



## The Rotary Club of Banbury

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

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I have just returned from my 5 day trip to Sierra Leone and this edition of my newsletter gives progress reports on various ongoing projects.

### CHRISTIAN HOPE SCHOOL, FREETOWN

In June 2006 the upper juniors were being taught in the playground. With £650 from Rotary Mission Challenge team 10 (which I was a member of) and £50 from Bishop Carpenter School, who are "pen pal" twinned with Christian Hope this classroom was built – what a great result for only £700!!



When I visited on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January (my 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary – oops) there was still some internal work to be completed BUT the classroom was being used by 46 children, aged 9 -14.

Bishop Carpenter had raised £132 at their end of term talent show and with a further £133 from individual donors I handed over £265 in cash to "kick start" the next phase of work. While I was there, meeting with the Headteacher and 3 board members, they sent out for building materials.

I re-visited the school on Friday morning, on my way to the airport, all the desks had been removed, the children were sharing other classrooms and the floor was being screeded – real progress. I pledged £335, raised by Banbury Rotary Club at their Children Singing for Children concert, and this will guarantee the completion of all the internal work in the next few weeks – what a result for a total spend of £1,300 – here's to the next phase.



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### BISHOP CARPENTER UNIFORM APPEAL



In Sierra Leone children are not allowed to go to school unless they can afford to buy a uniform which is often a struggle for those families living in the poor shanty areas. Items of school uniform were donated by families at Bishop Carpenter and presented to Christian Hope pupils in Freetown.



A further £500 from the Banbury Rotary Club has been donated towards building a 6 classroom block at Christian Hope School, as there is a need for extra classrooms as the school has a waiting list of pupils. It will be used to complete the foundations of the first 3classroom block - future funding is being sought to continue the work.

## AQUAROLLS – the story continues



When I first visited Sierra Leone in November 2005 I saw many children, who twice a day walk nearly a mile to fetch water from a standpipe carrying containers weighing 25 kilos approx.

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.

In January 2007 I took 8 Aquarolls which had been sponsored by pupils of Darwin House at The Warriner School, Bloxham (who raised £280 with a “Smartie” Tube appeal) and gave these to families in a shanty area that I had visited previously and they were very well received.



### Warwick Rotary Club sponsor 3 Aquarolls

2 Aquarolls sponsored by Warwick Rotary Club were presented to “Educaid’s” Lumley Secondary School in Freetown, who currently have to walk half a mile to fetch water from a standpipe, as their supply is temporarily withdrawn – the Aquarolls will then be used by a sister school “up country” when the supply is re connected. The third Aquaroll was given to Ramsey Community school to help them fetch water to help in the construction of their new school building which is being funded by Ramsey Rotary Club in Huntingdon.

## **GO Outdoors** THE UK'S BIGGEST OUTDOOR STORES

Once again I must acknowledge the support of Scott Wallace & Martin Dix at “Go Outdoors”, Oxford who have supplied the Aquarolls at a special discounted rate – it is greatly appreciated.

### Blackboards – can you spot the difference?



What a difference – at a cost of £12.

### Banbury Rotary Club donate £750 to Educaid

They say it’s a small world – somebody who read a previous newsletter told me that an ex Blessed George Napier pupil works for a charity called Educaid, Sierra Leone. I met Miriam Mason in the UK in October while she was here on a fund raising visit and recently visited Lumley Secondary school (one of the 4 schools run by the charity). As a result of my visit a donation of £750 (from the Children Singing for Children concert) is going to provide additional blackboards, desks and chairs, provide some storage units and help fund improvements to the floors of the classrooms which need screeding as they are as yet unfinished