

Ashanti News 18
July 2012

Save the Date of Ashanti Development's annual fund-raising Gala on 30 September. Dancers will include Elena Glurdjidze of the English National Ballet, and there will be three completely new ballets by Daniel Jones (ENB), Nancy Osbaldeston (ENB) & Erico Montes (Royal Ballet) as well as recently choreographed work by Tamara Rojo, Thomas Whitehead and Nathalie Harrison.

The music (Robert Gibbs - violin; Adrian Bradbury - cello; Oliver Davies and Henry Roche - piano) will include Coleridge-Taylor's 5 Negro Melodies (op. 59, 1906) for piano trio.

This celebrates the centenary of the death of the black British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor 1875-1912 (see Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Network online).

There will be a meeting of long-term volunteers in the theatre from 2.00pm.

A Dream of Africa Gala 2012

1/7



A Dream of Africa Gala 2012

A Sparkling Evening of Ballet & Music to raise funds for Ghana based charity Ashanti Development

Sunday 30th September 2012 at 7:30pm

Includes new work by Daniel Jones and Nancy Osbaldeston from English National Ballet and Erico Montes from The Royal Ballet
Instrumental music played by Robert Gibbs
Adrian Bradbury
Oliver Davies and Henry Roche

The Britten Theatre, Royal College of Music,
Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BS
Tickets £30 from RCM Box Office
Tel +44(0)20 7591 4314
www.rcm.ac.uk/boxoffice

Photo of Water by Daniel Jones. Dancer Kei Akahoshi

 **Bringing clean water to African villages**
For more information about Ashanti Development please visit www.ashanti-development.org

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Please help us help them by building a crowd of donors and, if you know of anyone else who would be interested, sending them this link to our Crowdfunding Pitch – <http://bit.ly/JWYuFI>

Paul says that using social media works well. If you can send personal emails, tweets and messages on Facebook it will give all your contacts and opportunity to Develop a Village as well.

Crowdfunding for Awanya Village

2/7

We plan to spend the money to provide Awanya, in the south of the District, with one latrine for every household. We will pay for the materials, and the villagers will do the work. Awanya, which grows crops including cassava, plantain, corn and cocoa, currently has two ancient, filthy communal latrines, one for men and one for women. The roof of the women's latrine was ripped off recently in a storm, and a schoolgirl suffered a bad snake bite when she visited it in the night.

No wonder then that Awanya's Chief, Nana Boakye Yiadom, contacts Ashanti Development all the time to ask when his village can have sanitation. Since it was launched at the start of June, the site has raised over £3,000 – 60 per cent of the target.

Volunteer Paul Kalinauckas has set up Ashanti Development's first Crowdfunder pitch and is hoping for a big success. The idea is that a crowd of people donate small amounts of money each – £10 is just fine – towards reaching a target of £5,000 to help Develop a Village. This is a much more inclusive way of enabling lots of people to sponsor a village than just relying on one large donor. But if the target isn't met by 30 July, the donors' contributions are returned to them.

Right
Awanya Village



Agreement was reached last month for Ashanti Development to support a network of village healthworkers, recently established by Sekyere Central Health Authority, in villages where we are active. The Authority has given the healthworkers good, but limited, training. Our aim is to build on this foundation by using our medical volunteers to top up their training and by providing more drugs and equipment.

Our general medical work is led by Dr Helen Booth, a UCLH respiratory consultant, and Chris Hartley-Sharpe, an Operations Manager at London Ambulance Service. They have visited the area many times and are familiar with the medical issues (see, for example, their report in Ashanti News 15). During a visit earlier this year, they learned that the Health Authority had selected one villager from each of its main villages to act as volunteer healthworkers, and trained them to diagnose and treat three common sicknesses in children – malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia. From our headquarters village at Gyetiase, Ashanti Development's Diana Owusu was selected as a trainee.

Right
Helen and Diana (standing) with one of the new healthworkers and a patient and his mother.



For some time now, Helen and Chris have been looking for a way to set up a system of village healthworkers, so they were delighted to learn of the District's initiative and immediately offered Ashanti Development's help and support. 'It is clear that the scheme has been very well established,' they told District Director of Health, Mr Opoku. Speaking for Ashanti Development, they added 'we would be very happy to...provide additional support to the Community-Based Agents (healthworkers).'

