

Rest In Peace

The college has been informed of the demise of Helena Donkoh a second year catering and hospitality student. She reported to college late this term. She came after the sixth week because she was ill. She complained of headache when she came. She was asked to go home for treatment when we realised her condition was not improving. She was admitted at the hospital where she stayed till she passed on.

She was a very quiet, reserved and a well respected student.



Help For The Health Clinics

Our work in the village communities includes providing a little assistance to the clinics. Each of our three villages has a health clinic. They are staffed by dedicated nurses who handle almost all the medical needs of their communities. The clinics are pretty basic and we have helped with buying medicines, equipment and supplies over the years. We arranged for water to be connected to one clinic. As the clinics are busy with caring for young babies, they have asked if we can raise funds for baby weighing scales.

A donation to our General Funds of £81 will enable us to buy each unit.



School Uniforms and Shoes

Every year, as part of our Educational Sponsorship Scheme, we supply each sponsored child with a new uniform and a pair of school shoes. The students in our own fashion department at the vocational college measure the children, make the uniforms and help deliver them around the villages.

CHRISTMAS CARDS 2018

Please remember your sponsored child this Christmas by sending a Christmas card. We will be distributing the cards in January 2019 when schools resume following the break. Do not send any cash, we will give each family £5 from your annual donation. Please address and post your cards as follows anytime before 5 January. We endeavour to photograph every child receiving their cards and gift. Please address the card and post to:

(Name of Child)

(Name of School)

TEABAG

Unit 1, Lyndon Yard

Riverside Road

London SW17 0BA

DONATIONS FORM

Regular donors, under the educational sponsorship scheme, will be sent their annual invitation to renew with this newsletter. As this newsletter is read by other interested parties, this form is included to attract new sponsors and to encourage general donations towards the work of TEABAG. Please make your cheques payable to "TEABAG"

I would like to sponsor the education of a school child in Ghana for a year (minimum donation £20 please) £ _____

I enclose a donation of £ _____ to the TEABAG General Fund to be used to advance the objects of the charity

Name:.....Tel:.....

Address:.....

.....Postcode:.....

Email address:



December 2018 Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1126462

TEABAG
Unit 1, Lyndon Yard
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www.teabagcharity.org.uk



Following a massive and sustained effort by all involved, both in Ghana and in the UK, the new girls hostel building at the TEABAG Vocational College was officially blessed and declared open March 2018. Full story inside.



"Hand-Made-With-Love"

We have had a bumper crop of "hand-made-with-love" baby blankets this year. Many thanks for the efforts of the ladies of The Friern Barnet & Whetstone Inner Wheel Club and of the ladies of The Salvation Army, Upper Norwood. These blankets encourage the ladies in our villages in Ghana to give birth in the birthing clinics rather than at home, this has resulted in lives of both mothers and babies being saved. Thanks are also due to British Airways who award travelling charity workers an extra suitcase to carry donated items. Do to outrageous import duties and VAT, we can no longer send containers of donated items to Ghana and we have to limit our transportation of donated items to what we can fit into our suitcases.



A donation of £12 allows us to employ a local carpenter to make a school chair. We target making 80 this year.

All the schools are in need of tables and desks. A donation of £22 will pay for one school table.



Dear Supporters

I am pleased to inform you that we have again had a busy and highly successful year. Our educational sponsorship scheme continues to help nearly 300 poor children to attend school and we educate a further 150 young people with employable skills, plus English and maths, at our vocational college. I confirm, as always, that no expenses have been deducted from donations except some bank charges for international transfers to Ghana.

Personally, I am not a religious person but I continue to see wonderful miracles occur on a regular basis with TEABAG. I suppose it was some kind of miracle that made me start a charity 17 years ago when I had just stopped in a fishing village for a quick swim during a hot and sticky day. The latest miracle certainly has to be the donation of a complete new reverse osmosis water treatment system. How can it be possible that we needed such equipment in a remote poor community in Africa and then a generous and wonderful couple just happened to have exactly what we needed in the same village and were kind enough to give it to us. There is certainly something wonderful about TEABAG that defies definition.

