

FRIENDS OF AHOTOKUROM NEWSLETTER

June 2012

Edition 25

Registered Charity DMJ 232421

Everybody at Ahotokurom wishes to say a big 'THANK YOU' to each one of you for your continued support – it is through your generosity that the work continues to grow from strength to strength!

COMPUTER CENTRE NOW UP AND RUNNING

It has been one of our primary goals to set up an IT training Centre at Enyindakurom and at last we have achieved this!

In January 2012 the first 8 students were enrolled on the beginner's course. Sister Louise has responsibility for the Centre. She was helped by an Irish volunteer to set up a full training programme on the basic aspects of computer use. Many thanks go to our sponsors particularly Fr Peter Stodart and The Fagan family, without whom this centre would not even have been planned. The facility is "State of the Art" for Ghana. The building is simple but clean with 2 rooms, 5 workstations, ceramic tiled floors, nicely painted walls and fanned ventilation.



3 students at the IT Centre

An Open day was held at which the students invited relatives and friends to view the centre and for the students to show off their newly acquired skills.

We are confident that the centre will enable young people to gain skills to enter the world of work and it also provides a service for local people who need documents typed & email communications!



One of the student's
Invitations using newly acquired IT skills!

SISTER ALICE A PROFILE

Sister Alice Kyasiimire has been at Ahoto for nearly 3 years. Her constantly smiling face cheers all those around her. She comes from a very large family in western Uganda where she was the third born of 10 brothers and 3 sisters. A step brother, step sister and an adopted sister also lived with the family. What a great family clan!

Sister Alice was born in 1983 and went to the local primary and secondary schools; local meaning a 7 mile walk both to and from school. 14 miles walking each day along undulating rough paths. What would European children think of this?

Alice thinks that it's nothing special as most of the children walk similar distances. She obtained her Stages 1 & 2 Certificate in General Agricultural Studies before leaving and working for an agricultural retailer. However she felt called to the religious life and so in 2007 she joined the DMJ's and worked in Uganda, Burundi and Cameroon before being welcomed at Ahoto.



Sister Alice

At Ahoto she provides a caring and stable influence for the children and for the elderly & disabled residents of St Clare's. Sister Alice made her First Profession as a DMJ Sister in the Chapel at St Clare's in December 2010.

THANK YOU - TOLWORTH

All at Ahoto would like to say a massive "thank you" to Canon Tony Charlton and the Parish of Our Lady Immaculate, Tolworth.

The most generous donation will be put towards the new Day Centre for the youngsters with learning disabilities who attend Ahoto on a daily basis.

Combined with this the Sisters are proposing to build some guest rooms attached to the Centre. These will be run as a 'sheltered work project' providing guest accommodation for visiting volunteers and run by the youngsters - under supervision by the sisters of course!

Here the youngsters will continue their 'social education', learn basic life skills and also contribute to the life of Ahoto.

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KOFUL

Koful is a very poor village about half a mile from Ahoto. It is part of Ahoto's outreach programme. There are very few facilities in the village, but the sisters have arranged for 4 eco tanks to be built to store water. When the mains water supply to the single village tap fails, there is no alternative source of water for the village. Whilst the villagers can postpone their washing, they need water to drink and hence, survive. In the past, if the supply was down for more than a day, the villagers had to move to a new village on a temporary basis until the supply was reinstated - this was not an uncommon occurrence! Now the tanks are filled from the single village tap and this provides at least 4 days supply in a water emergency. Clearly this project has been a major benefit for all the villagers.



Koful's new Eco Tanks

In order to celebrate the completion of this project, the villagers hosted a football match: the players wearing new shirts donated by Trinity School, Croydon. The new village band played traditional Ghanaian music throughout the match – and there was great excitement!

NEW TOYOTA ARRIVES



Sisters Monica and Pat with Mark Mantey and the new Toyota

As previously reported the 15 year old Land Cruiser named "Don't Touch Me" by the children at Ahoto, finally breathed its last!

Having safely driven over 500,000 km; much of this on very rough potholed roads, and coped with hundreds of passengers (many on emergency trips to hospital) the poor car was ready to retire!

Now the fundraising for its replacement is complete and the new Toyota vehicle has come "just in the nick of time"!

There were many different donors from around the world including support from Friends of Ahotokurom here in the UK.

We especially thank the Jack Petchey Foundation, who made a massive donation of £10,500.

Through good stewardship the Sisters have managed to get a tax exemption (yes even Ghana charges VAT!) and this saved over £4,500!

We hope the new Toyota will give the same valuable service as its predecessor!

BERNARD APPIAH MANU

Everybody who has visited Ahoto knows Bernard. He has worked there since 1983 and is now the Transport Manager as well as serving as a Catechist. He lives on site with his wife (called Mercy) and 5 children. His day starts at 6.15 when the first bus run starts. The last run, a round trip of 36 km starts at 3pm. In between there is shopping, paying Ahoto's bills, collecting post, as well as airport and hospital runs. Bernard is a vital member of the Ahoto team.



Bernard

THE CYCLING SISTER



.....we will bring you more about Sister Louise, a keen cyclist, in our next issue!

There are many more stories of activities at Ahotokurom on our website. Please take the time to look: www.ahoto.org

For further information about Ahoto please contact tkilcullen@live.co.uk