



Water Purification and Electricity Supply

In 2015 there was a devastating water shortage caused by a drought and the complete failure of the piped water into the area of the villages that our charity serves. Most families rely on local water sources anyway as they cannot afford piped water and all streams and ponds had dried up. The TEABAG Vocational College would have closed had it not been for our borehole. Thanks to the generosity of one supporter, we now have a water treatment plant to clean the borehole water to drinking quality. Running the treatment plant uses a lot of power and electricity is quite expensive in Ghana. Thanks to another wonderful donation, we now have our own solar farm system which can supply enough power to enable the college to be virtually free of the national grid. The generosity of our supporters is overwhelming.



The photos show children collecting water for their households from a pond (usually it is children who have the job of collecting and carrying water), the water treatment equipment and the new enclosure and solar panel array.

TEABAG

The Education And Book Appeal: Ghana

December 2019 Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1126462

TEABAG
 Unit 1, Lyndon Yard
 Riverside Road
 London SW17 0BA
 020 8946 0821
www.teabagcharity.org



How You Can Help / Donate

If you fancy taking a trip to Ghana, we have an information sheet ready to email to you that will answer many of the questions you may have. We would love to have people with teaching experience but we will make good use of you whatever skill set you can bring to us.



Sponsor a child to go to school. This costs £20 per year, £15 of this is spent on uniform, shoes, exam and sports costs. The remaining £5 is given to the family in local currency at Christmas.



Donate money at our website by clicking on the **Virgin Money Giving** icon.

When you purchase items on **Amazon**, sign in via **Amazon Smile**, your shopping experience and costs are exactly the same but you can nominate TEABAG as your charity to receive a percentage of your spend.

Barclays Bank

Sort Code: 20-21-78
Account: 70715980

The **Give As You Live** site also gives a percentage of your shopping spend to charity, please nominate TEABAG.

Our account number is also published here. If you deposit into the account, please let us know if you are donating to any particular appeal ie: sponsorship, feeding program, general funds. Finally, a big **"THANK YOU"** to all our wonderful supporters.



Graduation and 10th Year Celebration

Congratulations to all the students who graduated from the TEABAG Vocational College this year. Sorry that there is not room for many photos in this issue.

Thanks go to His Excellency Mr Iain Walker British High Commissioner to Ghana for taking a keen interest in the work of the charity at the 10th Year Celebrations held at the Holiday Inn at Accra.



The front page of this issue is dedicated to showing some of the smaller things that we do for the schools and the communities. Very often, we only spend a small amount of money to achieve some great improvements.



Top left shows the Kindergarten class with the new educational posters on the wall and the children laying on the new sleeping mat (giggling while faking being asleep for my camera!).

Left centre shows just some of the furniture that we have had made this year. In addition to the chairs, we have also supplied desks and tables for the younger children and chairs for the teachers. This is really an on-going project as all the schools and classrooms are short of furniture. All the timber and craftsmanship is local and by buying local it keeps the money circulating in the community.

The clean water buckets and cups were given to each classroom by TEABAG volunteer Sabrina. Bottom right is a ceiling fan to help keep the patients a little comfortable in the community clinic and top right is some basic equipment to help the nurses, including a blood pressure monitor.

I think you can see that we spend your donations carefully and as effectively as possible.





Dear Supporters

Its been a wonderfully exciting year for our charity. The girls have settled into their new hostel at the TEABAG Vocational College and we have just started work on building a new hostel for the boys. We now have our own solar farm to provide for all the power needs of the college and our water treatment plant is fully functioning to produce pure safe drinking water. The college celebrated its 10 year anniversary and what an amazing ten years it has been.

There have been a record number of TEABAG supporters visiting our villages this year, all doing fantastic work towards our aims of helping and encouraging education and development in three impoverished rural villages in the Central Region of Ghana. As always, every visitor has paid their own expenses, including visas, flights, food and accommodation. We can still promise that all donations go directly to help the children, young people and the general communities of the villages. No overheads or running costs are deducted from your kind donations. If you would like to volunteer to help us, please get in contact even if you think that you do not have teaching skills, we can always find something useful to do.

The photos on the left show decorating tools being donated to the college. These were used to paint the classrooms and blackboards in the school. The other picture shows pupils from Hampshire giving books to the Mankoadze school library.

Roger Gillman 07801 866 723 roregillman@gmail.com



Welcome to Oshil Chihiro

In April 2019 Japan International Cooperation Association (JICA) sent Miss Oshil Chihiro, a female Japanese volunteer to teach computer studies in our college.

As part of her integration process she first did a home stay program. Here, she stayed with a selected family in the community. At the family home she was introduced to local meals and was also given extensive teaching in the local language. Chihiro was then given a local name (Maame Esi). This is a female name given to those born on Sunday. Maame Esi is currently well integrated and is in the college where she is staying and teaching. She periodically undertakes cleaning at the beach with the students. She will be in college till April 2021. Her coming has helped the college immensely in the area of ICT and the community in the area of beach sanitation.



