

Friends of Tafo Newsletter

SPRING 2011



Friends of Tafo is a UK Charity that facilitates and inspires sustainable development in education, job creation and community in the town of Kwahu-Tafo, Ghana.

Welcome to the sixteenth update on our progress. Since 2002, thanks to the help of our supporters and the initiatives of the community itself, FOT has enabled the people of Kwahu-Tafo to bring about remarkable changes to life in their town. The work goes on.

HELP!!

We really need help to send Tafo youngsters to University in Ghana. Admissions increase every year, but our funds do not. We URGENTLY need funds to enable this year's list of talent to attend University and Training Colleges. 8 places have been donated so far: can you conceivably commit to £65 per month, and change a life? ANY assistance to the fund will be gratefully received.

We had this great message from Isaac Dankwa Nkansah, studying Agronomy, one of the first two we helped. *"The beginning of the second year was joy and happiness ... a tremendous increase in my academic performance ... Without much ado, I will like to thank you for massive support of Friends of Tafo."*



Isaac's training will help build the future of his farming hometown, Kwahu-Tafo..



News

Kwahu-Tafo has an Internet Café! Thanks to Hat Trick Productions the Library now hosts a 10 station facility, with Talent TV having supplied some of the second-hand PCs. Demand over Tafo's wide catchment area is expected to be huge & all profits go to development.

Water

Greencare H2O's extraordinary generosity has drilled Tafo's first three boreholes in rocky areas of the town, and to complete the transformation the Go Ghana! Cycle Challenge in October will rehabilitate all five hand dug wells.



Ride

Preparations for the Cycle Challenge are almost complete, with 24 participants signed up, in training, and bullying all their friends for sponsorship and sun cream for what is going to be (literally) the hottest ticket of the year. Couldn't get it together this year? Get training for 2012!

FOT is: **Chair:** Humphrey Barclay, Nkosuohene of Kwahu-Tafo; **Secretary:** Georgina Owen; **Treasurer:** Benjamin Ntim; **Trustees:** Crispin Leyser, Jules Leyser, Robert Taylor; **Committee Members:** Colena Abbosh, Peggy Rose Craddock, Dr Tristram Wyatt, Michael Mensah, Ian Aryeh-Thompson.

Latest News from Tafo

EDUCATION

The **Senior High School's** Home Economics Food & Nutrition unit is now open, thanks to your support & Ghana International Foundation



The **Methodist JHS** has acquired a Library and Staffroom, thanks to Samuel Whitbread Community College and the generosity of a Tafo contractor.

Twining by UK schools continues: Painsley Catholic College has sent science kits: St. Christopher's has provided school drinking water: Oldham Hulme Grammar is planning a visit: drawings and letters are exchanged by many, and collections at Puddletown First, Shere, Maney Hill, Broadmayne, Shillington and St. Mary's have enabled school repairs and much appreciated additional resources.



Cobwebs, a group of six Primary Schools in Surrey, having made friends with Tafo's Kindergartens, is exchanging news of children's games & planning a visit.

We are **still looking for partners** for one more Junior High, our Tech, and our Senior High School.

Islamic Primary badly needs furniture, and we also seek on-going assistance to get Tafo's 200 poorest children into school this September. There are still some kids kept at home for lack of £7 a year.



JOB CREATION

We are slowly building the capacity of some of Tafo's least well-off citizens to support themselves, by two microcredit schemes, five projects providing salaried jobs, and plans for two craft training centres.



Microcredit 1. Ashanti Development has generously brought to Tafo a microcredit scheme to enable women to start small businesses. Training the participants in group responsibility, the programme provides modest loans at 15% interest, which is very low for Ghana.

Microcredit 2. Dutch Meyer has enabled the creation of a revolving business fund for disabled citizens. Devised and run by Kwahu-Tafo Disabled Association it charges no interest, and has helped 44 people.