I am trying to encourage donations to our general funds this year and have given examples of how your gifts will be used for schools. Thank you all for your continued support. You are wonderful!

Roger Gillman

Chair of the Board of Trustees, 07801 866 723, rogergreyhair@hotmail.com

it secure | www.teabagcharity.org/index.htm

TEABAG
The Education And Book Appeal, Ghana

View Our TEABAG Film

Home TEABAG UK Video Maps The Village Schools The College Support Us

Welcome

TEABAG Charity

Improving the education of young people in Ghana

The Education And Book Appeal for Ghana, TEABAG for short, is a charity set up to support the education of young people in Ghana by providing basic equipment, books and educational facilities.

TEABAG has been involved in these villages since 2001 and now sponsors over 300 children in Mankoadze and the two neighbouring villages of Onyadze and Abrekum supporting them with school uniforms, shoes, examination fees and opportunities to take part in regional sports activities.

In due course, the sponsored children graduated from school, but generally did not have academic skills that enabled them to go on to High School. In 2009, the charity responded to this by setting up a Vocational Training College in the village. This now has 150 students from the ages of 16-26. They are taught a three-year course, offering the following specialist subjects:

- Building & construction
- Electrical installation
- Catering
- Textiles and dressmaking
- Information Technology

All the students study English, Maths and basic computer usage as well as Entrepreneurship.

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Made with Xara

TEABAG Website

The new TEABAG website is now live, and well worth a look.

There are pictures of the village of Mankoadze and its beautiful beach, with maps showing where it is. There's a video, describing our work there. There are pictures of the local schools receiving their uniforms. The Vocational College is comprehensively covered - each of the Teaching Departments has a page detailing its activities. There are interviews with college alumni. There's information about the role of the charity in the UK, along with profiles of the UK Trustees. There's a contact page in case you have any questions or comments for us, and of course, there's a page where you can donate to our work.

Do please pay the site a visit, at www.teabagcharity.org.uk



Noyaa Academy, Jamestown, Accra

In October, I was invited to visit The Noyaa School in Jamestown Accra. This is a charity school for 130 highly impoverished children from a shanty community living on the beach, actually in the shadow of the Jamestown Fort which had been a base for the slave trade. The school has been running for nine years.

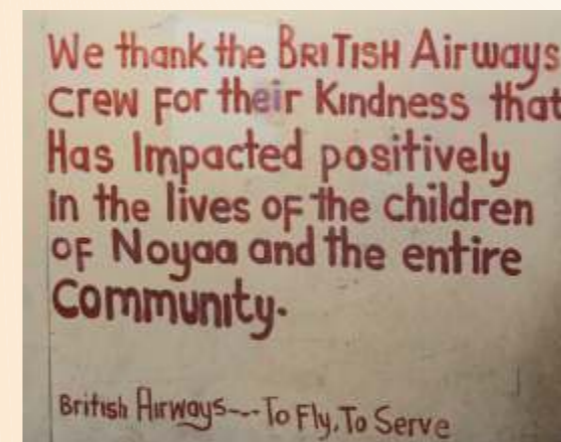
The school is for children who have fallen through the gaps of the state school system. Most of the children are the offspring of teenage single mothers who are trapped in a cycle of poverty, illiteracy and homelessness. Around 40 of the children are orphans who are completely homeless and sleep in the fishing boats on the beach. Although the schools that TEABAG supports in the Central Region of Ghana suffer similar problems, the Jamestown shanty area has a feeling of such utter helplessness because of the dire surroundings and depressing atmosphere.

The school exists on a hand to mouth basis without any regular funding. The teachers are paid around £40 per month – which hardly even covers their transport cost to get to work. Over recent years, the cabin crew from British Airways have been visiting during their layovers to make donations of children's clothes, shoes, pens and pencils, school books and teaching aids. They also raise money to help feed all these children.

The children have little to eat at home (home being either a tin shack or a crude tent on the beach.) They can't learn if they are hungry and so the school gives every child a daily meal, this also encourages the mothers to send their children to school knowing that they will be fed.