Welcome to our newest member of staff: Dennis Tific

We are proud to also report that Dennis Tific, our National Service Volunteer from 2018/19, has now joined Mankoadze College as a permanent member of the teaching team. Dennis will be responsible for teaching Electrical Engineering and Building and Construction in co-operation with the existing staff and will be pivotal in the maintenance of the buildings and infrastructure including the new reverse osmosis system and solar project, working closely with Trustee, Chris Moller. Dennis will also take a supervisory role overseeing the welfare of our male students at the college to ensure they have what they need and reporting any issues to the Trustees.



Volunteer for TEABAG:

A truly life changing experience

TEABAG had volunteer, Sabrina Stubbs from Worthing, West Sussex, with us in Mankoadze for six weeks earlier this year. Sabrina joined us from February to April and received a very warm welcome from the community and students alike – soon after her arrival she couldn't go anywhere without a fan club of village children!

Her support spanned across the village including teaching English in Mankoadze Primary School and business studies lessons at Mankoadze College, as well as daily evening English conversation classes and a reading club twice a week. She also held a baking class with the catering students to equip them with new baking skills that will support their catering careers;

pineapple upside down cake, cupcakes and chocolate cakes were aplenty.

She also supported Mary Amoah and her team in the village health centre with their ante-natal clinics and did some much-needed decorating at Mankoadze Primary School as well as providing bins for each classroom and extra resources including class stationery kits and an extra supply of exercise books. She also aided the set-up of a food bank earlier this year with Joe Sparks which stocked a store cupboard full of necessities so they students had somewhere to turn when they were without food until the weekly feeding programme came into full swing.

"I volunteered for TEABAG with little expectation about what the visit would bring. The result? I was blown away. The sense of community in the village and the way the villagers embraced my presence was incredible. There's a special team spirit in Mankoadze which simply can't be put into words. From being welcomed by the Queen Mother on my first day to teaching and making friends with the students and children in the college and primary school, the whole journey was amazing.

"It was so heart-warming to be able to support the community in multiple ways, but it wasn't only me supporting them. The people of Mankoadze really teach you to live mindfully in the moment and be grateful for what you have. I may have taught English and offered support in various other areas, but the Mankoadze community taught me about perspective and some valuable life lessons that are somewhat now lost in the western world. It was truly a life changing experience and I can't wait to visit again."



Workshop for Teachers

On the 2nd of February this year, a one day workshop was organized by Anne Sparrowhawk for teachers from six technical and vocational colleges in the central region of Ghana. A total of 26 instructors attended this workshop. Anne an educationist and also trustee of TEABAG charity gave comprehensive training on modern teaching methodologies stressing more on the student centered approach to teaching. The training was very practical with a lot of demonstrations. All teachers who attended were given certificate of participation. The training was organize at no expense to participants. All expenses was borne by TEABAG and we undertook this project to support Integrated Community Centre for Employable Skills (ICCES), which is a government agency that partners TEABAG in the running of the college. Participants of the training program have since sent reports of the positive impact the training has brought to bear on their teaching at their various colleges.



My Three Visits to Ghana

It was an absolute privilege to be invited to visit Mankoadze in January 2019. I went with my friend and business partner Richard. Together we have built three schools in England for pupils who cannot attend mainstream education. I first heard about TEABAG through Tom Yendell when he visited one of my schools in Surrey last Autumn. Soon after meeting Tom, I was keen to visit the schools and college in Ghana and find some way of helping.

We had no plan, no agenda, just open minds. Anybody reading this who plans to visit the village, I wholeheartedly recommend you do the same. Experience everything that this magical place has to offer. As cheesy as it sounds, you'll learn a lot about yourself too. So, we left Heathrow on a cold January lunch time and headed for the West Coast of Africa.

When you arrive in the village you quickly learn that this is a special place. At the end of the 7km dirt road, we were greeted by the students of the Skills College and Castro Amoah the College Principal. I was relieved to have kept my sunglasses on, as I had drastically underestimated how emotional I was going to find it. The love and warmth you receive as a visitor is truly overwhelming and absolutely unforgettable.

Our week was jam packed, we made the most of every minute, visiting schools, teaching lessons, spending time in the village and getting to know some of the most wonderful people I have ever met. I realised by the end of the week that this place had captured my heart so much that I knew I needed to return. So that's exactly what I did. I returned to Ghana in March, alone that time, then again in May when I took my mum with me.



TEABAG has achieved so much. The college in particular, is fantastic, teaching students valuable skills that they can use to find employment with. Truly life changing.

Having got to know the staff and students well I am now proud to have been asked to become a Trustee of TEABAG. Since my visits I have set up two funds. I think it's very important that we offer scholarships to local students from the village so that they can attend the Vocational Skills College on their doorstep. The Green Room Foundation will sponsor 10 students per year for the next four years. I have also started raising money to provide food for the college at least twice a week so that staff and students can all sit down together for a meal. The catering students prepare and serve the food, giving them valuable experience for their future employment.

