



## The Rotary Club of Banbury

[www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)

January 2007

Happy New Year - welcome to the latest edition of my newsletter - I hope you will find it of interest.

### CHRISTIAN HOPE SCHOOL, FREETOWN



June 2006 - this was the start of the classroom for the upper juniors (who were being taught in the playground) and I am pleased to report that with funding from Rotary Mission Challenge team 10 (which I was a member of) and Bishop Carpenter School, North Newington, (who raised £132 at their end of term talent show) this is the latest photo – what a great result for only £700!!



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### JANUARY 2007 – the journey continues

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January I am flying out to Sierra Leone for a 5 day visit – I will not be physically working, as on my past 2 trips, but am going to look at the progress of certain projects that started last year with a view to allocating funding for specific needs and in order to be able to report back on the progress of these projects.

### BANBURY ROTARY CLUB donates £1,600 to Sierra Leone educational projects

In October 2006 Banbury Rotary Club held its annual Children Singing for Children Concert over 3 nights, involving 20 junior & 3 secondary schools, raising a total of £3,200 half of which is to go to help educational needs in Sierra Leone.

Since returning from my second trip in June 2006 I have established a link with a Charity called Educaid, Sierra Leone, which manages and funds 4 schools in Sierra Leone catering for about 800 children. One of the main members of the Charity who runs the project in the country is Miriam Mason, a teacher, who is a past pupil of Blessed George Napier School, Banbury. I am meeting Miriam and will visit Lumley School, Freetown as Rotary has already agreed to fund the purchase of some much needed blackboards for the school.

I will also spend time at The Christian Hope School looking at future developments there, as there is still a great deal of need for further classroom building and the newly built classroom still needs some internal finishing undertaking.

I am hoping to visit 2 other school projects that were started as a direct result of funding provided by Rotarians from Clubs that were with me in May/June 2006 and report on progress so far.



When I first visited Sierra Leone in November 2005 I saw many children carrying water for long distances and decided that if I returned to the country I would try and improve the situation. In May 2006 I took ten 40 litre Aquarolls with me and gave them to families and communities to try and help them in the daily chore of carrying water.



I must take this opportunity of thanking Scott Wallace of Go Outdoors (Oxford & Coventry) as they have once again agreed to supply Aquarolls for my trip at a cost of £35 each (normally £54). I am not certain at this stage exactly how many we will be able to take between the 4 of us that are going BUT however many we take it will help improve the quality of life for some of those, as young as 10, who twice a day walk nearly a mile to fetch water from a standpipe carrying water containers weighing approximately 25 kilos.



Aquarolls simple solution to an everyday issue that none of us would want to endure.

### WARWICK Rotary support Aquaroll appeal

In November 2006 I spoke to Warwick Rotary Club about my 2 trips to Sierra Leone, including the Aquaroll project that I started. I have since received a donation from them of £100 which will fund 3 Aquarolls for my forthcoming trip.

### BISHOP CARPENTER UNIFORM APPEAL

After talking to pupils, staff & parents about my visit to the Christian Hope School in Kissy, Freetown it was suggested that as the school colours for the girls are the same it would be a good idea to send any outgrown/unwanted items to the Freetown school. Children in Sierra Leone are not allowed to attend school if they cannot afford the uniform which is a struggle for many of those living in the shanty areas. As a result of an appeal in the school over the last 6 months I will be taking a quantity of skirts, blouses and dresses to Kissy at the end of January – recycling works.

A big thank you to all of those that have donated items which will enable some children to attend school who otherwise may not have had the chance to have a basic education – THANK YOU.

### WARRINER “SMARTIE”’s fund AQUAROLLS

185 pupils, aged 11 to 16, of Darwin House at The Warriner School, Bloxham were given a tube of Smarties each by Head of House Richard Farmer – some teachers will do anything to keep the kids quiet!! He asked them to return the tube filled with coins by the end of the autumn term to support the Aquaroll project after he had made a presentation to the group showing the conditions that children have to go to just to get water on a daily basis.

The appeal raised £280 and will fund 8 Aquarolls. Many thanks to Richard Farmer and all the pupils who took part in the appeal – a little change changes lives.

### ROTARY FUND OPHTHALMIC THEATRE ON THE AFRICA MERCY



Rotary in the UK has raised £681,000 to provide the Ophthalmic theatre on board the Africa Mercy which is nearing completion of a total refit before leaving for the African continent in Spring 2007.