
Ankumadua Clinic

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Fighting Climate Change

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Ankumadua Clinic

Ashanti Development has just finished one of its biggest ever projects: the construction of a new clinic on the northern road to Aframso – the third one we’ve built. The village Chiefs of Ankumadua and Amoaman allocated land at the borders of each one’s territory, so half the building was situated on each side. People from both villages carried out the work and the women provided food for the workers.



Earlier in June, with grand fanfare, the clinic was commissioned. It is staffed by a midwife, medical assistant/staff nurse, two nurses and

two community health nurses. The maternity unit alone is expected to cater for 2,500 pregnant women each year.

Where there is no medical care, people suffer terribly. Some die from snake bite as no antidote is available, and women experiencing difficult childbirths are often taken on a terrible journey by motor bike to their nearest clinic; sometimes they die before they can be attended. One of our staff drove a woman in labour to the Nsuta clinic, but she gave birth halfway there in the back of his car.

It’s no wonder, then, that these remote villages, hard to access by road at the best of times but impossible in some seasons, are happy to finally have a clinic nearby.

Fighting Climate Change

Ashanti Development is responsible for planting well more than 5,500 trees in the last few years, but this year the number has shot up to around 8,000.

Tree-planting was introduced by our Ghana Director, Nicholas Aboagye, who enlisted the help of the local schools. Each child within three years of finishing school is given a seedling to look after, and then rewarded with a tiny prize at the end of the school term.

“Every year, we aim to buy 800 seedlings for the project, but this year the Forestry Commission



decided to help and donated a further 1,200,” Nicholas explained. “And last month, they decided to add another 200, so we’ve planted a grand total of 2,200 this year.”

The Forestry Commission intervention signifies the seriousness of the effects of climate change, as a vast area south of the Sahara becomes progressively drier. The combination of dry scrub and open cooking fires frequently lead to wild fires. Last year the villages of Bresua and Brofoyedru lost most of their cassava crop because of wild fires. Nicholas mainly plants teak trees, which grow back if they are burned or cut down. The schools can also sell teak at a profit when times are hard.

Calling All Teachers

Christopher Hall, Ashanti News' new editor, talked to volunteer Dave Banks about his ground-breaking work with Ashanti teachers.

Dave Banks returned from Ghana at the end of May with a broad smile on his sun-burned face. He'd spent three months with the school teachers of Sekyere Central District in Ashanti, and at this month's directors meeting he discussed the amazing progress they had made.

Dave's project aims to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the villages. His method is to help school teachers identify ways to improve their own performance – a real bottom-up project (see Ashanti News 28 of April 2016 for more information). Dave told us how his work had now affected 42 junior high schools encompassing 4,000 children, and how the District pass-rate in the 2016 West African Leavers Exam had risen from 32 per cent in 2012 to an amazing 89 per cent last year.

He now hopes to roll out his project to primary and senior schools as well as junior highs. Dave enthused at the limitless opportunity to continue, to build and expand. The constraint is that there is only so much he can do alone and he urgently needs the support of other trained teachers to spread the work.



Please contact us if you know of any teachers who would like to spend some time assisting in this amazing project in Ghana. This could be the most important assignment of their lives.

Dave next focussed on how the drop-out rate is significantly higher for girls in school than it is for boys. Female junior high leavers, aged twelve, are under pressure to stay home rather than continue their education. Reasons are complicated, but many girls are compelled to stay and help their mothers with housework. Early marriage is often arranged, and pregnancy and harassment are other contributory factors. In every district, there are three female officers with special

responsibility for the welfare of girls, but they wield little power and command little respect.

Ashanti Development volunteers are piloting a project to teach girls how to make their own low-cost sanitary towels. It is hoped that environmentally-friendly, reusable sanitary pads will empower the young women to carry on with their day-to-day activities, and allow them to continue at school unhindered. 'The girls and teachers were a delight', says Dave, 'happy, positive and keen.' The hope is that the sanitary towels will bring about a substantial improvement in the drop-out rate.

The volunteers also organised 'empathy' workshops for boys, led jointly by the head or senior male teacher, to promote understanding among boys and raise awareness among male staff of the importance of supporting the girls and monitoring their attendance more closely.

Ways to help Ashanti

In September, Izzy Bandurek and Simon Branch are running in the Berlin Marathon to support Ashanti Development. It will be the first time they've run a marathon and they hope to raise enough money to sponsor a village in Ghana for clean water and sanitation.

Please support them at:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/izzyandsimon>



Also, our annual sponsored walk will take place on Saturday 16th September. Come and join us for an eight mile walk down the canal from St Pancras Church to Limehouse – and then back to central London by riverboat. Please contact us for further information.

Ashanti Development
21 Downing Court
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A Taste of Ghana



Come and join Ashanti Development for its annual party – Ghanaian style! – with food and drink aplenty. Everyone's welcome, for a relaxed afternoon garden celebration including delicious homecooked Ghanaian food to share. Plus, you'll be helping raise vital funds for the amazing work of Ashanti.

Date & time – Saturday 22 July, 2017, 4pm – 7pm.

Location – Tenant's Hall, Underneath Tresham, Lamb's Conduit Passage, London WC1R 4RE

Tickets £15 on the door or £12 (plus £1.33 fee) when bought online. See link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-taste-of-ghana-2017-tickets-35587641594?aff=eac2>

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