I loved my visits to Ghana. I have met some life long friends and I am proud to be a TEABAG Trustee. I plan to go back again in early 2020 and another time later in the year and hopefully for many years to come.

Joe Sparks, CEO, The Green Room Foundation, and new TEABAG Trustee



School Feeding Program

This year, a major student intervention program was started by Joe Sparks. Joe, who visited Ghana for the first time this year was impressed with the amazing work that TEABAG has done at the college. He has now become a trustee and is eager to contribute his skills to compliment the efforts of TEABAG. Joe decided to concentrate on one specific area to support the college. Upon consultation with the students, staff and trustees he came up with the plan to feed the entire college twice every week. Since the college runs a hostel system where students feed themselves, the decision to provide free meals was like a dream come true for the students. The duty of cooking was gladly taken on by the catering and hospitality department. The feeding program was piloted successfully for eight weeks in the third

term of the 2018/2019 academic year. Joe's ultimate plan is to provide one free meal for all the students every day. This term we have managed to provide meals for everyone two days a week. Joe is currently working to get more donations to ensure that his ambition of feeding every student every day comes to fruition.

If you would like to donate £14, this will buy the ingredients to feed 100 students and the teaching staff for one meal. The college catering department donate their time and skills free of charge for this great feeding program. Students who are well fed are able to concentrate fully on their classwork.



Special Needs Travellers in Ghana

It is not at all easy to be an independent disabled traveller in West Africa. Transport services, buildings and street surfaces are simply not designed for wheelchairs. TEABAG does campaign and fight for disabled rights and we have modified our own buildings to provide disabled access. The Vice Chairman of TEABAG was born without any arms, but he claims that he is not disabled himself as there is nothing that he cannot do. He drives, swims and can beat me at pool and darts every time we play.

We are were pleased to host a wonderful lady called Hanneke Boot, who lives in the north of Holland. She has been a wheelchair user all her life, she makes her living as a watercolour painter and is a member of the Mouth and Foot Painters Association. She has travelled to many countries and loves meeting new people, having adventures and facing new challenges, this was her first trip to Sub-Saharan Africa. Hanneke was our guest for 8 days. Unfortunately, her wheelchair broke a wheel on the rough roads and it was a major task to get a replacement. However, Hanneke really enjoyed her visit and went on to travel further within Ghana for the rest of her holiday. The photo shows her enjoying the wonderful beach at Mankoadze.

TEABAG works closely with a local disabled school in Apam and encourages an enlightened approach towards disabled people and their needs and requirements. If you would like details of how you could contribute towards the work of the disabled school, please do contact us.





Hampshire School Visits Mankoadze

A group of 24 students travelled from Eggars School in Holybourne, Hampshire to spend 9 days in Ghana supporting the work of TEABAG. The students had some amazing experiences and memories from their visit. They painted one of the village school's classrooms, visited a crocodile farm, gave a concert for the children at a school for the disabled and took part in an inter-schools games competition. The trip was an exciting experience for the students – not least because they were sweltering in extreme heat while their friends back in Hampshire endured the first snow of the English winter.

The following was written by Rebecca, one of the students from Eggars School:

When I went to Ghana, there were a few highlights that stood out personally to me. We took a trip to the market and saw first-hand the lifestyle and living conditions of the people in Winneba and saw what many of the women and children did on a day to day basis.

Living in Mankoadze for the week and seeing how the community ran on trust and helping each other out was really one of the best opportunities and experiences I've ever had. It is such a contrast to how people in Britain behave towards their community.

Another highlight would definitely be when we saw the students graduate from the Vocational College and the wonderful party held afterwards. You could immediately see the work and time the graduates and the school had put into the event and you could sense how important the graduation was for everybody, including the people of the village.

Personally, I made friends with not only the people from the village, but the people who went on the trip with me who I had not talked to before. The people in the village were so welcoming and they talked to us like we



had known each other for years, especially our buddies who were students from the college who we had been paired up with to help us with anything and with whom we exchanged gifts at the end of our stay.

Finally, I wanted to go on the Ghana trip to experience the culture, wildlife, the history of the country and the work of the charity. The experience was amazing and was better than I ever imagined. The welcoming community and the different culture was a life changing unforgettable experience that I would recommend to anyone.



Distribution of laptop computers, clothes and shoes

Even though clothing is a basic necessity of life, some people in the rural communities still struggle to satisfy this basic human need. TEABAG this year has distributed a lot of clothing and shoes for all age groups in various communities mainly: Mankoadze, Onyadze and Abrekum. The three communities were also each presented with a set of football jerseys. This kind gesture was made possible by TEABAG trustees, friends and schools in the UK who donated generously to this cause. Many thanks to the many donors. The two laptops were given to the IT Department of the TEABAG Vocational College.

Generally, we now have to rely on visitors to carry donated items in their suitcases as shipping containers to Ghana is too costly.