



WELCOME TO OUR 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your newsletter and thank you for your support during 2024.

You will read how we supported school renovations, developed a community-led healthcare group, built bore holes and provided much-needed materials and equipment for our Vocational Schools. And as always working closely with local communities who want to help themselves.

You can also read how Microsoft, as part of their charitable giving programme, visited our schools in Northern Ghana. Their supportive comments are much appreciated and we hope to hear from them in the future.

You can also find reports about the visit by two UK committee members, Dr Lyn Haines and Jane Scott, to Northern Ghana in late 2023 - the first UK team to visit since Covid.

I commend to you Dr Lyn's report opposite giving her on-the-ground positive thoughts about her visit.

Best wishes *Lynne Symonds*

"Our success really is down to the incredible dedication of our volunteers in Ghana and UK and you our supporters."

DR LYN HAINE'S REPORT VISIT TO NORTHERN GHANA 2023

*"I have been a 'sideliner' to WULUGU since 1996. I've read the annual newsletter and **been in awe by what has been achieved.***

I'm African, so I was able to appreciate the conditions that we encountered. I was thrilled to be back in African bush, albeit it in a new geographical location.

What 'got to me' was the reaction of the staff, students and villagers in the schools that we visited. Their engagement in teaching and learning in the first school visited, evidenced the enjoyment with which they engaged. I just wanted to be part of that English lesson - the atmosphere was electric.

In many other schools visited the students were involved in cultural aspects of celebrating their new school buildings. Village leaders and community chiefs were also involved in the celebrations to express gratitude. Dancing, singing, generosity of spirit and gift-giving was an honour to experience.

Education is central to the communities. Your wonderful donations are being turned into life changing outcomes for children and young people.

The other focus of our trip was to visit many of the villages where boreholes have been provided through WULUGU donors. The impact on the 'water fetchers' is tangible: they no longer have to walk miles to collect water (often dirty), and not having to carry water containers on their heads for miles will hopefully have a positive impact on their musculoskeletal systems.

*The Tamale-based Ghana team are all volunteers. The fact that all WULUGU work in the UK and Ghana is done by volunteers means that your donations actually reach the target villages and young people. **Thank you for being part of effecting such changes.***

Dr Lyn Haines



GREETINGS FROM SOLOMON OUR TEAM LEADER IN GHANA

The year is almost at a close. Global phenomena and of lack of funding have impacted on our ability to meet community requests. But one thing we are confident of is the hope and prayers these communities continue to pour on us. This encourages us that it will get better.

The team continue to forge ahead and give of their best, never compromising on the trust and integrity we stand on to deliver in our volunteering in the course of our work.

I want to thank our volunteer team here, particularly Mr Peter Lansa who works tirelessly in the field, supervising all building works from start to finish and Isaac Kanwile, in charge of the bore hole projects. Currently our senior citizen Mr Safo Mahatma who has over the years been there to direct and advise is seriously challenged health wise and we wish him a speedy recovery.

We extend our sincere thanks to team UK for their unwavering efforts in doing all they can to enable us continue with our work. Despite the challenges, you will read in this newsletter our many successes in 2024 - from bore holes to renovations and medical care teams.

We are most grateful and look forward to a better, brighter and prosperous new year.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Solomon Nachina

JANE SCOTT'S FEEDBACK FROM THE VISIT IN LATE 2023

Lyn has given her impressions about the visit and particularly the benefits of our work in Ghana (front page).

For me a most important part was putting faces to the names of our friends in Ghana who we had not met due to Covid. Also the new members of Solomon's team - Adam Lannsa and Issas Kenwile - both teachers but spend hours on WULUGU's trusty dusty motor bike visiting, supervising and collecting information about the many communities where they are welcomed and obviously trusted and respected. Not forgetting Jane Nachina, budget supervisor and teachers Joanna at Wayamba and Rita at Fuu.

We visited ten new schools but It was special to visit Dalun, a school with nearly five hundred pupils and funded by Tony in memory of his lovely wife Margaret who helped us for several years. As always the local community had helped with providing support: the MP had built the toilets and the head of the PTA had brought electricity to the school.

We arrived a little early to see excited pupils preparing for their guests and the forthcoming celebration - chairs were carted on pupil heads and Sunday best clothes worn for the dancing to come.



The elders and mothers of the village came and took their place and the Chief came too. There were the usual grateful speeches from the chief's linguist the MP's representative and head master.

The very loud village 'talking drums' came in and deafened us but then the boys took to the floor with their smocks spinning and their sticks bashing - cultural history is part of their syllabus at school. Then it was the girls turn and in their home clothes they gyrated and bottom bumped just as their mothers often do. It was very exciting and so less formal.

