



David School Messenger

The David School

Education Changes Lives

In October 2010, David Wallwork made another visit to the David School in Sierra Leone for 3 weeks. He was joined for the first week by Marcus Horrell and then by Michael Houlden for the rest of the time.

The Best School Results in the Area



David & the teachers in uniform

Twelve of the school's pupils have graduated, having passed the National Primary School Exam (NPSE) with high grades. The School Inspector visited the school and announced that these were the best results of all the 400 schools in the Port Loko area of Sierra Leone. The inspector, staff & community are delighted!



David & the graduates

Graduation Celebrations

All the graduates received a certificate and a medal at a celebration at the school, attended by dignitaries, family and friends, as well as David and Mike.



The graduates at the beach

The next day was a Saturday, and David & Mike took the 12 graduates to the beach as a treat, where they enjoyed swimming, football and lots of food – both swimming and plenty of food being very unusual! Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.



Enjoying the food

Secondary Schooling

Three new pupils have joined from other schools, and The David School is now teaching a class of 15 pupils the Year One curriculum of Junior Secondary education.

New Furniture

New school furniture donated by the National Police Convoy charity was collected from the docks and transported to the school, so all the classrooms, including the new ones built in March, are properly furnished.

Many thanks to this group for this valuable contribution.



More Shoes



Thanks to Volda Rotary Club in Norway, and Alex Wilkie and Rotarians in Edinburgh and North Berwick for the shoes they have donated.

They have now all been transported out to Sierra Leone, distributed to the pupils needing them, and the surplus stored in the school's secure container for the future. Here are a few of the pupils wearing shoes from Norway.

Thanks also to Volda Rotary Club for their £4000 contribution.

The Community's Health

Water Harvesting

Improving the pupils' health through educating them and their families is one of the school's aims. During this last visit, the drainage and water harvesting systems around the school buildings have been completed. This now enables children to wash their hands after visiting the latrines.



Africa Mercy Visit

The hospital ship, Africa Mercy, will be moored in Kissy Dock, Freetown, Sierra Leone from March to October 2011. Volunteer doctors, mostly American perform operations on eyes, cleft lips, and other disfiguring conditions such as goitres, dental defects and scars from burns. All the treatment is free. The David School will be used as an assessment centre, so all the pupils and their families will be checked, and this will be a great opportunity to remedy many conditions.



Lighting for Adult Classes

Six PV panels have been donated by Navitron Ltd from Oakham, and it was intended that an electrical system would be installed, but the ship carrying the panels and other vital equipment broke down, and the vital equipment didn't arrive until the day David & Mike left. The equipment is now in safe-keeping with the British Royal Engineers in Freetown, who will hopefully install them. Until then the adult classes will continue by candlelight!

Soap Making – A Community Project



When Jennie Richards visited the school in March 2010, she decided she wanted to help one of the teachers, Joseph Kai Lamin, set up a small business, to make the community more self-sufficient. When she returned she raised the money to start the a small soap making enterprise in the village at Mile 36, and this business is now making & selling, and even has "shareholders". Many thanks to Jennie for this valuable contribution.



Support from Germany



David has had links for many years with Konrad vonDurn Realschule, a school in Walldurn, Germany, through Hans Miko, one of the teachers, and his wife, Marianne. Immediately after returning from Sierra Leone, David visited the school and talked to all the pupils, who have raised about £500 towards the school through making and selling Christmas items like Advent calendars. Many thanks to everyone concerned.

Beer Supports the School

Thanks to Jennie Richards and her son, William, for their fantastic fund-raising **Rhythm and Booze** event in November 2010. A beer appreciation talk by Colin West from MAGB (Malsters Association of Great Britain), with beer sampling, was followed by a BBQ and two bands: *Memories of New Orleans* and *Fat Digester*. It was an excellent evening, and thanks go to Colin, and all the musicians who gave their time freely to support the school, and helped raise another £600.

A very big thank you from all the pupils

If you think you can help in any other way, please contact David on wallwork26@btinternet.com

For more information about the David School in Sierra Leone, visit www.thedavidschool.co.uk

