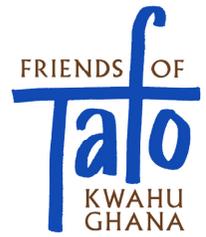


Friends of Tafo Newsletter 17

SPRING 2012



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

A Cyclelogical Success!

“STUNNING” “AMAZING” “FANTASTIC”

The Go Ghana! Cycle Challenge October 2011

Against all odds (and some predictions!) 21 cyclists rode 240 miles in 5½ days and 38 degrees across Ghana to Kwahu Tafo, and raised an astonishing £30,000 for clean drinking water. It was a triumph.



“My head is still spinning, my legs are still aching and I still have a tear not far from my eye” (Ralph Brown)

“Incredibly intense but wonderfully rewarding” (Claire Unwin)

“I loved every second” (Patricia Marlar)



“I am so proud to have had the opportunity to be part of this amazing experience” (Neil Hollins)



Old hands and complete beginners bonded in agreeing it was extremely challenging, but the satisfaction of doing the almost impossible (the rough roads, the hills, the heat!) and the joy of seeing Ghana at its fascinating ground level made it unforgettable.

The money raised has already installed a hand-pump at one of Tafo’s wells, and is now enabling a mechanised project at a previously hard-to-reach location.

You can see what the ride was like by catching the video on Facebook (www.facebook.com/FriendsofTafo) and

WE ARE GOING TO DO IT AGAIN IN OCTOBER 2013!

We will begin signing up immediately and you can let us know your interest by emailing us at info@friendsoftafo.org.

Expect the competition for places to be as fierce as the heat in Ghana. Seven people are already jostling for a place!



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



*‘They’ve only gone this far and they’re falling off already.’
(Villager, Day 1)*

Cleaning up the Water

Tafo's Clinic logs more water-borne disease cases than anything else except malaria. Building on Greencare Foundation's amazing generosity in first dredging the River Bupru and then sinking three boreholes, and the Cyclists enabling a clean-up of the wells, we would still like to increase the number of boreholes to service all the deprived parts of town.



Girls Science Club

We have to find new funding for our Girls' extramural science classes, which were started in 2007 by Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls and which have given our girl pupils a whole new view of their academic potential. We would like to hear from any Institution or individual interested in supporting this unique asset.

Furniture

We have been thrilled to receive support from Jesus College SAFE and Kitchen Table Charities Trust to furnish the Islamic Kindergarten and Primary schools respectively. Many schools still don't have cupboards, or shelves for the books people send us.



Computers for Primary Schools

After several previous grants to Tafo, British and Foreign School Society has again rated FOT highly enough to give us a massive grant through Computer Aid International to computerise all six of Tafo's Primary Schools. Work has already started, and we expect to be up and running by Easter.



Tertiary Education

Four years ago we helped two brilliant students from Tafo schools to go to Universities in Ghana. The next year it was 8, then 20, and in 2011 it leapt to 41. With average loans of only £500 per year (to be repaid either in cash or by an understood obligation to the community), our donors have made it possible for Tafo's outstanding youngsters to raise their game and position

themselves for an effective place in the future of their country.

Keeping Fit

Tafo boasts a 70-strong Keep Fit Club, bringing together young people who show remarkable community spirit. What they lack in equipment they make up for in altruism – dedicating days to communal labour in the Clinic grounds, and funding an apprentice scheme.



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Yeko Anim

The tertiary education support has come from Douglas Turner Trust, Adrian Slade, FOT supporters and our energetic American partner Yeko Anim. Yeko Anim means (in Twi) ‘we are going forward’, and is the brainchild of the remarkable Dutch Meyer and his wife BL in Seattle. Together they have inspired their fellow Americans to contribute with huge generosity to a washroom at the Library, Needy Pupils, their newly created

Disabled Business Fund, and Tertiary Education. Dutch says he is passionate about fundraising for Ghana, and believes he has found his focus in Tafo.

In particular we are indebted to the family of the late Kelly Ann Brown, who have set up a scholarship fund in her memory.

*“If it had not been for your help, probably I would have been dreaming for ever”
writes Economics student Vida Boateng (above).*

Hat Trick Internet Cafe

With astonishing generosity the multi-award winning TV comedy production company Hat Trick (‘Outnumbered’, ‘Have I Got News For You’), whose MD Jimmy Mulville starred for Humphrey Barclay some time ago in the sitcom ‘That’s Love’, opened Tafo’s first internet café at Easter 2011. It is really thrilling to see Tafo citizens young and old making use of it and learning their way round the wonders of the world wide web.



Twinning

We now have all our schools in Tafo paired with an English counterpart except for our Senior High, our Technical Institute, and the newly created Islamic JHS. The benefits of these connections range from swapping of videos demonstrating children’s games (coming soon on our Facebook page), to funded classroom-building, student visits (left), and this year we hope (under the auspices of Cobwebs Primary Schools group in

Surrey) teacher exchange. If you know of an interested unpaired UK school, tell us.

Strictly Come Laughing – 3 and 4

Once again last September Londoners packed the famous Hackney Empire for a sell-out evening of solid gold laughs from the stars of the black comedy circuit. Helping Tafo has become an annual commitment for top stars such as Robbie Gee, Eddie Nestor, Slim and Richard Blackwood, and celebrity actors including Rudolph Walker and Hugh Quarshie. This year we will be raising the roof (and, with your help, big money) on Sunday September 16th. Make a date!



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Progress

Last June saw the official inauguration of Kwahu Tafo Progress Council, which finds room for the brightest and best of Tafo's young professional talent, dedicated to the transparent management of FOT's funding. This is development of the most interesting kind.

Five Year Plan

The inauguration was followed by a seminar to determine the community's main objectives for development over the next five years. Great emphasis is being laid on the devising of income-generating projects.



Health Education

Tafo's "Love Life" Programme 2011 included a TB and Hepatitis Awareness campaign. We are very happy that our health initiatives are supported by Presteigne Medical Centre – one of whose doctors, the redoubtable Rob Spring, took part in the Cycle Challenge!

Coming Event

FOT's own Committee Member Peggy-Rose Craddock is courageously taking part in the BUPA London 10k Run on May 27th. She says every penny raised will go to FOT, so to cheer her on please go and sponsor her at http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Peggy-Rose_Craddock



GENERAL DONATING

If you'd like to give to Africa the personal way, you can do so by standing order (ask us for bank details) or at www.virginmoney.com, or at www.cafonline.org, or you can fill in this box and send it by post to Friends of Tafo, P.O. Box 43826, London NW6 1XG.

I'd like to contribute, and enclose a cheque for £ made out to "Friends of Tafo".

Name Phone

Address.....

..... Email address

I am a UK taxpayer and would like Friends of Tafo to reclaim tax paid on my donation.

Did you know?

You can nominate FOT for a free % every time you shop or search online?

To shop: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/friendsoftafo>

To search: <http://friendsoftafo.easysearch.org.uk>

Try it!

and finally . . .

Painsley Catholic College in Cheadle sent Science kits to the RC JHS, including a plastic skeleton. The school had never seen one before. "When I was a boy," said an admiring parent, "we just looked for the skinniest person in the class".



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