

HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITS WULUGU SCHOOLS



High Commisioner at Sawla Vocational School

November has been a most exciting month for Karimu and Wulugu Project in Ghana. On Sunday 1st, a representative of our biggest corporate donor spent an action packed day with Karimu , on route from Tamale where he arrived on the early morning 'plane to Bolgatanga where he stayed. On route he visited Tauhidiya, Nairiya, Sayoo and Gbani primary schools , all of which they had funded and then on to Savelugu Vocational school . Sadly being a Sunday there were

few pupils around to mob him with enthusiastic faces and excitement but he did have a good chance to see the quality of the build. Also Karimu had a lot of time to explain how important all the schools were in improving the lot of the whole village and how the village supported the schools.

After a scary drive back down to Tamale in the dark,(few vehicles and cows , donkeys or goats don't have 'tail lights') Karimu and the driver were up early to meet the British High Commissioner who had flown up to Tamale , on his way to Wa , capital of North West region, to a meeting. It was to be a long drive and he offered to spend a couple of hours with Karimu to see Wulugu Project , before setting off to Wa. Karimu offered to drive him personally to Wa , promising to show the High Commisioner Sankumpe primary School and Sawla Vocational School on the way. Sawla is so remote from Tamale that Lynne has not been able to visit it yet but it is close to Wa. It was a most successful long day with the teacher and students thrilled by such an important visitor who Karimu reported was so impressed. Karimu also had time to talk and explain what we have been doing .

We await the High Commissioner's report with interest and will include it in the next newsletter.

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website: www.wulugu.co.uk

OUR WORK IN BUIPE , A VAST AREA OF CENTRAL GONJA .

The countryside around Buipe has a rapidly growing population , but little infrastructure as there are many new settlements there. This year we have concentrated on working in this area , building two new primary schools and reroofing another and then reroofing and refitting two junior secondary schools. All this work was done during a credit crunch in UK sometimes using locally sourced materials ie more mud and less cement ,which may not last so long but are cheaper and will get more children in to school

RESCUING VILLAGE SCHOOLS AROUND BUIPE



Photo(s) of rebuilding Meipegu school the traditional way

'At a distance the school in Sankumpe looked like an abandoned sheep or goat pen in a deserted village. And at a closer look the goat pen like atmosphere of the school was starkly brought to the fore. The smell of overnight animals droppings , urine and rain water hit the senses like a strong wall.

As I looked at it from the direction of the north the school building itself was a small mud structure lying east to west. It was portioned into two cubicles that passed for class rooms. There were hardly any doors and windows. The entrances to the class were barely two feet wide. The floors of the class rooms were a mixture of sand and animals droppings. The situation in the class rooms was dingy as the miniature windows barely let in light. The old leaky thatch roof looked like a hen whose feathers were ruffled by a strong wind.

In a school like that of Sankumpe which was left in such a sad state of disrepair, the stock of basic furniture of table and chairs is a luxury. As for landscaping the school premises, it appears the idea had never been thought about.'

Wulugu Project has this summer built a new 3 class-room block at Sankumpe and furnished it with desks to help

'This state of disrepair was not unique to Sankumpe alone. Schools in other communities such as Kinkandina, Sariba, Selinga etc bore similar if not the same mark of neglect, rot and abandonment thus the hope of giving an education to the children of these communities were almost dashed until the intervention of Wulugu Project.

Wulugu project has renovated these in the past. Meipegu school was rebuilt this year but other villages must wait. Hopefully we will find funding to do more soon .

AND BUILDING IN BUIPE

This large area had a group of 250 children studying in Old Buipe, without a school building at all. Man Group, PLC, together with an anonymous corporate donor, generously sponsored a new 6 class school there which was built; furnished and opened this summer .Everyone became involved. The District Assembly provided storage and transport. Ghana Education Services provided advice where necessary and the parents and teachers have spurred on this project and are extremely proud of their new building. Ghana Education Services will continue to operate the day to day running and costs for the school.

The picture below shows the 'Handing over of the Key from Karimu to the Director of Ghana Education Services in the central Gonja region



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AND NOW TO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS AROUND BUIPE

The need to refurbish Junior High Schools in and around Buipe has become more urgent as there is a greatly improved attitude towards education here, particularly for girls. This is closely associated to the excellent work being done by the students at the Vocational School that we provided in 2006. Graduates from the vocational school have found employment and have been commended for their positive attitude towards work as well as their skills. This has acted as a spur to the whole community to encourage girls, in particular, to complete not only their primary education, (an achievement in itself) but to follow through to post 14+ schooling for which 'Junior Highs' are essential.

