David School Messenger

Rotary Recognition Rewards The David School

Thanks to everyone's continuing support

On the evening of Wednesday 26th April, David Wallwork attended the House of Lords, Westminster, London to be presented with a Rotary Champion of Change Award, for setting up and developing the David School in the village known as Mile 36 in Koya Chiefdom, Sierra Leone amongst the Temne tribe.

For over 100 years Rotary has always had the philosophy that if there is a problem, then there is a solution, and the Champions of Change Awards are given in recognition of the humanitarian service of Rotary members.

Readers of the David School Messenger will have followed David's story from his first trip Freetown in Sierra Leone in 2005 to help extend a Fistula Clinic run by Mercy Ships, when he became aware of physical and emotional problems associated with living in the poverty-stricken and war-ravaged country, unlike anything he'd experienced before. During this visit, he was taken 'up-country' to an area where there were no schools and people still used a thumb print to prove identity. A teacher, and then a head-teacher, all his working life, David has always felt that 'Education Changes Lives', and following discussion with tribal elders, he built and established what the locals named the David School, which first opened in 2008.

Subsequently, the David School Trust has been established, the school extended several times, local teachers employed and trained, many children given an education and opportunities that they wouldn't have otherwise had, clean water provided, health care and health education improved, and many community self-sufficiency projects supported. Development continues. There are now nearly 250 primary pupils and 130 secondary students. The latest projects will provide a new toilet block and even better teaching.

It is for this, that he has been named a Champion of Change.

David was presented with his award by Lord Hague of Richmond, in the presence of Eve Conway, Rotary Great Britain and Ireland President

However, David is the first to say that none of it would have been possible without the support of many, many people!

This award is also recognition of the efforts of the trustees and volunteers who have travelled and worked tirelessly in trying conditions, all at their own expense.

It also acknowledges the physical, moral and financial support offered by all our many supporters. These include many Rotarians and their clubs in Britain, Norway and Sierra Leone, schools at home and abroad, other organisations, and committed individuals who have given time, effort and money over the last nearly 10 years. There are too many to name here, but they are all appreciated.

So, a really big THANK YOU from David for everyone's continuing support. Without it, his vision for helping the Mile 36 community just would not have been possible.

The David School Trust   Charity Number 1129314   www.thedavidschool.co.uk