TEABAG is seeking to offer some help to The Noyaa School by trying to raise a little money to buy the rice and cooking oil. A 30 kilo bag of rice last for a week and costs £32, the drum of cooking oil costs £24 and lasts about one month.

If you would like to help The Noyaa Academy please consider a donation to the TEABAG general fund.





The Official Opening of the Girls Hostel

It has taken a huge amount of work to complete the hostel building. The students, both boys and girls, did most of the actual physical labouring. Trustee Chris Moller managed the build and funds were generously donated by Peter Gaffney. The opening ceremony was a great occasion; they do like a party in Mankoadze! The Queen Mother of the village cut the ceremonial ribbon and then she gave a speech in the local Fante dialect. I think she was telling the girls to concentrate on their studies and to keep away from the boys!



The event was graced by a visit from an important tribal chief from Jamestown in Accra, Ghana's capital city. I do apologize that I did not record his full tribal name as I have known him as Louis from our long friendship in London. In Accra, the language is quite different: a dialect called Ga. So Louis addressed the girls in English, telling them to concentrate on their studies and to keep away from the boys.

The photo of myself shows some strange hand signals as I spoke to the girls and assembled dignitaries. I think I was saying that the girls should pay attention to their college work and to keep away from the boys!



The hostel can accommodate 80 students in two dormitories. Each wing has a kitchen and washroom facilities. It is a high quality building with its own water supply and sewerage system. In the centre of the building is an apartment for a teacher to maintain law and order. Our previous accommodation for students was pretty awful and the new hostel is an amazing improvement. The building has been positioned in an open area to ensure good ventilation and as far away from the boys as possible.



Classrooms at Mankoadze

We did paint the outside of the school a few years ago, but, as you can see, the inside of the classrooms are now looking pretty miserable. We are going to give the walls a fresh coat of paint and then plaster them with educational posters to really brighten up the learning environment.



New Floor for the Main Hall at the College

I am Raphael Davies, a fourth year general electrical installation student at Mankoadze College. I am writing this article to talk about some improvements that has been made in our school main hall. This hall is a multipurpose hall used for training examination, entertainment, church service etc. The many uses of the hall notwithstanding, the hall had many pot holes making the room dusty and uncomfortable to use. Our uniforms got dirty quickly because of the nature of the floor and it also made concentration difficult. This year Tom, as we affectionately call him, together with his friends have made it possible for us to have a new terrazzo floor and a new elevated veranda which serves as a check to the flooding that sometimes happen at the hall when it rains. All these new developments have made activities at the main hall become more comfortable and convenient.

As the college boys prefect, I would like to use this opportunity on behalf of the entire student body say thank you to Tom, TEABAG and all the sponsors of this projects. We are very pleased that we don't have to worry about flooding pot holes and dust again. With the absence of these distractions we have an improved learning environment now. We say we are most grateful for your kindness, may God highly bless you.

Help For The Village Schools

For the past 18 months, we have really concentrated our efforts on the Vocational College. Everything that we have done has been with effort and funds well invested as the college is producing excellent graduates, the vast majority of which find employment or start their own businesses. However, our support for the schools in the three villages of Mankoadze, Abrekum and Onyadze has been less than spectacular recently. Our educational sponsorship of some of the children has continued but our general support of the schools has been poor. In this issue, we are giving examples of how a small donation into the TEABAG General Fund can help us to improve the school for all the children.

In January 2019, we are planning to paint the insides of the classrooms in Mankoadze. We have 32 children visiting Ghana from Eggars School in Hampshire. They are each bringing a brush and we just have to supply the paint. The British High Commissioner to Ghana is coming to stay for the weekend in Mankoadze with his family so we may give him a brush as well!