This year we have reroofed and refurbished Catholic Junior High at Buipe Bridge and Academy Junior High, at Buipe. The students are thrilled as these schools not only give them 3 more years of schooling but help them gain access to the Vocational School, where they can learn a trade.



The new Catholic Junior High at Buipe Bridge.

These are some of the thanks we have received for our latest help to the deprived Junior High Schools in Buipe.

Umar Sa-adat, the Girl's prefect from Buipe Bridge RC school wrote on 30th June 09
'You have really and totally changed the atmosphere and the outlook of the entire school. This has actually improved teaching and learning and we have improved ventilation.'

Tmbobwura Moses Mahama wrote from Buipe Academy JHS on 24th June:
'We really enjoyed your sacrificial services you rendered to us as you renovated our dilapidated classroom block. We are particularly glad and grateful for the re-roofing. The situation was hopeless. You really acted promptly and came to our rescue. There is a saying that 'Anyone watering others will be freely watered.' This will aptly apply to your organisation'

It is important to remember the value of the work we provide for labourers and craftsmen. Wulugu is highly respected. This gives us a strong bargaining power for materials and ensures fast and high quality work. The costs of our buildings remain at approximately one third of that spent on similar buildings provided by others including Ghana Education Services. Our preparatory research, enables us to target villages where the need is great and urgent, there is no possibility of the work being done by other agencies within five years and we are certain of community support.

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MORE NEWS FROM LUKULA



As we mentioned in the last newsletter we had found generous private donor, Martin Ephson to build three extra classrooms at Lukula, which will complement the first three built 10 years ago by the Chinese. Karimu's village was very excited as it meant that all the children could have classes inside and not be reliant on good weather. ,

The building was magnificent and completed on time but it did run over budget by 25%. This was due to a number of factors including

- * The rainy season produced 'heavy rains' which in turn damaged the road which in turn made the trip a lot longer than anticipated.
- * Cement prices (an important component) have increased locally by 30%. There were similar increases in other materials.
- * More night guards were needed on site now to stop materials being stolen. (this is a much more serious problem than a few years ago.)
- * Government control fuel costs and weaker GH¢ has increased fuel costs.
- * On site it was extremely difficult to extract enough local materials which were expected to be used so more had to be purchased which was in not original estimate.
- * There is 19% inflation in Ghana

Karimu was most embarrassed as he had never overrun on the budget before and he promised to pay the difference from his pension. In Norwich we thought long and hard. We knew he could not afford it but felt it was a precedent if we just paid up.

Whilst we were thinking of solutions something wonderful happened. As Karimu told us in his letter *Poanaba/Ewurche*,

I am happy to inform you that the deficit realized in Lukula has been paid. You remember my nephew who gave us a car in 1997 for our rounds to the north. He lost his mother shortly after we completed the Lukula sch. The funeral had to be taken to Lukula which attracted many of his colleague contractors.

Since he had lost touch with village matters I had to do most of the organization. They saw the sch. and went to have a look at it. I told them the history of how it was funded by your friend and how it was to be a local materials building and why it ended up being so splendid and sending the cost so high.

They did not believe the final cost I gave them. They said it was incredibly low. I also told them we couldn't give the extra cost to your friend to pay. They readily said they would help since the work was so good and cheap. In fact they were bewildered and found it difficult to believe the cost. I thought their promise was one of those made by town people but never kept. Yesterday I was shocked when one of them called me. We went together to my supplier and settled the outstanding bills. They said they were touched by my decision to settle the bills without referring it to you. But they warned me never to tell government officials the costs of our projects.

*I am so excited and greatly relieved. I thank God so much
Thanks and kind regards.
Karimu.*

This really is a first for Wulugu. It is the first time that wealthy Ghanaians in Ghana have appreciated the work we are doing and supported us with their money.

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THE CHIEF AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

Lynne was invited to Buckingham Palace in April to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Commonwealth. She wore a dress made for her by Savelugu Vocational school when she visited last December. Part of Lynne's message of thanks to the Master of the Household is below:

'It was a great honour to meet Her Majesty—her stamina is amazing! Please will you convey my thanks to the Queen. She must receive so many messages like this.

But I would also like you to be aware of one of the 'side-effects' of this event.

