



Newsletter



Supporting education, equality & development in Northern Ghana

Issue 3 October 2013



HURRAH! OUR SCHOOL IS OPEN!



After more than five years of fundraising, building and meticulous planning, the new Kyabobo School for Girls welcomed its first intake of 80 enthusiastic girls last month!

Over the past six months, Gill Norris and her team in Nkwanta have finished the main building, secured the site with fencing, installed a full suite of computers and built the first five teachers' bungalows. A huge shipment of donated furniture and equipment arrived from the UK, teachers were sourced via our new partnership with the Ghana Education Service (GES) and most importantly, our first group of pupils were recruited to start school in mid-September.

We have high hopes for the school and our first classes of enthusiastic girls and the GEP Trustees are hugely grateful to the many generous supporters who have made this exciting project possible.

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LATEST CONTAINER SHIPMENT

At the start of July, a team of willing volunteers, trustees and strapping lads gathered at TWGGS and Tunbridge Wells Boys' Grammar School to carry out the mammoth task of loading a 40ft container with furniture & equipment to be shipped out to Ghana for the new school. The container was generously donated for the fourth time by **Brian Gibson of Ibex Commodities**, to whom GEP is extremely grateful for his many years of support.

The container arrived in Ghana at the end of July and then took a while to get it out of the port and up on its epic journey to Nkwanta. The whole shipping process was generously supported by **OLAM International** in Accra, who offered to help with importing and the onward transport for the second time in two years.

GEP would like to thank the following schools for their kind donations of furniture and other school equipment: **The Discovery School, Kings Hill School, Temple Hill Primary School, Dartford School, Riverhead Infants' School, Claremont School, Skinners Kent Academy, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School** and **St Leonards-Mayfield School**.

Thanks also go to **Tunbridge Wells Boys' Grammar School** for providing use of their car park for loading the container.

Lindsey Marden of Skinners Kent Academy said: "It's so nice to see our equipment going to such good use". Amanda Watkins of Temple Hill School said "It is great to know that we could be part of this project", while Marcia Pease of the Discovery School said "The school looks fabulous - we are very pleased to have been able to help". Linda Wybar of TWGGS said "It's so exciting to see the school taking shape".



GHANA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (GIF) FUND FENCING FOR NEW SCHOOL

Earlier this year, Ghana International Foundation, the charitable arm of Ghana International Bank, confirmed a donation of GHC 22,300 (c. £7,500) to cover the fencing for the school complex.

GEP is very grateful to GIF for their vital support for the new school. Over past few years, they have previously funded our borehole, ceiling & electrics.



A MESSAGE FROM GILL

"We would like to thank all our sponsors, both large and small, for their unflinching trust in our ability to deliver what we have promised.

Very few organisations of our size work purely on a voluntary basis, which allows all donations to be used solely for our valuable development work."



DONATIONS: www.btplc.com/mydonate

WELCOME TO THE TWGGS GHANA TEAM FOR 2014!

A new team of 15 girls from Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School was recently picked to visit Ghana in October 2014. This year, over 120 girls wrote excellent applications, of which the lucky 15 are: Laura Barrett, Laura Clarke, Katie Exall, India Hicks, Alice Liley, Elizabeth Millar, Sophie Morris and Ruby Swain, Hannah Billett, Grace Corcoran, Imogen Cowdell, Alex Davison, Amber Leversedge, Ellie Miles and Alice Ralph.

The girls, who will be in years 11 & 12 by the time they depart, will be accompanied by Mr Matthew Breeze, a Geography Teacher and experienced traveller who led the 2012 team and accompanied the 2010 team, and Miss Henny Spokes, a Spanish teacher. On the trip, they will teach at the new girls' school and other village schools before spending a week travelling around the south of the country. In the 15 months running up to the trip, the team will be working hard to fundraise for the building of the science block and running costs of the new school. They have a hard act to follow as the 2012 team fundraised over £50,000! **Ghana Education Project would like to offer our congratulations and say good luck to the new team.**

FUNDRAISING STORIES



TEA IN THE PARK

GEP held an afternoon tea in Molyneux Park this summer, which raised an incredible £1,418 in aid of the new school. The Molyneux Park Gardens Committee generously allowed GEP to use their Summer Ball marquee free of charge for the occasion and we would like to extend our thanks to James Cassidy for giving us the opportunity to use the marquee.

GEP trustee Julie Robinson - assisted by a keen team of master caterers, flower arrangers and waitresses - organised the event, which was attended by 100 guests, including our new patron Dentaa Amoateng, who gave a very inspirational talk.