I'm sure Margaret would be very proud.
Jane Scott



OUR VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS



HELPING STUDENTS WITH PRACTICAL SKILLS

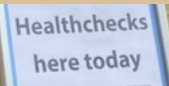
Our vocational schools are vital, helping uneducated pupils to become literate and numerate and have real hope for their future. Pupils receive both theory and practical training enabling them to find work in established businesses or to set up their own.

At present the government of Ghana is encouraging students to enter vocational training rather than university courses that lead no-where. This is putting even greater strain on our Vocational Schools. Theory is much cheaper than practical and there is an ever-present shortage of practical materials and equipment in all our schools.

This year we have been very fortunate to have more help from All Saints Educational Trust who have helped with consumable materials for tailoring and catering courses.

In addition, we were thrilled to have a positive response to our request to The Souter Charitable Trust who contributed £3,000. We are new to the Souter trust and we are so pleased that they have trusted us to make the most of their help.

We are grateful to Trade Aid (Rotary Club Grantham and Kesteven) for their continuing helping with the provision of boxes of equipment matched to various skills such as tailoring or joinery.



POSITIVE RESULTS FROM COMMUNITY-LED HEALTH SCREENING

We are proud of our basic schooling approach that started twenty-seven years ago with our first school in the village of Wulugu. However, the positive results of a recent community led health screening programme, with help from one of our funders, Kitchen Table Trust, has made us even more proud.



Of course over the years we have helped in many small ways with health: during covid travelling to outlying villages to make them aware of the risks and boreholes giving half a million people access to clean water.

As reported last year we were delighted that a team of nurses from Lukula, many of whom received their basic education at WULUGU schools, had set up a health screening programme. This has gone from strength to strength with the professional support of twenty eight Registered Nurses, eight Public health nurses, four Doctors, one Urologist and six Physician Assistants.

Initial distrust in health care is being overcome (e.g. family planning is often blamed for spread of STDs and the dependency on traditional medicines rather than scientific investigations and treatment is common) and an awareness of the importance of seeking medical advice and regular check ups is being developed in the community

To date nearly one thousand adults have been screened, and for common diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes and prostatic medication provided. For others, such as, eye cataracts, breast cancer and lumps generally, referrals for specialist examination have been made.

A NEW BORE HOLE FOR MBANYILI VILLAGE

Clean water, taken for granted by us in the UK, is lacking in most of the villages in Northern Ghana.

WULUGU has reported in previous newsletters the provision of boreholes to provide clean water for washing hands, as part of the prevention of transmission of Covid. But benefits are more than just Covid prevention. The clean water reduces the threat of diarrhoea, the main preventable cause of childhood deaths and other waterborne diseases like typhoid and cholera and malaria, whose mosquitos flourish in the open water 'scrapes' previously used for drinking water.



Scrapes dry out and become polluted.



SCHOOL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS THREE EXAMPLES: KANSHEGU, GUMANI & ZAGYRI

Our core activity is renewing, replacing and building new schools and WULUGU has a successful track record with over one hundred schools benefiting. We always work with the community and in close partnership with PTAs and the schools generally. This partnership ensures we deliver what is wanted locally and helps encourage self-help with maintaining the schools in the longer term. The P.T.A and local M.Ps usually contribute to the costs. The community and PTA feed and accommodate our workers and help with basic building tasks.

Education in the North has long lagged behind the South. When we first became involved, relatively few girls were in school even at primary level. It is now well recognised that education, particularly for girls and women, is one of the most effective routes out of poverty. We are delighted that this has changed and, in most of our schools, numbers of girls equal or exceed boys. Families have learned that a daughter is more valuable if she is educated, and are now much less likely to give her to an older man for marriage on her first menstruation.

1. KANSHEGU COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



With nearly two hundred pupils in a dilapidated school building education was becoming nearly impossible. We wanted to step in now to make essential repairs in order to prevent major costs in the not-too-distant future.

Renovation work is currently in progress at a cost of just over £6,000. Grateful thanks to our funder Kitchen Table Trust for helping to support this project.



2. GUMANI PRIMARY SCHOOL

Gumani Primary has been fully repaired after risk of closure. Children and teachers are very happy! We were pleased to improve things ready for September term.

3. ZAGYRUI

Zagyuri needed a new school badly - with nearly four hundred pupils many having to study under the trees because of the dilapidated state of the classrooms. The most needed repairs were the cracked and pot-holed floors, the wooden windows and doors replaced with metal ones, mending cracked walls and general plastering.

We were pleased to be able to complete this work during August holidays. The school is now safe and much more pleasant for all.



DAVID YARHAM'S LASTING LEGACY

David and Hazel supported us almost since we began. And now, following David's sad death, he will continue to help so many as his legacy has been used to transform access to clean water for hundreds.

