



**The Rotary Club of Banbury**  
[www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)

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**ABERDEEN CLINIC & FISTULA CENTRE,  
FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE. (ACFC)**

3 weeks from now I will be on my way back to Sierra Leone – and the news is fantastic!! I will arrive in Freetown around midnight on May 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> and will have little time to prepare for the official opening which is taking place on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The news gets better – the clinic, although operational for over a year, has never been officially opened and the President of Sierra Leone is therefore opening the ACFC AND the “Rotary Hostel of Hope” – this is the 35 bed patient hostel that Rotarians have been working on since last October. The founder of Mercy Ships, Don Stephens will be present as will Anne Gloag (the founder of Stagecoach) who donated the ship “Africa Mercy” to the charity and other VIP’s (plus me!).

The story begins – October 1<sup>st</sup> 2005



This is how the site looked when the first Rotary team arrived - remember everything is done by hand there have been NO mechanical aids on site during the building project.



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**LATEST PHOTOS – 23rd April**



The ground floor of the “Rotary Hostel of Hope”



When I arrive a lot more work will have been done but there will hopefully still be a lot of odds & ends to finish off the end of the project.

As well as the ACFC project there are a couple of other mini projects that I will be working on during my 11 day trip to Sierra Leone.

## **BISHOP CARPENTER SCHOOL, NORTH NEWINGTON TO TWIN WITH THE CHRISTIAN HOPE SCHOOL, FREETOWN**



A group of 9 year olds from Bishop Carpenter School in North Newington are going to write letters to the children of the Christian Hope School in Kissy, Freetown in the hope of establishing a twinning with the school. This is as a result of a presentation I made to the children about a visit I made to the school last October whilst I was in Sierra Leone. Bishop Carpenter held a non uniform day on the last day of the Spring Term and raised £50 which I will take with me later this month to help the school buy essential equipment.

### **AQUAROLLS – A SIMPLE SOLUTION**

Whilst in Freetown, last November, I saw dozens of youngsters carrying water in large containers, often for up to distances of a mile, and I decided to try to improve their quality of life by introducing AQUAROLLS into Sierra Leone. My aim was to take an initial batch with me when I return and I am currently trying to set up a network of distribution in the Aberdeen area of Freetown, with the aid of local contacts, and if this successful I am hoping to develop this as an ongoing sustainable project.

I would like to thank the following for sponsorship of Aquarolls: Chris & Ingrid at Chandlers in Church Lane - 2, their customers - 1, Anna Galvin at The Banbury House Hotel in Banbury – 1, and the 6 members of Banbury Rotary Club who have each sponsored an Aquaroll – I look forward to showing you photographs of Aquarolls in action in Sierra Leone in the June newsletter and/or my Powerpoint slide presentation which I will invite you to on my return.



### **AFRICA MERCY OPHTHALMIC THEATRE APPEAL – an update**

During the Rotary year 2005-06 Rotary in the UK pledged to raise £500,000 to equip the ophthalmic operating theatre on the Africa Mercy, the latest hospital ship which is leaving Newcastle in May for its inaugural trip to West Africa. At the end of March the total raised by Rotary towards the Ophthalmic Appeal was £286,000 but I know a lot of money has been coming in during April - I hope to be able to give a more up to date figure soon.

### **FUNDING UPDATE**

As of today I have £530 towards the ACFC Hostel project and £218 towards the purchase of Aquarolls (with further pledges for £153 for project funds and £90 for Aquarolls).

### **IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO DONATE**