



Issue 6

Summer 2014

NEWSLETTER

Produced by the HASTE trustees and printed with thanks to kind benefactors of the charity



Dear supporters,

I hope you enjoy our latest newsletter which will keep you abreast of HASTE news, including up to date information from our projects and our work in progress. I went both to Uganda and to The Gambia over a three week period in December 2013. Our school in Uganda gave a fantastic welcome and we were able to see the graduation of our first 5-6 year olds, who will now proceed to state primary schools nearby, as well as witness the progress of the children in the school.

In The Gambia I visited every single one of our schools and commissioned the building of our latest one which has been funded by my aunt's legacy and will be named the Erika Maylam Sanyang Haste Nursery school

I sincerely hope you will come to some of our events and continue your most welcome support.

Kind regards
Judith Hughes QC



Chairman visits projects in The Gambia

A successful trip in December 2013 showed schools thriving

At the end of last year, HASTE chairman Judith Hughes went out to The Gambia on a school-visiting trip. While there she was delighted to find the pupils in good spirits ahead of the Christmas holidays.

"I was able to go to two schools' Christmas parties and join in the excitement," she reported on her return. "I visited seven out of eight schools – the one on the north shore is not easily accessible – and also the site of our upcoming project at Sanyang Province, where a benefactor has generously donated land upon which the school in memory of my aunt will be built." At that site three classrooms, a store room and a Headmaster's study as well as a separate toilet block, will be built (*see below, right, for progress to date*).

Of the other eight schools, all are thriving except one. "The Mariama Haste Nursery School, which we visited for its opening ceremony in 2013, has experienced difficulties after the death of its headmaster," our Chairman explained. "His widow, who was going to take over has been unable to give up her teaching job since his death because of her need for reliable income." The Trustees have now agreed to fund teachers for a year to enable her to take that step.

The Chairman reported good attendance at each of our remaining schools. "It was a joy to see their smiling faces and witness their progression," she said.



First graduation for Uganda school

Our new school celebrates the end of its first year

In our last newsletter we reported on our work putting the finishing touches to the school in Okwira, and in December two of our trustees, Judith Hughes and Cathie Long, were able to see the first group of children complete their schooling.

"The graduation ceremony was really exciting," the chairman reported afterwards. "We arrived at Okwira and were immediately surrounded by the children who were dressed in gowns and wearing little mortar boards." The ceremony was quite religious, with the mothers leading the singing of various hymns, followed by photographs and a small celebration in a marquee behind the school.

"The food included a cake with one candle in it, to mark the first year of the school and the first graduates. Cathie and I both spoke and I was then invited to present the certificates to the graduates. In the middle of the ceremony the tropical rain suddenly came upon us. Rather than being upset the local people all said that this was a sign of good luck."

Plans for the school continue. In addition to the two classrooms and kitchen that HASTE paid for, there are plans and foundations for a third classroom to be built by the parents this year. We have paid for materials and furniture so hopefully this classroom can be erected soon.



HASTE

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We're thrilled to be able to say that we've now built ten schools from scratch and provided school supplies to many more, but we can't do anything without resources. Of course, we welcome monetary donations, but just as important are those of pens, pencils, notebooks and other equipment, which we ship out to the schools. We also welcome donations of craft and well-kept bric-a-brac, which we can (and do!) sell to make money for the projects. If you'd like to buy any of our knitwear, attend one of our events (see below), or have a skill you can use to help us fundraise, please contact the chairman at iandjbing@btinternet.com. Please help us to give African children a brighter future.

2014 CALENDAR

14-15 June

Open garden at 43 North Street, Biddenden, Kent TN27 8BA. £5 (kids free)

4 July

Garden Party at 38 Canonbury Park South, London N1 2JH. £10 entry with two glasses of wine.

20 September

Choral concert at St James Church, Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R 0EA.

23 September

Tour of Old Bailey with Circuit Judge and refreshments. £15

4 December

Annual HASTE quiz, St James Church, 11 Prebend Street, Islington, N1 8PF. £20/ £150 table.

Dates
for your
diary!

If you would like to donate you can do so at: tinyurl.com/nrxflhr
Thank you for your continued support!