merlande – one of our village cooks. She is 7 months pregnant and has been admitted to hospital to take forced rest to try to prevent an early delivery.
8. Wisdom to make the best use of this quieter time before the arrival of our next group of volunteers and visitors.
9. Continued hurricane free weather.
10. Good health and strength for Carol and Andrew.

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