Apart from my role in science, maths and technology education in the Commonwealth, I also run an NGO in Northern Ghana. We are having some success in bringing girls back into education, often out of slavery. Together with quadrupling the girls in many primary schools, we have five vocational schools for girls now. The dress I wore was woven and sewn for me in December by girls from our school in Savelugu. For them, knowing that this was worn at Buckingham Palace will bring such pride—so important for such a neglected group of Commonwealth Citizens.'



And the reply from the Master of the Household said:

'What a fascinating story about your school in Savelugu. I often think that the pleasure of guests at Buckingham Palace is transmitted far beyond and your note is an example of this. The girls are very talented weavers and seamstresses and are right to take pride in their excellent work'

100 CLUB WINNERS AT MANNINGTON HALL



- 1. HAZEL COOPER £50
- 2. DR GRAY £25
- 3. N BRIGHOUSE £15

THE NEXT DRAW WILL BE AT SANTA'S GROTTO ON DECEMBER 12TH AT COLNEY HALL.

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MARIA SCHOBERER AND WULUGU PROJECT

Maria, born in Austria, though well educated, was not allowed to follow a career outside the home as it was not deemed seemly by her caring protective father.

Sadly she never married and had children but she believed passionately in 'education for women' to give them the independence that she had been denied. She died in the early nineties and left her money in a trust to help women gain an education. In 1996 Lynne starred in 'The Times' and caused interest in a number of philanthropic trusts including the Maria Schoberer Trust and they contacted Lynne. The trust has given Wulugu Project a number of generous donations since. The first, in 1998, was to build the Maria Schoberer classrooms at the tiny Wulugu primary village school so that more children could squeeze in to gain an education.

Further much-needed and appreciated donations followed, all being used to give education to deprived girls in Northern Ghana.

In 2008 the trust was wound up as the income was so small and the trustees felt that a larger donation, to make a greater long-term impact, would be a better use of the money and completely meet Maria's wishes to help young women to obtain an education. This August we gave the go-ahead and Karimu started building the Hostel for girls at Savelugu. The headmistress, Francesca was delighted and it will mean that 120 more girls from outside her immediate 'walking' area (there are no buses) can attend her school and gain skills for life, a career and to build on, to replace the education they have never had. We still needed money to equip the hostel with bunks, tables, electricity and furniture for the housemistresses room. £3500 from the most successful Charities day held at Mannington Hall on the 6th September was sent out to pay for these a week later. We will erect a small plaque on the Maria Margareta Schoberer Hostel in memory of a very special lady. Her bequest will have impact lasting through many generations and she will always be remembered by the girls that she has been able to help.

MANNINGTON HALL CHARITY OPEN DAY

The day was a great success, enjoyed by everyone in the sun and raising a staggering £5000.

We could not have succeeded without the support of many friends and sponsors who gave their time

and money freely. These include Advance hire, Bertrams books, Big Pink, Blue Skies Leisure, EJR Print, Fakenham and District Lions, 1st Great Wychingham Guides, Hines Harvey Woods, Lowestoft Signing Choir, Mundesley Methodist Church, Smith and Pinching, The Walpole Arms, Wensum Valley Balloon Club and WILPF Drummers and many more personal friends.

The winner of the Hot air balloon flight was Kathleen Mace from East Beckham.



PLEASE HELP WULUGU PROJECT NOW AND IT NEED NOT COST YOU A PENNY.

If you think what we have done with your help is worthwhile, please share it with other people. Your friends, your family, your church or workplace. You, our supporters are our most important asset, and we need more of you. If everyone recruited one more supporter that could double the opportunities that we could offer the children and young women in Ghana. We are a very small committee but know we could do so much more with more resources. Please make it your New Year's Resolution to tell people about Wulugu, show them the newsletter, point them to our website www.wulugu.co.uk and encourage them to get involved. Gift aid forms are always available. Lets make 2010 be our best year yet.

Thanks from Jane Scott.

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**SIXTEEN YEARS—AND HALF A MILLION
HELPED BY ‘WULUGU’**

For all of you reading this who have/are helping in any way at all, our ,’small’ charity has, since 1994, been able to transform so many lives because of your kindness.

Simply, we make sure that 99p from every pound is used in Ghana, quickly, efficiently, effectively. Once spent, the outcomes are designed to really tackle poverty and the attendant problems, not just this week or this year, but for generations to come.

