

# Friends of Tafo Newsletter 19

SPRING 2013

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. Registered Charity 1096242

## THREE CHEERS !

**COMPUTERS** Each Primary School in Kwahu Tafo now has a 25 pc computer Lab, thanks to British and Foreign School Society and Computer Aid International. This sensational advance means that Tafo pupils are hugely helped with their IT syllabus work and typing skills, and we would like to progress to internet connection as the next step.



**SCIENCE** To our great delight we have just received a hugely generous donation to create Kwahu Tafo Science Club in succession to the Girls Science Club which since 2008 has assured girl pupils in Tafo of their equal status in the lab. Now,

reacting to a request from all teachers, CP Charitable Trust – introduced to us by new supporter Mary Cunningham – has agreed to create and first-year fund a new improved model open to both girls and boys.



**CLEAN DRINKING WATER** And excitingly we have just received a major grant from Ghana International Foundation to mechanise for more popular use a borehole originally sunk for us by the generous Greencare Foundation. This will allow us to build on the evident success of the projects funded by *Go Ghana!* 2011 Cycle Challenge, which have really paid off with people coming from miles around to buy clean drinking water and thereby contribute to the town's development coffers.



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

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**STOP PRESS!**  
FOT Chair Humphrey Barclay was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Birthday Honours 2013 for services to Kwahu Tafo. He was very proud to accept it in the name of all our supporters.

## JOBS DONE

**HELPING EDUCATION** Last Autumn we lent money to 47 young people to attend Tertiary Education institutions, and assisted over 100 children to attend school in Tafo (left). The majority of this funding came from the hard work of Mr and Mrs Dutch Meyer (above with some TE beneficiaries) and their US organisation Yeko Anim.



**A MOVING TRIBUTE** Now, Dutch with their work – and reception – in Tafo in Seattle and moving to live there. “For searching for a place where we can retire skills contribute have been Tafo that we feel we are coming home.”



and BL are so enthused that they are selling up 15 years we have been and with our combined to the community. We given such welcomes in



**BUILDING INDEPENDENCE** Ashanti Development’s microcredit programme continues to flourish, with now as many as 90 women receiving help in self-supporting groups to run small businesses. Ashanti Development operates mainly in the Kumasi area, but opted to extend its help to Kwahu. Are we lucky!

**PAIRING UP** Our twinning of schools keeps on expanding, and the most recent connections are with New College School Oxford and Queensbury Academy. The Tafo children were delighted by January pictures of snow (and surprised to learn that it is cold!) and NCS sent Bertie the Dinosaur to learn how to play football Ghana-style.



**KEEPING TAFO TIDY** Under the Love Life Health campaign, schoolchildren have been taking part in clean-up exercises, and at the waterfall, destined to be one of our foremost tourist attractions, the newly formed Youngsters Club did the same for an Easter ‘jams’. Love Life needs continual support for medical projects, and we long to respond to Project Director Jacob Mensah’s passionate devotion.



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## THE TO DO LIST



**THINGS DO FALL APART** Our 4 Junior High School ICT labs are now showing their age, with 100 pcs that were donated in 2008. Funding to rehabilitate the rooms and renew the equipment, including stabilisers against the vagaries of Ghana's frequent power cuts – and protection against termites (*left*) and the occasional (real) mouse -- is now one of our priorities.

**SOMEWHERE TO GO** Our sanitation efforts continue, and we have recently completed 3 school loos. Unfortunately *Go Ghana! Cycle Challenge 2013* which was aimed at funding a major new convenience didn't gather enough interest, but maybe our supporters will have more energy for training and sponsorship-raising in 2014. We'd like to hear!



**WAKE UP TO KWAHU!** We have produced a presentation (which is available) bigging up Tafo's tourism potential, and are hoping for advice on the best ways to find (a) funding and (b) commercial investment. Tafo's airy setting in a dramatic landscape above the Volta Lake has plenty to offer Ghanaians and foreigners alike, and the town

is ready with a typically big welcome.

**JOLLY GOOD SPORTS** Tafo held a sports week in March, at which there was strong competition for the only trophy on display (rescued from a dump in Barnet!). We wonder if anyone has old trophies they could donate? They would be hugely appreciated, and encourage individual and team prowess alike.



**TAFO'S GOT TALENT** Blind twins Peter and Paul, aged 5, caused a sensation (and many a tear) with their drumming at the Royal Music Academy Easter Sunday Concert. Our Disabled Action Fund – if there's enough in it -- will send them to a blind school in September: and they'll be welcome back at the RMA for training any day.



**LET THE MUSIC PLAY** The RMA goes from strength to strength and recently hosted two English musicians Gemma and Malcolm Gaynor, who created a studio and recorded a track composed by Emmanuel (*right*). We are aware of the huge financial burden so willingly taken on every year by our founders [ie:music](#), and we are looking for additional help from anyone who is interested in the future of young musicians.

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## HAPPENINGS



**YOUNG VISITERS** 20 students from Oldham Hulme Grammar Schools will spend two weeks camping at SDA JHS in July, and working on a project with the Tafo pupils. We aren't sure which school is more nervous!



## STRICTLY COME LAUGHING 4



Strictly Come Laughing 4 took place on November 18th, and once again an army of generous stars and helpers rattled the roof and the collecting buckets, and put more than £10K into our coffers. This year's show **SCL5 on September 8<sup>th</sup>**, will be our 10<sup>th</sup> annual gala held for raising the general funds which are vital for running the Library, shipping donated goods, covering the costs of the Progress Council, training its officers and more. Box Office 0208 985 2424



**VIVID VOICES** A new departure for us in April was to link up with Brandenburg Choral Festival for 'Vivaldi Gloria!', a concert of beautiful singing in the ancient London treasure The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. The organisers were so pleased with FOT's sale of tickets that we will be invited to join an event at St Martin-in-the-Fields next year. Stand by.

## SUPPORTING US

### 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](http://www.virginmoney.com), or at [www.cafonline.org](http://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.

**WHEELY WHEELY HELPFUL** One of our supporters recently collected 7 unwanted bicycles and we included them in a shipment. Some of them looked as if they had been unwanted for a very long time, but a Tafo repairer has quoted £35 to repair the lot, which I think we can manage, and they are going to be put to very good use. Here's the Art Club's Owusu Sampson's cyclist. Oh – we need funds for the Art Club too.



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