

**ASSIN
ENDWA
TRUST**



Endwa News

Issue 2

April 2009

U.K. Trustees, latest Visit to Ghana

In October 2008, two of the U.K. Trustees, David Gevaux and Graham Prosser, visited Ghana in their respective roles as child sponsorship and project coordinators for the Trust.

In the following week they met with strategic planners from central government as well as local civic leaders and educators in Endwa.

Read their full story on page two.



Our New Man in Ghana



Meet Kofi Bedu our latest volunteer in Ghana. After working unofficially with Ghana Trust Secretary Armah Aziz on our behalf, we are pleased to announce that Kofi has accepted the position of Projects Director

in Ghana.

This means that he will help the Ghana Trust to formulate their ideas and approach the U.K. Trust and other organisations for assistance in converting those ideas into action.

Kofi has devoted many years to improving the lives of rural communities in his country and is experienced in navigating the corridors of local and national government bureaucracies.

Kofi will be a great addition to our team!

Clinic's Winning Team!

The Endwa Trust Clinic has a fantastic, dedicated nursing team. Meet three of them here, from left to right: Nurse George, Sister Hanatu and Nurse Gladys.

Full story on page three.



Gift Vouchers

During Christmas 2007 we piloted a scheme where supporters could buy a gift voucher for a fixed value of £20.00 which represented an investment in the education of children who are directly sponsored by the Trust in Ghana.

The pilot was a resounding success and we are now offering the vouchers throughout the year for those who would like That Special Gift.

Vouchers may be purchased online by going to our website at

www.endwa.org.uk then clicking on the **Donate** button in the menu, and following the instructions there.

Alternatively one can pay by cheque to Assin Endwa Trust UK.

A 4★ Sponsor

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Nick Nicholson for his outstanding generosity to the Assin Endwa Trust. Through his charity STAR4Africa he has undertaken the sponsorship of nine of



our children and made a notable contribution to our Water Distribution Programme. We wish Nick and STAR4Africa every success in the future. For information on their latest projects in Africa, see www.star4africa.org.uk.



U.K. Trustee's Visit To Endwa

By Graham Prosser

In October of 2008 David Gevaux and I visited Ghana for a week. As the cost of these trips is funded from our own pockets we try to keep these to a minimum. This visit was aimed at forming a clear strategy for the next five years and also strengthening the bonds between the UK and Ghana.

Our journey started at BA's Terminal 5, which despite it's reputation was actually rather good! We were processed rapidly and left on time, and arrived at the same airport as our luggage. We were met at Takoradi Airport, Accra by the indefatigable Armah Aziz and his assistant Tess Atkins, along with a driver and a reasonable looking car which David was naively planning to drive during our stay.

The meetings ranged from high-level discussions with Kofi Yeboah the Director of The National Service in Ghana, to local ones with teachers at the schools where our sponsored children are educated.

As head of The National Service Mr. Yeboah's support is critical to our plans to improve Endwa's infrastructure, as much of the technical expertise and specialised labour is provided at cost price or even free of charge. It was a very friendly meeting with an assurance given that the National Service will continue to give us their support and would try their best to get our borehole drilled in Endwa by Christmas.

From there it was on to Teacher Adam School on the outskirts of Accra to meet with staff and pupils, and take up-to-date pictures of the many children we sponsor there. This exercise took



Children sponsored by staff & pupils of William Bellamy Junior School, Dagenham

those schools attended by our sponsored children and spoke with their teachers and head teachers to get a feel for what was needed to improve the educational facilities and learning outcomes.

Pupils were also interviewed and new photos taken for their sponsors. We also agreed to put another two dozen children forward for sponsorship.

Much of the remaining time was spent at the Clinic,

interviewing staff and reviewing its impact on local communities and assessing its longer term needs. This is taken up in the following article.

Bound up with the development of the Clinic is the drilling of an independent water supply, for which a sizeable part of the funding has been donated by the charity, STAR4Africa. Judicious positioning of this borehole should mean that a satellite tower can be added at marginal extra cost, to supply one of the poorest corners of the village.

At a meeting with the Chief and Elders we were surprised and delighted to be presented with the key to an office in the new Chief's Palace, for the exclusive use of the Trust. A clear indication of the esteem in which the Trust is held by the local community.

I am always rather sad when leaving Ghana as it will probably be a fair time before seeing friends and colleagues again. Each and every time I go however, I am energised by the people I meet. Their desire to improve their lives and seemingly infinite capacity for joy make the the work of the UK Trustees and supporters, so worthwhile.

up the rest of the day and most of the next, leaving just enough time to meet the next group of children we are looking to help.

The next day it was up with the lark and off to Endwa about six hours drive away. Barely an hour out of Accra the first of our 'mishaps' began. With the exception of a few major roads, most others are either heavily pot-holed or ploughed up tracks. We chose a detour along the latter, soon separating the exhaust from the rest of the car. We grabbed an impromptu lunch of fish and rice while a local welder worked his magic, and were ready to roll within an hour. Sadly, this is where our driver Isaac had to leave us and a more cautious David eased himself behind the wheel and gingerly pushed the car on to Cape Coast, where we planned to call in on an old friend of the Trust, before going on to Endwa for the night. The car had other ideas and with the light failing fast, we coughed and spluttered into a welcoming beach-side resort for the night. While we relaxed around a couple of cold beers, Armah sought out the services of a mechanic and by morning the unfixable had been fixed, and we were soon bouncing north to Endwa.

