

TEABAG

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2004

THE EDUCATION AND BOOK APPEAL: GHANA

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Please excuse this rather rushed newsletter but I needed to get the news out about the TEABAG coffee morning being held on 1st May.

My last visit to the village was a great success. I was given gifts, letters, postcards and photos to hand out to 50 of the children by their sponsors. I managed to photo all but 2 of the kids receiving their gifts and the photographs are included with this newsletter where applicable.

Work on the library is continuing as and when sufficient funds are available. The whole project is going to take quite some time to fully complete, but I hope to have the main library room in use by the end of this year.

We now have over 180 children on our educational sponsorship scheme and we need a few more sponsors. We did have some success with our "Give a sponsorship for Christmas" scheme. Perhaps I could now suggest that you consider giving £15 sponsorships as birthday gifts to your family and friends.

A shipment of books, clothes, bikes, shoes and clothes will be made during May. If you have any items to add for the benefit of the children, please contact me fairly soon. We have also been donated several sewing machines and I can now extend the sewing machine appeal to include electric models. Used mobile phones have produced good cash returns for the building project and more are welcome.

As always, thanks are due to the various companies, organisations and individuals who have contributed in different ways towards the work of TEABAG over the recent months. Together we are making a real difference.

EAST DULWICH MEETS MANKOADZE!

I am delighted to announce that we have a party of 10 schoolteachers and adult students from Goose Green School in East Dulwich travelling to Ghana at the end of July. We have secured funding, with great thanks, from The Specialist Schools Trust for four of the teachers and the others members of the party are paying their own way.

It is planned that intensive courses will be provided to boost the teaching of English at the school in Mankoadze. The books that we have already sent will now come in very useful.

We hope to be able to accommodate all the visitors within the village so that they really become part of the community for the duration of their stay.

Having had a history of being so isolated, this mass visit will lift the spirits of the whole community and will be a cause for great celebrations in the village. I will be there myself at the time and will produce a special newsletter upon my return.

TEABAG COFFEE MORNING

The Rotary Club of Tooting have kindly arranged a Coffee Morning in support of TEABAG. This will be held on:

Saturday 1st May 2004

At

**The Earlsfield Baptist Church
Magdalen Road (corner of Garratt Lane)
Earlsfield., SW18**

Between 10.30am & 12.00 noon

**The entrance to the meeting hall is to the
right of the main church building**

There will be a display of photos taken in and around Mankoadze, both of the area and of the children. There will be a chance to ask any questions that you may have about TEABAG. Funds raised on the day will be put towards the building fund unless specified for Ebenezer's calipers.

Please try to pop-in sometime during the morning, it will be good to meet some of the sponsors.



EBENEZER

Following his operation last year, Ebenezer Otwe continues to make excellent progress. He has become an expert at maneuvering around town on his crutches and is always involved in the games with the other children - including playing football! Throughout all his months in hospital, Ebenezer never lost his trademark smile.

We now need to raise a further £300 to have a pair of calipers specially made for him. The existing set were roughly made in a hurry last year. He has now outgrown these and they are not adjustable. The new set will be able to grow with him - and he seems to be growing quickly.

Once again, he will need to travel across the country to the specialist hospital and we need to finance his mother travelling with him.

If you wish to contribute towards his progress, please send cheques payable to "Gillman Funeral Service" with a note that the payment is towards Ebenezer's appeal.

DONATIONS REQUIRED PLEASE!

TEABAG is currently collecting the following towards our work in Ghana:

Good quality children's books

Used mobile phones, with or without chargers

Children's clothes and shoes

Sewing machines

Bicycles - all sizes

Also we need a few more sponsors willing to donate £15 per year to educate a child who would not otherwise be able to go to school.

TEABAG VOLUNTARY WORKER IN GHANA

TEABAG now has the benefit of a full-time voluntary worker based in Accra, the capital of Ghana. Dove Luguchegi is a 23 year old student who has been assigned to TEABAG for six months. Some of our sponsors may have already received "thank-you" letters written by Dove on behalf of the children who received gifts in February.

Dove will be helping us when the next shipment of donated items arrives at the port of Tema and will be involved in looking after the accommodation and transportation of the schoolteachers from Goose Green. She will be often travelling between Accra and Mankoadze and would be happy to deliver any letters sent to her PO box or email address:

Dove Luguchegi
PO Box 6782
Accra North
Ghana

Email: luguchegi@hotmail.com

Dove is photographed to the right along with children from the village.



RADIO JACKIE

Radio Jackie is a local commercial radio station serving South West London and North Surrey. They are based at Tolworth and they broadcast music, news and community information. The station is particularly useful for drivers for their local road condition reports. The station has offered to promote TEABAG functions and will be plugging our coffee morning.

If you are in the area, try tuning into 107.8 FM or visit www.radiojackie.com