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EVE BRANSON FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

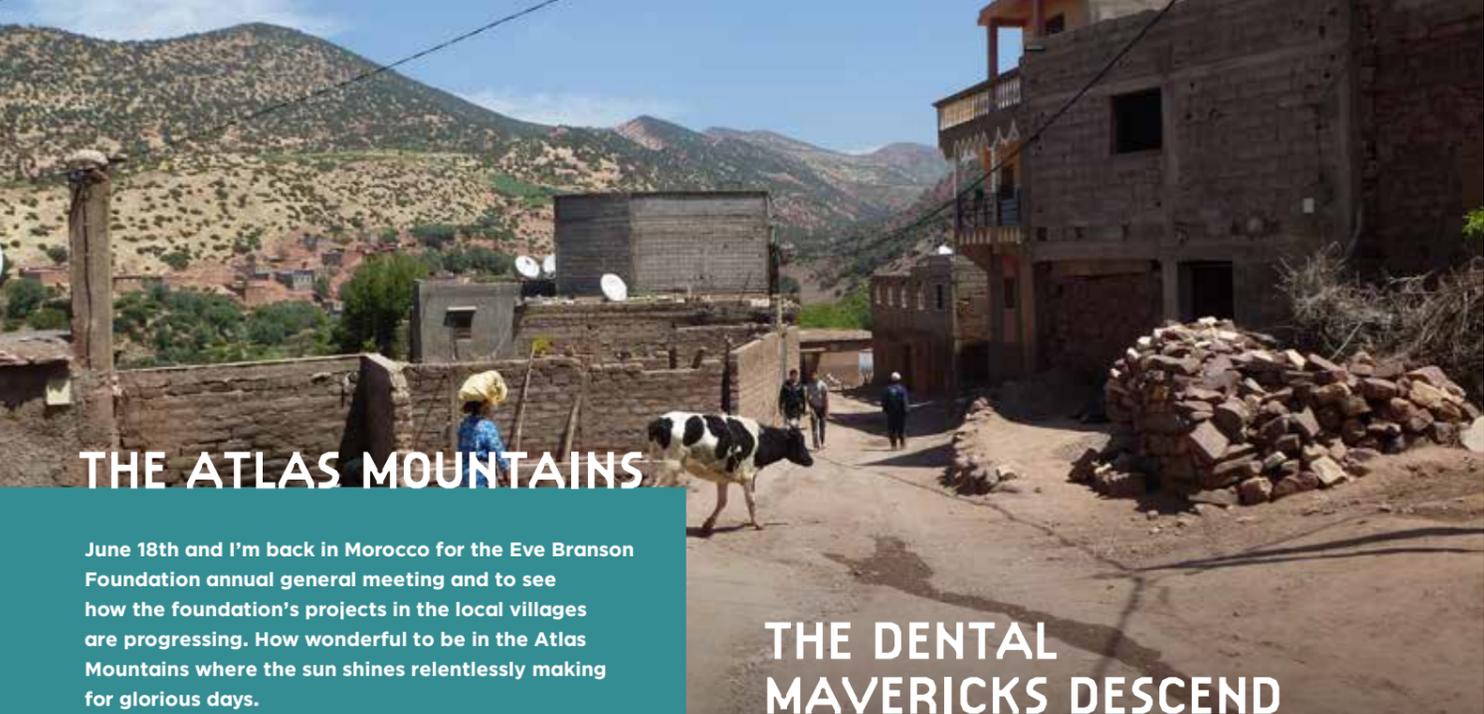
NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE HIGH ATLAS MOUNTAINS

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 COMPILED BY EVE BRANSON

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THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS

June 18th and I'm back in Morocco for the Eve Branson Foundation annual general meeting and to see how the foundation's projects in the local villages are progressing. How wonderful to be in the Atlas Mountains where the sun shines relentlessly making for glorious days.

Before discussing future projects and plans, we needed to discuss EBF Project Manager Danielle Ford's activity report and so the committee of seven, plus interpreters, listened intently about the activities in the three main villages: Tansghart, Asni and Imsker.

We've recently also taken on the responsibility of the Dar Talyba boarding house in Asni, where girls from distant villages who are unable to travel to school can get their education locally. This is a project that always requires funds, but the results are great, even enabling some of the girls to go on to university.

