

## Building Together News

We have held two fund raising events recently and both were very successful. The **Garden Safari** was blessed with excellent weather so we were able to sit in the sunshine in both gardens enjoying superb refreshments and good company. The total amount raised was £196.50. We congratulate Melba for winning the treasure hunt and a Mr David Berry and Tom Parker won the plant quiz between them. Our huge thank-yous go to Jenny, David, Helen, John and Rachel and their team of helpers for a most enjoyable afternoon.



The **Jigsaw Puzzle Sale** was a new venture and a bit of a journey into unknown territory. We were not at all sure how successful it would be. We had what seemed like hundreds of jigsaws and we then wondered whether we would have customers. On the day of the sale, we raised £340.25 including proceeds from coffee and cakes and on the Sunday £83.90 making a final total of £424.15. Thank you to Christine, Thelma, Margaret, Jean, Cynthia, Sue, Joyce, Cath, Edna, Ray, Steve and anyone else I have missed who helped on Saturday; to all who donated puzzles and cakes; to Chris who did the publicity in the media; and to all who came and bought. Obviously there is a little vein of gold that we have tapped and there will be further sales in the future.



### Forthcoming Events

The next **Book Sale** will be held on Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> July. Further details will be forthcoming nearer the time. Phil Dunnnett will be coming to give us another **Plants Evening** (this time with an autumn slant)— on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September at 8 pm. There will be another Craft Sale on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> October and there will be a **Men's Weekend** on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October. **Lizzie Jones** will entertain us on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November. We are arranging a band concert for the autumn so there is quite a lot to look forward to.

### Can You Help?

Volunteers are urgently needed to help at the over 60's Luncheon Club at Galloway Hall, Brackenbury Road, on Thursdays from 10.30 am – 2 pm approx, to help set tables, serve the dinners and to help with the washing up.

Sandra Tepetrie ☎864472.

### New Fairtrade Outlets

In the city centre, James's sweet shop in Market Street (between the Flag Market and the Market) as well as the Newsagent's Kiosk in the passage by the Market Hall are now selling small Divine bars (milk and dark) as well as the Cranberry Geobars.

In Fulwood, Cadley Stores (Post Office) have started to sell Geobars and Dubble bars as well as serving Fairtrade Coffee in their coffee shop at the back of the Post Office.

Please tell as many people as you can and support these new Fairtrade outlets. Many thanks.

Anne Garsed



### Greetings from Ghana

We have been here for nine months, having responded to a request from the Cape Coast Diocese of the Methodist Church to serve as Head Teacher, Administrator and Development Officer at the Rev Alec Jones Memorial Methodist School, Nkanfoa. The rôles have grown so Lay Chaplain can be added which, for Ian, includes preaching and taking Confirmation Classes, leadership at Nkanfoa Methodist Church and generally helping by visiting and providing financial assistance when school or church members are ill and, for Diana, Secretary of the Cape Coast Circuit Head Teachers' Association.

Nkanfoa is a growing village of about 3 000 people with two schools and four public toilets as most people do not have one of their own. Most of the fathers of the school children are taxi drivers and it only recently

hit us how hard up they must be since in 2001 the taxi fare from Cape Coast to Nkanfoa (6 miles) was 1 000 cedis with 10 000 cedis to the £ and it is still 1 000 cedis and it is 15 900 cedis to the £ so cost of living has risen but not the taxi fares. Virtually all the mothers are traders.

Most of the houses consist of one room so cooking is done outside and, if fortunate, under a verandah. For those with no verandah there can be no cooking when it rains. Water is obtained from a communal tap or bore hole, which recently was dry.

In spite of the hardness of their life people are not miserable but cope the best they can with what they have. Ghanaians are very friendly, sociable people who accept others and generally are generous with the little they have. Some school uniforms have been darned many times over and fees are often a problem as are medical bills or fees to see a doctor. Nothing is free for the people. All exercise books, textbooks, pens, pencils etc need to be bought so there are very few textbooks that fit with the new syllabus.

Our chief aim is to help to raise the standards in the school and Emma was happy to have groups of 15 weaker pupils from each class for help with English and I have fitted in nine hours a week of Maths between BS4 and BS5. By September the furniture will have to go back to BS6 so if there is to be a chance for such groups to continue then tables and chairs will be needed.

Though we both feel strongly that we are not fundraisers but here as Mission Partners to help both the church and the school, we are also aware that many things cannot be achieved without money so we place before you some of the present and future needs.

Both the new KVIP and library extension are secure, thanks to your generosity. The attendant who was ill last term, this term had to be admitted to hospital which involved a 250k cedis deposit, a month's salary, and then a week off work. We have a Sterling Fund, given as a bequest during a predecessor's time, which is for such needs to help with medical costs, etc, from which we sometimes give donations or sometimes lend depending on the circumstance. This fund will not last forever.

## **School Needs**

1. Teachers' housing 2. Tables and chairs for 40 weaker pupils. 3. A workshop for the JSS due to open September 2005. 4. Purchase land for the future school expansion (about £1500) The land is level but not adjacent to our site. There is talk of an SSS but we know the Bishop is not keen. We could use it for a sports area or the teachers housing. It will be sold to people for housing otherwise and good land is becoming short in Nkanfoa.

## **Church Needs**

There is no room for expansion on the existing site and the church is too small by far for the existing congregation who do not fit in Sunday by Sunday. The church is doing all it can to find the anticipated 24 million cedis (£1500) to get the land then it will use further funds to buy the materials and a lot of the work will be self help. It is usual to build an open structure first then add the walls later and then the floor and then finish the interior.

## **Medical**

We wish to add to the fund so that people from the school and the church can have help when they need treatment, none of which is free. A teacher and his wife both needed Hep B treatment at 289k cedis each, almost the whole of his monthly salary for the two.

The Diocesan Administrator, who lives in the house just below ours, needs an operation to free a locked knee which happened because there was insufficient funds to do the operation on his knee fully in the first place. He is very immobile and has to be transported everywhere. He is hoping that some assistance from our UK contacts may be forthcoming. We cannot use the sterling fund as it does not fit the criterion that it is for the people of Nkanfoa.

We are so grateful for and humbled by the people praying for us.

## **Prayer Needs**

1. For the ongoing school needs and thanks for help both financial and through labour.

2. For those we know who find medical bills impossible to meet.

3. Thanks for the enthusiasm of the Nkanfoa Methodist Church and their fund-raising efforts so far for the new building and land.

4. That Diana may pace herself and not be carried away by her head when her body says stop.

5. For Ian in his work as Lay Chaplain to Schools and Colleges with particular reference to his preaching and confirmation classes.

6. For our family in the UK who are constantly in our thoughts, particularly Michael who has started a new role with Union work.