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Ashanti Development's Role

Although the village healthworkers are well-trained, their training is insufficient to allow them to undertake their role with confidence. Ashanti Development volunteers can help here by mentoring and supporting them. We are therefore asking volunteers who are going to Ashanti but who do not have specific work planned to join Chris and Helen for a workshop early in July, where they will learn how to carry out this task.

The healthworkers have been taught that the most effective diagnostic indicator for malaria is current fever, which can be determined by asking the parent whether they think the child has a fever or not. While this often works well, there is obviously a danger that the parents will report a fever where none exists or, more worryingly, fail to report a fever that does exist. Ashanti Development will therefore provide digital thermometers to healthworkers who have been trained to use them.

While they have been trained to provide a range of medications, the healthworkers are only provided with malaria drugs, and some of the equipment they have been given is unsuitable. Ashanti Development will therefore provide them with medicine in exactly the same doses and with the same presentation that was used for their training. We also plan to give them equipment such as weighing scales for babies, a rucksack for medicines and paperwork to replace the over-bulky medicine chest, too heavy to carry, with which they have been provided.

It was agreed that Ashanti Development would pay the healthworkers in Ashanti Development-supported villages a very small salary, perhaps Ghc.5 a month, in return for monthly written reports. These would be collected by a full-time member of Ashanti Development staff, who would have the task of visiting and supervising the network.

We will also encourage healthworkers to attend baby-weighing sessions and provide feeding advice and/or weanimix (homemade nutritional supplements) to undernourished babies, as well as monitoring their progress.

_Mpenya and Dadiesa are the latest villages to have found sponsors under our Develop A Village scheme. Meanwhile work is underway in the recently-sponsored villages of Mpantwase and Nkwabrim, while Ekuor, Mpempe and Ntenten have completed their household latrines. EMN's sponsor has also given the villages five years National Health Insurance and set up a Hardship Fund. The villages are amazed and overwhelmed by their good fortune.

_Adutwam is another newly-sponsored village, this time by Ashanti Development Italia and the village now has household latrines. A small, satellite clinic is under construction, since there is no other healthcare available in the area, but building work has been held up briefly through lack of funds. Understandably, Italians are reluctant to give to this sort of project when they have to cope with the 20,000 made homeless by earthquakes in ADI's nearest city, Bologna. But they are confident they'll be able to finish the building before long.

_The lives of the people of Bimma have now been transformed by the generosity of the Leigh Rotary Club, who have given it amazing benefits including household latrines, a kindergarten, agricultural support and loans, a food processing factory, a school playground and help with free school meals. When Diana Owusu visited Bimma recently, she was unable to find anyone who needed help from the Hardship Fund. Bimma is looking forward to welcoming six members of Leigh Rotary who are planning to visit in November to inspect the work.

_Seven SpecSavers ophthalmologists and opticians will run a clinic in Gyetiase later this month, so Gyetiase fast-food sellers providers and hotel-equivalents can look forward to making a lot of money from visiting patients. Cataract operations will be carried out at the same time by Dr Peter Osei-Bonsu from Kumasi Komfo Anokye Hospital.

_We are delighted to learn that the Ghana Government's National Malaria Control Programme has begun to deliver on its promise of at least one net for every family, and mosquito nets can now be found in most of the villages where we work. Against this background, our efforts will be directed at monitoring the situation and sorting out problems - for example, helping to hang difficult nets, and replacing damaged ones.

_We're looking for UK schools who'd like to twin with their opposite numbers in Ashanti. Our website describes the activities of our first twinned schools, Cranford Park Primary School in Hampshire and Nkwabrim Primary School in Ashanti. Since then, we are working on eleven other twinings, and ten of the UK schools are raising funds to provide free school meals for the toddlers.

_Over the last few months, the main room in the Gyetiase clinic has been converted into an operating theatre for cataract surgery. The walls have been tiled, air conditioning installed, and swing doors have been put in between the scrubbing-up area and the operating theatre. The remaining ground floor rooms are designated for other medical purposes – reception and consulting rooms for example.

_A new volunteer teacher trainer will start work in mid-September, and stay in Gyetiase until mid-April, with a break for Christmas. This is a breakthrough for us, and we are sure he will make a real difference to the quality of teaching in the schools.

_We have a new Facebook page. Please join us at <https://www.facebook.com/ashantidevelopment>