Three days of meetings and orientation followed. We visited

Clinic, 2 Years On

By David Gevaux

Completed in 2006, our primary care Clinic has quickly grown into the focal point for health provision in Endwa and the



surrounding area. The facility provides a three bed ward, two treatment areas and a consulting room.

There are six Community Health nurses provided by the District Health Authority in Assin Foso some 15 miles away.

On the day of our visit we met



and apart from her duties at our clinic in Endwa, she operates an outreach programme to five other villages. This is all helped by the

Sister Hanatu Ahmed and Nurse Gladys Obodai, who form the backbone of our primary care team. Sister Hanatu is the nurse in charge

generous donation from USAid of a specialised refrigerated unit used to store vaccines, plus a motorcycle which allows her to visit the satellite communities of Akonfudi, Aponsie, Oboho, Asuankumaso and Pewovie on a regular basis.

At present maternity care is provided on a voluntary basis by a TB, a Traditional Birth helper in the person of Margaret Agyapong, who is also one of our local trustees. This lady,

affectionately known to one and all as Auntie Maggie is responsible for scores of successful live births.

Two years ago health provision for the people of Endwa was only available to those who could afford to get to the hospital at Fosu. For those without money, which is the majority, the outlook was bleak. Illness and injury could and did go untreated, and fatalities were not uncommon.

The free immunisation programme, which was initiated when the clinic opened, has brought protection from measles to most of the children of the

area and other pernicious diseases are steadily being brought under control.

The service provided by the clinic is highly regarded by the local community and its reputation brings people in from miles around. The district health authority also places its confidence in the resource provided, by incorporating the Endwa Trust Clinic into its training programme for medical students.



One of the next projects for the Trust will be to build additional facilities to eventually accommodate six full-time staff, which will include a junior doctor, a registered midwife together with the current compliment of nurses.



Another Appeal.

If you have read the article above you will realise that we need to build accommodation at the clinic urgently.

At the moment the staffroom in the clinic is being used as a bed sit for Sister Hanatu and an examination room is being used by Nurse George as a bedroom at night.

If we can build additional accommodation then the District Medical Officer has promised that we can have a resident midwife in the village plus regular visits from a doctor. The midwife in particular would be a major asset to the clinic, dealing with problem births that Auntie Maggie is not equipped to handle.

If you feel that you can help in any way with raising funds in your area for this important addition to the clinic, please contact us at appeal@endwa.org.uk we would be grateful for any assistance that you can give.

Friends of Endwa.

At the last Trustee's meeting it was decided that we need to encourage wider participation in the activities of the Assin Endwa Trust. It would be for those people who are interested and would like to help, but do not have any formal framework at the moment to support their efforts.

To this end we have decided that we would like to form an official "Friends of Endwa" association. If you would like to join such an association and have any ideas about organisation, aims, rules, etc then please contact us at friends@endwa.org.uk

We are looking for area coordinators and members who are willing to give up some of their precious time to help with fund raising, publicising the achievements of the Trust, raising awareness of those who need our help, and promoting our child sponsorship and volunteer programmes.

If you have been on our volunteer programme or sponsor one of our children, then you know what we do and how much we have achieved with so very little. Help us improve and extend the work of the Trust. At the moment in the UK,

everything rests on the shoulders of a handful of UK Trustees and we only have so many hours to spare. With a larger organisation made up entirely of volunteer staff, we could achieve so much more!

Contact me at the above email address if you would like to join or have any thoughts on the subject. We will value any help you can give.

Geoffrey Myddleton-Evans
Chairman



One of the duties of the Chairman is to write an annual report for the Charity Commission covering the work of the Trust over the previous year. These are my thoughts for 2007-2008 that I would like to share with you.

After the high point of the completion of the clinic in 2006 this was a year of consolidation during which it was particularly pleasing to receive a report from the Ghana Trust that the Clinic opened in August of the previous year and had been very successful in improving the lives of the local people. Among its achievements was an ongoing inoculation programme for children and adults with staff working both at the Clinic and outlying villages which they reached by motorbike.

A major success during this year was the continuing growth of the Child Sponsorship Scheme increasing to more than 60 children sponsored in

The Last Word by Geoffrey Myddleton Evans. Chairman's Report For 2007 - 2008.

Endwa and Accra together with two young people sponsored for higher education by the Trust.

It was a major disappointment that we did not receive the hoped for sponsorship for our Water Project for the clinic and the surrounding area of the village. Our prospective corporate sponsor felt that the cost per head of those who would benefit was too high. This was despite careful budgeting by the Trust in the UK and Ghana. Since then we have been actively seeking alternative sponsorship and have also focused our general fundraising towards taking this project forward.

Fundraising has progressed steadily with significant donations received from STAR4Africa, mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, Anglia Ruskin University and sponsorship for two Trust members who ran marathons in London and Rome. A truly magnificent effort that puts us well on the path to accomplishing the Water Project.

The Volunteer Programme this year, though smaller in numbers

than in previous years, excelled in its quality. Six volunteers successfully repainted the whole of the secondary school and in their spare time organized a series of sporting events that were enthusiastically supported and much appreciated by villagers of all ages, especially the younger ones.

The year was not one marked by spectacular new projects but one in which steady progress was made on all fronts. The Clinic has gone from strength to strength and our programme of getting more children into full-time education is steadily expanding. A welcome by-product has been that the Ghanaian government has put additional funding into repairing the fabric of local schools as a direct result of the wealth of publicity on television and in the national press of the activities of the Assin Endwa Trust and the close support of the National Service Bureau.

All in all a firm foundation for future progress.