THE DENTAL MAVERICKS DESCEND

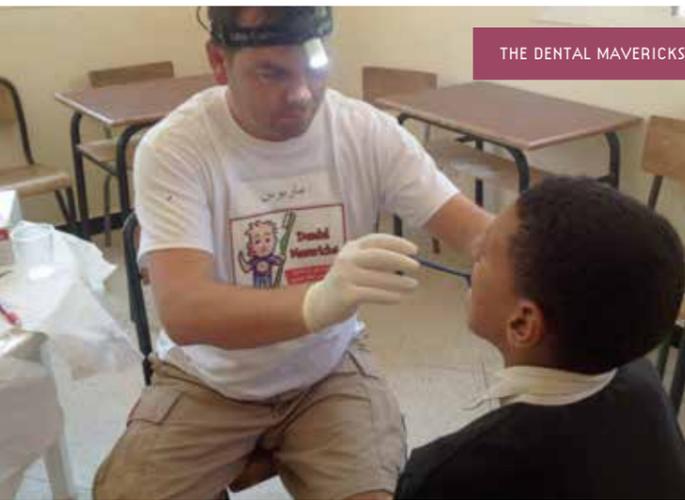
In May, another wonderful achievement was realised when a team of volunteer dentists, the Dental Mavericks, donated their time and expertise to provide pain free, cost free dental care to over 250 children and young people in Asni and the surrounding villages.

Five dentists, two nurses and three helpers covered the costs of their trip and closed their clinics to facilitate the visit. Over two days 140 children were taken out of extreme dental pain and a staggering 325 painful teeth were removed and a further 250 fluoride varnish treatments administered to young people to help protect their teeth. This is a record for the Dental Mavericks, who were expecting to treat half as many.

Cally Gedge, Dental Mavericks Co-Founder, Trustee and Operations Director says, "It is the first time we have treated such a large number of under 5s, which is ground-breaking because we really can get right in there from an early age and educate them on how to keep their teeth for life".

The future? Every 90 days a special package arrives with toothbrushes and toothpaste for the Eve Branson Foundation's 'Asni Teeth for Life Programme'. Children will brush their teeth daily, supervised by local teachers and tooth-brushing 'champions'. A new legacy is born! For a short interview with Cally visit <http://bit.ly/mavsyoutube> or please see more on their marvellous work at <http://www.dentalmavericks.org/>

To continue to run the Eve Branson Foundation requires a yearly income – not an easy thing to achieve. Hence, when three years ago I told my son Richard that I thought a polo match would not only be great fun but a fantastic way to raise funds too, he gasped saying, "Oh you can't make money out of polo!" Well, the challenge was on! The first year we managed to raise £30,000 and the second year, in April 2014, partnering with British Polo Day for the first time and with Amar Abdelhadi and his Jnan Amar Polo Resort once again, we managed to organise a spectacular three days of activities in Marrakech for an incredible international guest list. These activities culminated in a Gala Evening and Charity Auction in Marrakech raising a staggering \$185,000 + for the Eve Branson Foundation! That's enough funding to keep us going for a little while yet!



THE DENTAL MAVERICKS



Back to the present though and there is so much to do and only two more days to do it in. So today, Danielle Ford and EBF Project Manager and interpreter, Zoubair, took me down to Tamgounsi, a village in desperate need of our support, with over 100 girls. There we found a derelict building in an ideal position but additional funds would be needed to make it the perfect Craft House – a project that surely must be put on hold until we can secure more funds?



ON THE WAY TO IMSKER



IMSKER CRAFT HOUSE



CHICKS ARE RELEASED

Pressing on, over the river to Tansghart (the very first village we worked with), all the girls were happy, working by hand or on a machine creating objets d'art, shouting a welcome in a smattering of English. Leaving the laughter and happiness behind, we left to see the old goat building, which had been renovated to hold our 100 chickens and 100 more day-old chicks! We will sell the eggs to Kasbah Tamadot, which will provide a useful income for the community. Whilst we were there, in the midst of all the chickens, a stray month-old puppy dog appeared, needing much love - Danielle obliged and named him Danny!

“ WE WILL SELL THE EGGS TO KASBAH TAMADOT, WHICH WILL PROVIDE A USEFUL INCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY. ”

Time now to move up to Imsker, a more remote village where young 13-14 year olds were working on their very own weaving carpets, while others followed the teacher's instructions. Their eagerness, love, happiness and untainted naivety are surely a recipe the world should emulate?

We've even managed to persuade six of the girls to open up savings accounts with the local bank in Asni, where their hard-earned Dirhams can safely be put. With time we hope this number will increase and that their savings can continue to earn money for them at the bank.

Sadly, my three days were up and I had to leave Danielle and EBF President Brahim to meet the carpenter without me. We hope he will be able to teach the local boys his skills so they too can generate an income from the woodwork crafts they learn, with the results available for purchase at the Berber Boutique behind the tennis courts at Kasbah Tamadot.

I sit back on the plane home to England, satisfied that I've left the girls with a constructive future and the basics of English language that will open up job opportunities for them in the years to come.

EVE BRANSON



HOW CAN I HELP?

If you're visiting Kasbah Tamadot please **ask a member of the team** about visiting some of the projects the Eve Branson Foundation is working on. The Berber Boutique is located on the main road outside Kasbah Tamadot and sells a variety of locally produced goods with a portion of the proceeds going back to the community.

You can also donate directly to the project by visiting www.virginunite.com and clicking on the 'make a donation' button. You can select the Eve Branson Foundation from the list of active projects.