This is Kenny, a long time supporter and friend of TEABAG. He is going to supply the paint at the special price of £39 for a huge bucket. **A donation to our General Fund of £39 will buy paint for one classroom.**



A donation of £5 to our General Fund will allow us to buy 10 school books for the schools



Mr Tilman Rippel and Mrs Bettina Rippel donate a complete water purification system to TEABAG

Readers of our newsletter will remember that TEABAG raised the funds to sink a water borehole in the grounds of the college a couple of years ago. This produces around 1500 litres a day. The water comes up very clean but is rather salty – and so is unsuitable for drinking. The water has been a great help to the community for sanitation and for the washing of clothes. We have desperately wanted to provide good, clean, safe drinking water from our borehole and were about to try to raise the £15,000 for a really expensive reverse osmosis plant which would give us absolutely pure water.

THEN SOMETHING AMAZING HAPPENED:

Mr and Mrs Rippel are a couple from Germany who have developed a holiday property near the village. They too needed drinking water and tried to sink a borehole but they struck the solid granite under their property after a few feet of drilling. Mr Rippel had already purchased the purification equipment and no longer had a use for it. In an amazing act of generosity, Mr & Mrs Rippel donated this valuable water system to our community for the benefit of all.

The equipment is all new, unused and still covered by the suppliers guarantee and consist of: A complete reverse osmosis plant, a 1000 litre water tank, a submersible pump, a pocket size PH meter and a TDS meter.

Perhaps just the simple words “Thank You” cannot fully express our gratitude for this wonderful gift.



Joel’s Story in his Own Words

My name is Joel Acheampong. I was born on 5th February, 1975 in Kwadaso – Kumasi in the Ashanti region of Ghana. My parents gave birth to nine children 6 boys and 3 girls. I am the third born child of my parents. When I was six years, I became paralyzed in my hands and legs. My parents told me that I was suffering from fever at that time. In fact, I spent my childhood at home due to my situation. I started elementary school when I was 22 years old and completed High school in 2003. I did visual Arts in High school. After I completed High school, I worked as an artist at cultural centre in Kumasi.

As time went on, I met a wonderful and inspirational man called Mr Tom Yendell (Trustee of TEABAG CHARITY) who came to pay me a visit in Kumasi. He then introduced me to the Mouth and Foot Painting Association. Indeed, Mr Tom Yendell has been of great help to me and he is still helping me. I don't know how to thank him, all that I can say is "GOD RICHLY BLESS HIM ". I now receive salary every month from this Association. This has brought a great improvement in my economic life moving me away from depending on others.

I am married and have two children. I also have 3 other kids from my younger sister who pass away, staying with me. Mr Tom Yendell advised me to relocate from Kumasi to his studio in Onyadze and stay there to explore new opportunities. Truly, Mr. Tom Yendell has been

very supportive and made life much easier for us in spite of my disability.

One major challenge I was having was total dependence on others to move around. I was using a manual wheelchair and always needed someone to push me to where I want to go to. Things have changed, with the help Mr. Tom Yendell I now have an electric wheelchair. My family and friends who had to take turns to push me around can rest now and get on to do other things. I am now a “free man” I can move around as and when I want, no more pushing, No more waiting for somebody to come and push me again. I don't know how to thank all those who have made this dream come true, from the association that gave me the wheelchair and those who bought the battery and the those who sent the wheelchair to me in Ghana I say thank you. The wheelchair has helped me a lot. Wow! What a friend. Thank You very much.

Godfred’s Story

Godfred Amissah is a 28 year old graduate of The TEABAG Vocational College. He completed in college June 2013. He was very hardworking and passed all his exams. Godfred, after completing college, moved to Accra, Ghana's capital city, to work with a textiles company for a year. He then came back to Mankoadze where he had his college training, and with the savings he had during this period, he started his own business. He is the main tailor in the community. His business has grown steadily over the years. From a single Singer manual sewing machine, he now owns industrial sewing machines, knitting machine, etc and is giving training to some apprentices.



Godfred is married and a proud father of two boys. It is fulfilling to see how Godfred has become not just self-employed but also financially independent from his mother, who is a single parent. We thank TEABAG for making it possible for under-privileged boys like Godfred and many others to be equipped with skills and thereby making them employable and financially independent.