



David School Messenger

The David School

Education Changes Lives



TEN YEARS OLD!!

In October this year, the David School celebrated its tenth anniversary, and to mark this important occasion, David visited the community from 14th to 31st October.

At various times during his visit he was joined by Catherine Thomas, Neil Thomas, Sylvia Abblitt, Janet Wallwork, Michael Houlden, Edward Hayes-Holgate and John Stennes - a Norwegian Rotarian and a staunch supporter of the David School. He is also our photographer.



Left:
Back: John, Edward, Michael, David
Front: Sylvia, Catherine, Janet

Above:
Alfred (the school's right-hand man in Sierra Leone) with
Catherine and Neil

Celebrations

The School's anniversary was marked by a day of celebrations. In the morning the pupils and teachers paraded for 3 miles, walking from the school to Mamamah and back. They all wore new T-shirts especially printed for the occasion, and proudly followed the school's banner.



When the procession arrived back, food was provided for all the pupils, staff and guests. After everyone had eaten, the school assembled for speeches by staff members and guests, and entertainment provided by the pupils. One drama was about a hunter who shot someone whilst out hunting. They held a courtroom trial and he was acquitted. They also had a traditional drama about defeating a devil by being good.

Children also presented information about things they had learned in class, such as the alphabet.





Some of the pupils who took part in the entertainment



To mark this important milestone for the school, every pupil was given three plates, two dishes and a spoon. This will be quite a change as they are used to eating with their fingers.



Other News

Premises and Facilities

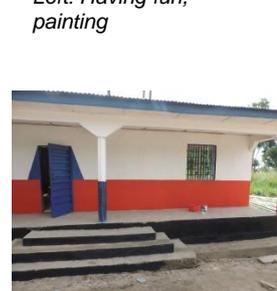
The new toilet/shower block, which featured in the last newsletter, is now in use, and has proved to be very successful. **Nazratu**, a lady from the community is now employed to supervise and clean it.



More floors have been tiled, the gutters cleaned out, the pump maintained (see picture on left) and lots of painting done.



Left: Having fun, painting



Left & above: the results of the hard work



New audio-visual equipment has been installed so there is now a TV screen, audio equipment and a radio, and a projector and large screen.

Alhaji, the deaf/mute young man from the community, has also been employed as a school caretaker and security guard. He can be seen after dark patrolling with a torch in one hand and his cutlass (machete) in the other. Certainly a force to be reckoned with!

Clothing

In addition to all being given a 10th Anniversary T-shirt, worn-out uniforms were replaced, and other clothes distributed to the most needy. The picture to the right shows Sylvia and Janet sorting uniform ready to give out. The ladies sewing group, which now has eleven regular members, continues to flourish with their support.

Many thanks to all the individuals, schools and organisations who have donated clothes.



Exciting Science Lessons



David and Edward taught some science lessons on propulsion and gravity for the secondary pupils, including making and setting off water rockets made from water bottles.

The picture shows the pupils waiting in anticipation for the rocket to take off.

Girls' Health

The contraception programme set up earlier this year is proving to be successful, and the numbers of girls continuing their secondary education is growing. The provision of sanitary wear has also proved to be very popular.

Watch this space!

- ✓ Early news from the School suggests that the school has just had its best exam results yet. More information in the next Messenger.
- ✓ The Sierra Leone government has been so impressed with the work done by the David School in the last ten years that they are considering approving it as a government school. This will mean they will pay for qualified teachers' salaries, exam fees and books and equipment for primary pupils. The school will continue to be independent, and education will continue to be free for pupils. More news on this as soon as available.

Can you help?

To continue the work at the school the following items are needed. If you can help with any of these, please contact someone connected to the school.



Soap



toothpaste and toothbrushes



sanitary wear



educational audio visual materials

A VERY BIG THANK YOU!

The School has made unbelievable progress in the last 10 years, growing from a very small primary school, to a flourishing primary and secondary school, which has had a very big impact on its isolated community. However, none of this would have been possible without the on-going support of so many people. **The pupils, staff, community and trustees wish to thank everyone who has contributed in any way at all both in the UK and Norway – the Rotary clubs, schools, charitable organisations, businesses and individuals.**

You are all part of this amazing success story. Thank you!