Craft Training 1. Dutch and his wife BL have also started a website called www.yekoanim.org (Yeko Anim means 'We Go Forward') to fund the creation of a Leatherwork Training Centre employing the skills of an expert who has retired to the town. The production of sandals and shoes (some for disabled people) will generate income, and the scheme will set up six graduates in business each year.



Craft Training 2. We are also keen to find funding to establish a similar Kente Training Centre. Kente is the gorgeous traditional cloth of Ghana, and a young weaver has brought the craft to Tafo for the first time. He is attracting trainees fast, and we would like to make it official by setting him up full-time, to provide jobs and development income.



INFRASTRUCTURE AND QUALITY OF LIFE

London-based dentist **Manjeet Ahlowalia**, a long time supporter of FOT, paid a flying visit to Tafo over Easter and treated 100 tooth-pain sufferers. Working with a dedicated local team, Manj coped with a lash-up surgery, no running water, translation difficulties, and said it was "a real success".



Prestige Medical Centre in Wales enabled "Love Life's" major HIV/AIDS event in March, and is now assisting it to move on to its May-July programme of Malaria prevention, towards which the government is now providing free insecticide-treated nets for all.

We also try to find the means to support the poorest to pay their National Health subscriptions, to keep an Emergency Medical Fund going, and to fund the therapeutic needs of the Disabled Association.



Under guidance from ORAP (the WaterAid-backed NGO working with Greencare H2O and FOT on the drinking water programme) a **Water and Sanitation Committee** has been set up for the first time in Tafo, to do what it says on the tin. A very bright young man has been recruited to be Head of Operations working to the dedicated older chair.



The **Girls Science Club** received microscopes & other gifts from its generous sponsors Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls.

The wonderful support of St Paul's School in Hammersmith London has built school toilets at Presby (though someone recently stole the polytank), Islamic Primary (looking good), and now one at the Roman Catholic School – to the great relief of all.



EVENTS

Perfect Harmony

The Royal Music Academy, created and so generously maintained every year by ie:music, has gained a new lease of life & an Easter concert provided exciting demonstrations. Already one talented young musician is repaying a bursary by returning to teach, and wrote "*God richly bless Friends of Tafo for this education journey of mine. I will open my heart to serve this community.*"



About Time too...

Excitingly Kwahu-Tafo made a whole page article in Time Magazine in March, thanks to Africa Bureau Chief Alex Perry, nephew of Humphrey Barclay, Tafo's Development Chief. Nepotism lives!



Girl Aloud

Hear it for a contestant in the JHS Reading Competition in November, where one of the judges was 78 year old Carmen Munroe OBE, star of *Desmond's*.



How We Laughed!

Once again our wonderful friends on the black comedy circuit united to pack Hackney Empire with Strictly Come Laughing 2. Stand by for SCL3: note the date: **Sunday September 4th!**



THANK YOU: To all our supporters, occasional and regular, who contribute to our general coffers and fund particular projects, we want to express our appreciation once again. Needless to say, nothing would happen without you, and we are so glad that you have found in FOT a feeling of confidence that the money you give to Africa really gets where you have been told it will. Special thanks this Spring go to those mentioned and Sue Taylor, Susie Parriss, Alec McCowen and Douglas Turner Trust.

CAN YOU HELP?

Donations: join our list of generous friends. Donate by cheque, standing order or internet: www.cafonline.org.

If you would like to donate to our work please send a cheque to 'Friends of Tafo' along with your name, address and email to:

Friends of Tafo, P.O. Box 43826, London NW6 1XG

Thank you so much!!

Reclaim gift aid! I am a UK tax payer and would like Friends of Tafo to reclaim tax paid on my donation [] (tick box). (Or if you can't bear to cut up the newsletter.... download the Gift Aid form from our website.)



And finally ... Here's Auntie Beatraice, who has found that being a Representative at the energetic Progress Council means she can campaign for funds for gates to make the market secure. But we haven't found any money for her yet...