Yet we do all of this without any major funding, being discounted by the larger agencies because we have no paid staff, no costly offices here or in Africa. We do have an ageing and essential vehicle that would fit into the boot of those that others are able to run as part of their fleet! This is used to transport materials across great distances and along difficult tracks to villages that, partly due to their sheer inaccessibility, are neglected both by their own support agencies (Ghana Education, local govt etc) and more so by philanthropical agencies.

Our newsletters have been our main way of keeping in touch with our friends since 1997. In March ’97, we said that we had been asked to help with vocational training so that girls could earn money as well as improve their literacy and understanding of health related issues. It was a few years after that that we opened the first vocational school with a hostel so that girls could come from distant villages. Now we have five, and have learned a great deal. ‘Wulugu’ is the only provider of this tremendous assistance in the remote areas of Northern Ghana. Of course, we could do more, but until we can attract the more powerful donors, we need to reflect on our unmatched success story. Well done to each of our supporters. You are needed, valued, and should feel very proud of the many lives you are changing for the better, both today and for future generations.

Lynne Symonds

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER 10-1.00

SANTA’S GROTTO AT COLNEY VILLAGE HALL

*CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND ARRANGEMENTS .
WULUGU BOOKS AND CDS, REFRESHMENTS
AND GIFTS FROM THE GROTTO £3*

ORGANISED BY LITTLE MELTON CHURCH.

SATURDAY 30TH JANUARY

LITTLE MELTON VILLAGE QUIZ AT 7.30PM.

SUNDAY 28TH MARCH

*LANGLEY SCHOOL DAFFODIL DAY
BOOK AND CD STALL.*

SUNDAY 4TH JULY

*THE BISHOPS GARDEN OPEN DAY IN
NORWICH 1.00-5.00PM ENTRANCE £3.*

THE ‘TIMES’ CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Each Christmas the Times newspaper generously promotes two charities daily for two weeks leading up to Christmas. Obviously such exposure would be very beneficial to the charity as so many people would see it. This year Wulugu project entered the competition to try and win such amazing publicity. A team of Karimu, Pamela Minett and Mary Williams worked very hard indeed and put together a most professional application with an introduction on the Charity and 14 story lines of different aspects of our work in Ghana illustrated with many photographs. Sadly we have just heard that we were not successful. Whilst we are obviously disappointed the work of gathering all the data and details will not be wasted. If you would like to see the stories do contact Pamela at pamela.minett@waitrose.com

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A TIME FOR GIVING

Either the easy way

By setting up a standing order for £10, £20 or even £30 a month, signing the forms including gift aid if you pay any tax, and forgetting about it. It is wonderful for Wulugu Project to have a steady stream of income that we can rely on.

or

By choosing a particular area that you would like to support and sponsor.

A DESK OR TWO for three children to study on. This gift multiplies as 3 youngsters will use each desk each term for years. In ten years, the life of a double desk, that will be 30 children and a village carpenter will be paid to build it too. **£30**

PROVIDE A LOAN TO A MOTHER in a woman's group so that she can set up a business and keep her daughters in school. The educated girls will have more chance to earn money and in turn keep their children in school and the whole family will be helped out of poverty. **£60**

A LOAN TO HELP A TRAINED HAIRDRESSER from one of our vocational schools set up their own business. This would help the young woman to make her way in the world and would smarten up her neighbours. **£75**

A TIN ROOF FOR A DERELICT SCHOOL, which will help a whole village return to school every day and not be dependant on the weather. The local thatched roofs do get blown away during very violent storms. We are also planting wind breaks of trees, often Mango, to protect the school and provide fruit and some firewood. **£2000**

TO SUPPORT WULUGU PROJECT IN ANY OF THESE WAYS PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM BELOW.

Patrons

Baroness Chalker of Wallesey

Baroness Shephard of Northwold

Oona King



* I wish to contribute to the Wulugu Project

*I wish to join the Wulugu 100 Club. I enclose a cheque for £12

*I enclose a cheque for £.....(Please make cheques payable to the Wulugu Project)

Mr/ Mrs/Miss
.....
.....

Please send your donation to THE WULUGU PROJECT, CHURCH FARM, GREAT MELTON, NORWICH NR9 3BH
Registered Charity Number 1060691

For more information on any of the topics in this newsletter or to make a donation of time or money please contact us at the Wulugu Project, Church Farm, Great Melton, Norwich NR9 3BH, visit our website or telephone the Chairman on 01603 453750.

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