

NEWSLETTER  
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# Friends of African Nursing newsletter

## IN BRIEF

- **Chairman's Report**
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[www.foan.org.uk](http://www.foan.org.uk)

## Chairman of Trustees Report

The welcome news this week of the first vaccine being available to protect the most vulnerable in our society made me wonder what the WHO and the world is doing about ensuring that the developing world can have equal, fair and ethical access to whichever vaccines are practical for distribution. The first of the vaccines from Pfizer as we know, presents huge logistical problems even for a small developed country like ours. Transport and storage for the vaccine which needs to be kept at minus 70C is not able to be sent to GP practices as they do not have appropriate storage facilities prior to vaccinating the public. Imagine the challenges in rural Canada or South Africa.

We are hopeful that the Oxford / AstraZeneca vaccine will be given it's safety passport by the regulators in the very near future. This vaccine which can be stored at room temperature and is far cheaper too, will be able to be distributed to low and middle income countries ( LMICs).

The challenge remains for the world to purchase and distribute enough vaccines for the worlds poorest and most vulnerable people. Research has shown recently that malnourished children have poor immune systems and are thus more vulnerable to disease. Disruption during the pandemic to routine immunisation programmes has further increased the potential for difficulty in LMICs.

There are a variety of global collaborations, set up this year which aim to provide equitable access to the vaccines. GAVI , the vaccine alliance is running the largest initiative but still reports a huge funding gap. US\$ 600m has been raised since June 2020 of the estimated initial target of US\$ 2 billion required. GAVI has a good reputation for getting children vaccinated against some of the deadliest diseases and has helped to immunise a whole generation (760m children) since it's inception in 2000. It has thus already prevented more than 13 million deaths helping to halve child mortality, in 73 developing countries. There is also an element of helping countries to save millions more lives by developing self sufficiency to prevent outbreaks before they can spread. The collaboration COVAX launched by GAVI is a partnership between the self financing countries and up to 90 lower income countries that could be supported via voluntary donations. COVAX aims to accelerate the development and manufacture of Covid –19 vaccines and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world.

The absolute economic disaster that might befall countries that do not have access to the vaccines now have some hope that the partnership arrangements may help them to survive and prosper. This is in the best interests of the whole global community to support decent, economic futures.

Kate Woodhead

## Plans for 2021—20th anniversary of FoAN



Kate and Lesley, founders of FoAN, pictured in 2016

Caption describing



Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice.

ANTON CHEKHOV

We have had such a quiet year in 2020 for obvious reasons, it is exciting for us to be looking ahead to 2021. It is the 20th anniversary of the first visit to Africa. Lesley Fudge and Kate Woodhead started FoAN undertaking many of the initial visits themselves. We had an overwhelming response to our first course in Uganda with 77 delegates appearing and knew that we had made a considerable impact. We started thinking about how we might

return to Uganda. It was Denis Robson, a patron of FoAN that encouraged us to make the work we were doing apply to further countries. He ensured that we had some funds to help us and contacts in the country so we could make arrangements with the Ministry. We had to send our requests by post to the Division of Nursing and waited anxiously for a response,

which could sometimes take weeks! The first few courses when we were setting up contacts, took more than a year to organise. As they say, the rest is history! The development of the web and internet connections have enabled us to function effectively. I think we would not have survived without this global development.

Kate W 2020

### Introducing new trustees

We are delighted to have been joined by two new trustees, Lindsay Keeley and Lisa Tierney. Lindsay has more than thirty years perioperative experience and is currently employed as the Patient Safety Quality Lead by the Association of Perioperative Practice. She provides practitioners and the organisation with clinical, ethical and professional advice.

Lisa Tierney is Head of Nursing at The Private Clinic of Harley Street, responsible for all clinical staff as well as safety and quality across the clinics around the country. She has worked in senior positions in perioperative services.

We welcome them both as Trustees and look forward to utilising their considerable experience, skills and knowledge to help us to fulfill our objectives.

### Thank you and farewell to Stephanie

Stephanie has been a trustee since 2015 and has given us wonderful service. She has travelled several times and is an invaluable team member, she has written online education, raised funds and fully contributed to the life of the charity. She will be much missed for her lively contributions and her dedication to meeting her commitments. Life at work has made it too difficult to continue, so we say farewell and thank you for everything.

**Items for sale.** The website ([www.foan.org.uk](http://www.foan.org.uk)) has a fine selection of items for sale, including cards for Christmas, a calendar for 2021, and other items.

Do check it out

**Big Thank you** Our grateful thanks to Kate for her ‘hive of industry’ during our first lockdown. Kate made many masks for friends, family and colleagues, her hard work raised over £800 for FoAN. She is already making masks with a Christmas theme. Well done Kate and happy sewing. Dot Chadwick

Christmas cards and calendars for sale on the website

