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June 2015

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## Ashanti News 26

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**Bee keepers for Ghana – Sunday July 5 from 3.30pm**  
**Open Garden at Floods Farm Cottage, Chalky Lane,**  
**Dogmersfield RG27 8TD**

Look for balloons between the two entrances to Four Seasons Hotel, which has kindly allowed us to use their guest car park.

Learn about African bee-keeping, plant sale, local honey, Ghanaian jewellery and crafts for sale, guided and self-guided tours, cream teas.

Entry by donation.

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**A Taste of Ghana – Saturday July 11 from 4.00pm to 7.00pm**  
**10 Foundling Court, Brunswick Centre, London WC1N 1AN**

Ashanti Development's summer party for supporters and friends is held on the roof of the Brunswick Centre, entrance through Door No.1. There will be music, decorations and stalls as well as a Ghanaian meal.

Tickets £10 in advance, £15 at the door, can be bought from [www.tasteghana.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.tasteghana.eventbrite.co.uk)

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**Sponsored Walk – Saturday September 12 at 2.00pm**  
**Meet at St Pancras Old Church, Pancras Road,**  
**London NW1 1UL**

Ashanti Development's annual stroll down the canal to Limehouse – back by riverboat.

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**Gala for Ghana – date to be announced, but somewhere near the turn of the year.**

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Dancers, including Edward Watson, from the Royal Ballet and from other major ballet companies perform a fundraising evening for Ashanti Development. This year, the Gala will be sponsored by Harpsden Wealth Management.

3/10

**Right**

Henry Roche, Jonathan Reid (in photo), Matthew Tosca and Nan Atichatpong performed at an Ashanti Concert, held in St Pancras Church last month.



## School Twinning Programme by Dawn Williamson

This programme links schools in England and Italy with schools in the villages around Gyetiase. The aim is to enable students and teachers in all the schools to learn about each other's lives through the:

- exchange of letters between pupils and between teachers
- exchange of music, poetry, essays and school projects
- exchange of information about their lives, their schools and their communities
- exchange of teachers.

Currently there are 15 school partnerships. All have at least exchanged letters though some schools are more active.

### Right

Abonkosu Head teacher with  
letters from Christopher Reeves  
Lower School in Bedford



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**Cranford Park School, Yateley and Nkwabrim Primary**

This was the very first twinning arrangement to be set up. Cranford Park School recorded a song which was taken to Nkwabrim who sent a song back in return. Since then letters and school projects have been exchanged several times. Nkwabrim has a teacher who is a very enthusiastic football coach and asked if Cranford Park could get them football shirts for the girls' and boys' teams. Cranford Park held a special fundraising day to raise money for the shirts and some footballs and has also sent over reading books.

*Right*

Nkwabrim School football team in the football kit bought for them by Cranford Park School



In November 2013 Tracy Wilson and Gina Berry from Goldington Green Academy went to visit Gyetiase School. They stayed at Ashanti Development's clinic and went into the school each day, helping with reading, teaching English and developing close links with the teachers. The school put on a Durbar – a festival with dancing and speeches - especially for them. Since the visit Goldington Green Academy has raised money to buy an iPad and a new drum for Gyetiase School. This is well used as now the children march to the beat of the drum to their classrooms at the start of the day and the drums are also used for the weekly church service and for songs and dances. Back in Bedford, the visit has led to paintings, sculptures and music about Ghana. Martha visited the school here during multi-cultural week in February 2015 and shared her childhood experiences in Ghana with children in years 3 and 4. Regular contact between the schools has continued via email and even by telephone.

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**Cauldwell Lower School, Bedford and  
St. Peters Primary School, Nsuta**

Lisa Arlott from Cauldwell Lower School also visited Ghana in November 2013, staying at the clinic in Gyetiase and visiting the school each day where she took regular lessons. This is what she saw there:

“During my recent visit to Gyetiase I went to six schools and had long discussions with the head teachers covering a series of topics about the schools. Many of the issues raised were similar between all schools. They all have two kindergarten years and six primary years. Students in most schools receive free school lunches but the lunches are small, especially for the older children, and most children arrive at school hungry. Many but not all schools have some playground equipment, usually swings. Schools have been supplied with text books by the government in previous years but all students must buy their own exercise books which many families cannot afford.

