



## Aquabox Celebrates 25 Years!

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Aquabox and to celebrate the occasion we will be holding a 3-course meal at Shottle Hall (where it all began all those years ago) on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm. Our guest speakers will be Fadi Aldairi, from one of our partners Hand in Hand for Syria, and Paul Wilson, Marketing Manager of Hydro-X, who are kindly sponsoring the event.

The cost is £25 per person. If you would like to attend please reply by 20<sup>th</sup> May with your names and a deposit of £10 per person (cheques payable to Aquabox) to Mike Tomlinson, 6 Hawleys Close, Matlock, DE4 5LY, and state any special dietary requirements.

## Sending much-needed aid to Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Syria and Peru

Aquabox continues to provide aid to countries around the world where it is most needed and there is no access to safe clean drinking water. Working with Humanity First of Canada, a partner with whom we have worked for a number of years, we are shipping 20 Aqua12s (each Aqua12 box contains 12 Family filters) and 15 Community filters to Kenya. Humanity First have opened a number of field hospitals in northern Kenya, in conjunction with a locally based NGO CHEPs, to provide a safe haven and much needed humanitarian aid to the people who are fleeing from the terrible drought and famine. Also in East Africa we are sending 60 Aquaboxes to Malawi (via CART) and 4 Community Filters to Uganda (via Feed The Hungry).



As part of our ongoing support of the refugees in Syria, we have shipped a further 200 Aquaboxes and 4 Aqua12s via our partner Hand In Hand For Syria. We are also looking to send 25 Aqua12s and 15 Community Filters to Peru where flooding is still a problem, even though not in the news anymore, and remote villages do not have clean drinking water.

## Drinking squash for the first time thanks to water filter



Children of the Brainhouse Academy enjoying their orange squash

In partnership with the charity ACEF (Akamba Children's Education Fund) and Guide Leader Sarah Hole, we have recently shipped a second AquaFilter Community unit to a school in Kenya. This follows the shipment of the first filter in October 2015, which is being used extensively in the school to provide clean drinking water. ACEF works to advance the education and health of over 1000 children who attend the Brainhouse Academy in Mathare North, Nairobi, which was established by the local community in 2003 to help educate street children, vulnerable children and children of families unable to afford the cost of education. Having safe drinking water every day at the school is an amazing thing in an environment without clean piped water, but for the children there has been an even bigger celebration – using the water to have squash – their first opportunity to ever have this in school!

## Aquabox at Music In The Gardens

We are absolutely thrilled that Aquabox has been chosen as one of four local charities to be represented at this year's Music In The Gardens, to be held in Sheffield Botanical Gardens from Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.



Music In The Gardens was launched 13 years ago as one night of jazz in a marquee. Since then, the event has grown into a major fund raiser which supports the work of local charities, generating more than £250,000 for good causes which range from local concerns to global issues. The event is run and operated by the Rotary Clubs of South Yorkshire and is now a regular fixture on Sheffield's Arts Calendar.

Each evening is dedicated to one of the four charities and Aquabox has been selected for the Saturday concert on 1<sup>st</sup> July when the headline act will be 10cc, famous of course for a string of chart hits in the 1970s, including "I'm Not In Love", "Rubber Bullets", "Donna" and "Dreadlock Holiday". Their live performances continue to get outstanding reviews, so it promises to be a fabulous evening. Tickets are available online at [www.sivtickets.com](http://www.sivtickets.com). Rotarians may request a booking form through their Club secretary.

## Visits to the Aquabox depot



*Breadsall WI members with Aquabox volunteers Toni and Sandra*

It has been a pleasure to welcome a number of Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs, as well as WI, Scout and School groups (see articles below) to the Aquabox depot in recent weeks, to see the work we do and get stuck into packing boxes.

Special thanks to all those who have brought in donations and items for the aid boxes – it is always very much appreciated.

If your club or organisation would like to arrange a visit, please do contact us via our website or telephone 01629 825178.



*District 1220 International Chair Wendy Watson with volunteer Bob Jackson*



*David Clayfield & Clive Knight from Arbury Rotary Club*



*Members of the Bolsover Rotary & Inner Wheel Clubs*



*Tamworth Rotarians helping to pack the Aquaboxes*

## Take part in the new Aquabox Packing Time Trial!



*Scouts from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Codnor Scout Group testing their packing skills*

The 3rd Codnor Scout Group visited the depot in April, bringing contributions of tooth brushes and other personal hygiene items to boost our stocks. During their visit they packed a number of boxes and inaugurated the Aquabox Packing Time Trial. Congratulations to the Codnor A Team, comprising Tom, Lewis, Oliver and Katie and Scout Leaders Alison and Robin, for posting a time of 3m 5s, which makes them the current leaders! All youth organisations visiting us will be given the opportunity to beat their time and go to the top of the Leader Board.

The Group also took part in the Filter Challenge, which shows how hard victims sometimes have to work to purify their drinking water. Well done to the Codnor MLG Packing Team, who showed they were the most effective on the day. If your group or organisation would like to visit the depot and take part in packing, including the Aquabox Packing Time Trial, please contact us through the website.

## Schoolchildren see life-saving water filters in action

Pupils at Kingsway Primary School, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, have gained an insight into how Aquabox is helping to relieve the plight of war-torn and disaster-hit people around the world. Kirkby-in-Ashfield Rotary Club and Kingsway Primary School co-operated to show the children how the Aquabox emergency box and filtration unit converts dirty water into a clean drinkable supply. The Rotary Club funded mini-buses from Kirkby's Our Centre for Kingsway's Year 6 pupils to travel to the Aquabox depot. The young visitors, who were accompanied by four school staff, helped volunteers to fill the boxes with some of the 70 humanitarian aid items which are included with the all-important water filters.



Kingsway Primary School very generously donated £125 to buy Aquabox unit number 101071, which the pupils helped to fill during their visit. Aquabox will be able to tell the school its final destination, somewhere in one of the world's many disaster areas. Our thanks go to the school and Kirkby Rotary Club for helping to make the visit possible.

For more information, including ways in which you can help Aquabox, visit our website at: [www.aquabox.org](http://www.aquabox.org) or follow us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/aquaboxcharity](http://www.facebook.com/aquaboxcharity)