Musical accompaniment was provided by Charlotte and Becky Andrew, two ex-TWGGGS Ghana teammates and daughters of GEP Trustee Sara Parker. There was also a raffle and a Ghana Quiz to entertain guests while they enjoyed their delicious sandwiches, scones and cakes. The afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, helpers and guests who helped make the afternoon such a huge success!



GIFTY – OUR SECOND NEW PATRON

GEP is pleased to welcome Lady Gifty Tetteh as our second new Patron. Gifty is a Ghanaian lawyer based in London, who was called to the Bar in 2000. In 2005 she made legal history by being the first black woman to set up Chambers in the prestigious Middle Temple.



Gifty's background and continuing work within the British Ghanaian and African community has underpinned her interest in human rights, civil liberties and equality. She is heavily involved with Community Projects and utilises her legal skills and experience to provide advice and instruction on matters of law and practice. Her continuing work within charity organisations has enhanced her belief that it is essential to use one's legal experience to assist in the community.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Key dates for the next six months:

8/11/13

GEP Quiz Night: 7.30pm at St Marks Church Hall in Tunbridge Wells (Email Julie for tickets at: robinson4@tesco.net)

14/11/13

GEP Christmas Gift Fair: 7-9pm in the Performing Arts Centre at TWGGGS (Free)

21/11/13

GEP Annual General Meeting, TWGGGS

21/3/14

GEP Music Quiz, 7.30pm at TWGGGS (Email Julie for tickets at: robinson4@tesco.net)

25/4/14

Auction of Promises, held in collaboration with the school PTA at TWGGGS.

www.ghanaeducationproject.org.uk

VOLTIC (GH) DONATION



In May 2013, Voltic (GH) Limited presented GEP with a cheque for GHC 20,000 (approx. £7000) to support our long-running Nkwanta Students Award and other ongoing initiatives such as improving human resource training for teachers and equipment procurement.

Presenting the cheque, Voltic's Corporate Affairs Manager, Cyrus deGraft-Johnson noted, "We at Voltic, taking cognizance of the impact of the work being done by this NGO have decided to support it with a further GHC 20,000. This is in line with our corporate objective to support initiatives that seek to improve access to primary education & improvement in educational infrastructure". Mr deGraft-Johnson added "What we are providing today will go towards the Nkwanta Students Award, wildlife competition & an excursion to Mole National Park for the winners. We are also supporting a health programme for Basic Schools as well as production of materials, workshop and in-school delivery".

Gillian Norris, GEP's founder, said "This kind donation from Voltic (GH) will enable us to facilitate the training programmes for teachers & produce lesson plans for every Science and English lesson in JHS. GEP is most grateful to Voltic for this benevolent gesture. We would be delighted if other companies come to assist us complete the numerous projects we have set our eyes on in the Nkwanta district."

VISIT FROM GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE

In April, the charity's founder, Gill Norris, visited the UK accompanied by Anaafi Frederick 'Fred' Birikorang, a member of the Ghana Education Service (GES).

During his visit, the UK trustees met with Fred and agreed that GES would fund the teachers for the new Kyabobo School for Girls in Nkwanta. After detailed discussion, it was decided that a partnership between GES and GEP would be highly beneficial for both parties, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the school through GES funding for teachers salaries, while allowing GEP to ensure that the school is well run and equipped, teachers are motivated and good in-service training can be provided for the staff.

Aside from spending time with family, a spot of sightseeing and a visit to the theatre in London, Fred also shadowed a Year 7 form group at TWGGS for a day and spent some time at Langton Green, Claremont and St John's Primary Schools. He investigated how finance, PSHE and assessment are carried out in the UK. GEP would like to thank all the schools who helped to give Fred a useful insight into the British education system. He had a valuable time here but he found the English spring weather just a bit too cold!

FUTURE INITIATIVES

Alongside our work at the new Kyabobo School for Girls, Ghana Education Project is aiming to develop a new programme for Kindergartens, to help teachers give a more practical "learning-through-play" experience to the children.

We also hope to introduce a Health Education programme to basic schools: to cover all aspects of development from Primary 4 to Junior High School 3.

In addition, GEP plans to continue to deliver in-service training to teachers, to run the Nkwanta Award and to support community groups to be more self-sufficient and hence more sustainable into the future.

FUNDING PARTNERS

GEP is looking to engage with schools, trusts and foundations, individual donors and Business Partners. We are pleased to be able to welcome the **Pope Family** as individual donors and **GAP 360** as a Business Partner. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support.

GEP's new Business Partner GAP 360 is currently advertising several positions at the Kyabobo School for Girls that we hope to fill from the UK. Further information about these positions can be found at:

<http://www.gap360.com/school-jobs-ghana>

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