Schools are currently receiving little funding from the government; even chalk for the blackboards is in short supply and the teachers are not always paid. They teach with very little equipment and it is science and maths equipment which is in greatest need. All the schools enter teams in the local football tournaments. The schools close for the day and many students turn up to watch so football kits and balls are very important to the schools.”

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**Elm Park Primary School, Bristol and Brofeyedru Primary School.**

Elm Park School sent school sweatshirts, T-shirts and caps to Brofeyedru. The head teacher decided the best way to distribute the uniform was to award it as prizes for the best letters written. The awards happened in front of the whole school, providing a wonderful opportunity to talk about the similarities and differences between the two schools.

*Right*

Brofeyedru School prize winners wearing their Elm Park school uniform



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**Gilded Hollins Primary School, Lowton, Wigan and Bimma Primary School**

Gilded Hollins School has worked with the Leigh Rotary Club to support Bimma School. They have fundraised to help build and equip the new computer room, and letters and school projects have been exchanged on several occasions.

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Seventeen Ashanti villagers went on a five-day training course in bee-keeping earlier this year, thanks to a project supported by Bees Abroad and the Fleet Bee Keepers Association. Trainees learned about bees, hive management, preparing hives for colonisation, preventing predators, building hives from local material, and harvesting. They went home with certificates, hives and all the knowledge and equipment they needed for successful bee-keeping.

*Right*

A training visit to an apiary



Antonella Sinopoli of Ashanti Development (Italy) made a video of the course, which you can watch on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gc59IMJXkT0>

The project was organised by Dawn Williamson and Paul Bloch, who sponsor Dadease and Mpenya villages in partnership with some friends. They are now raising money to fund more training next year and in particular are holding an Open Garden at their house on 5th July. You can see more about it under Future Events.



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## Extracts from The Directors' Annual Report, 2014

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**During 2014, Ashanti Development expanded both in terms of volunteer involvement and type of work undertaken. Income also grew. Funds generated in the UK increased from £82,964 to £101,357, while a further £15,962 was raised in Ghana (see below), making a total of £117,319.**

Although ebola never reached Ghana, the scare caused a steep drop in the numbers of volunteers visiting Ashanti. There was also a severe outbreak of cholera at the start of the year. We were delighted that neither disease reached our area of operation, and hope this was at least in part due to the sanitation and training in health and hygiene we had provided.

The villages of Bresua, Nyinamapong, Brofayedru and Patase all found new sponsors during the year, involving construction of 157 latrines providing for some 1,570 people, while new sponsors began collecting funds for New Saviour and Nkuben. A further one hundred latrines were completed at Bonkron, a village sponsored by Softwire Technology, and 64 at Pentem-Ongwase.

Bimma Village has been sponsored for several years by The Rotary Club of Leigh, with the result that this once impoverished village is now seen as a desirable location for local people to settle. In particular, its population has grown so much that the village found it necessary to extend the kindergarten. The Rotary Club supported Bimma in this, and also provided mosquito nets for each family and maths equipment for the schools. Similarly, Mpantuase-Nkwabrim's sponsor, having already provided sanitation for the village, donated a kindergarten to the great gratitude of the community.

At the request of the Director of Health, Ashanti Development also constructed four latrines for the use of patients at Kwamang Hospital and provided furniture for Kyebi's new clinic. In both cases, the District had run out of money.

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**Right**

Kwamang Hospital's latrines are for the use of patients, so constructed as near as possible to the wards



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Our work in education continues to centre on volunteer teacher trainer Dave Banks, who has now been working in Ashanti for several weeks a term since September 2012. He is teaching the method he has developed to Educational Supervisors, who in turn cascade it to teaching staff in their areas.

Dave is now working for an MA on teaching in developing countries, and has trained two Educational Supervisors to continue the work in his absence. Nonetheless, he continues to visit for several weeks every term.

The first room of a Technical College was completed at Gyetiase. It has been equipped with sewing machines and will open for students in April. Once underway, we hope to add a room to teach catering and another for hairdressing.

**Right**

This is the first module of a Technical College, which will eventually teach hairdressing, catering and dressmaking. We are very grateful to the TUUT Charitable Trust for the funding.