David was kind and encouraging and had a clear understanding of our work. He wrote two books of poems, largely concerning the countryside. His daughter illustrated these and proceeds came to us.

We are privileged to have had you as a friend.

Lynne Symonds

DESKS ARE IMPORTANT FOR LEARNING

A classroom without desks doesn't help pupils to learn. Particularly older students who really need something to write on and a seat.

To make the desks, wood has to be transported up country to Tamale as little is available in the North. They are then put together by our carpenters. Our desks are made to our well-tested design are tough and durable and cost £25 each.

We are so grateful to Sunderland Rotary, Seaburn Rotary, David Yarham, Tony and others for providing the finance for desks in 2024. Seaburn Rotary recently obtained a grant from Rotary International to buy twenty-four desks and they have matched that themselves. We always need more!

If you can fund just one desk it helps - please contact us for further information and how you can help.



SCHOOLS STILL NEEDING OUR HELP - CAN YOU HELP??

Whilst on page four in this newsletter we report on completed school buildings and improvement works, there are still many schools in urgent need of repair. Our on-the-ground Ghanaian team has an extensive priority list of schools needing work - from complete new schools or rebuilds at £60,000 to more minor needs such as plastering and door replacement. Below are a few pictures of school buildings needing our help. Your financial support is invaluable to us - please consider helping us move these communities out of poverty.



RECENT FUNDING FOR AKAMANDE NWANTA SCHOOL



Schools like this are trying hard to teach in very dilapidated and difficult surroundings and they were

delighted to hear of the recent funding announcement. We have the expertise and the craftsmen and can build at a third of the cost others pay because of local support. We plan to start the work shortly and with completion in 2025.

The Clive Richards Foundation (CRF), who have been strong supporters, have recently contributed generously towards the cost of re-building. This has been a successful funding partnership between our donors here, CRF and importantly, the local M.P. in Ghana. We are proud of the considerable involvement of locals in our work. They appreciate that we struggle for funding and always do what they can to support our work together.



LETTERS OF THANKS



We receive many letters of appreciation from village chiefs, elders and MPs. Below are recent typical thanks:

LETTER OF GRATITUDE - ZAGYURI PRIMARY SCHOOL 20TH NOVEMBER 2024

I write to you and your entire organisation both here and abroad for the generosity shown my people in the renovation of the above school.

The school was in a state of collapse as children were exposed to dangerous learning environment where the floors were very bad. Children tripping and falling thereby wounding themselves and teachers shying away from accepting postings to the place.

However, since its renovation, this term alone we have had all children who would not want to come to school all run to take their places before they loose them to new students.

Parents are also flocking to the school to bring their wards from nearby communities without school structures. The renovation has boosted the enrolment and the learning interest of the children.

As a chief, the school had been my nightmare as I and my elders had knocked on every door for its renovation to no avail until we knocked on your doors. We are surely a lucky people and are grateful to the donor who looked our way and has rescued the lives of our children from ignorance and illiteracy were most grateful and assure you of our preparedness to take good care of the building and put it to maximum use for the teaching and learning process.

We remain indebted to you in gratitude and wish you the best of luck in your endeavours as you continue to be hope for the hopeful.

We thank you and wish you God's blessings.

Yours truly
ZAZYURI NAA and his elders

MICROSOFT VISITS WULUGU SCHOOLS

Earlier this year we were pleased to connect with Stephanie Tei an Operations Manager at Microsoft London Office.

Within their team of forty people they set about raising funds for WULUGU. Nearly a thousand pounds was raised. The team at Microsoft collected and shopped for essential school supplies, including books, stationery sets, rulers, pens, pencils and more. In addition, they received a generous donation from other subsidiaries within Microsoft (*MCAPS UK*) who contributed seventy Microsoft-branded water bottles, swag bags, pens, and notebooks.

Stephanie travelled to Ghana and personally delivered the goods to three schools undergoing development through the Wulugu Project. She said "It was an incredibly humbling experience, especially understanding the state of poverty these children face. Their bravery and resilience are the driving forces promoting change in the northern region." She added: "We will remain in touch with the Wulugu Project and are immensely thankful for their collaboration."

Microsoft's supportive comments are much appreciated and we hope to hear from them in the future.



HOW TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE WULUGU PROJECT

Donations made online direct to our bank account or by standing order are the simplest method but of course cheques are still acceptable should you prefer to donate in this way. Online donations can be made via our website www.wulugu.co.uk using CAF Donate. Our website also gives you much information on our work.

Cheques and completed forms should be returned to:

Jane Scott, The Wulugu Project, 8 Camberley Road, NORWICH NR46 6SJ

If you wish to make a regular donation, please set up a standing order either on-line or by completing the form below.

Standing Orders or Donations made on-line should be paid to:

The Wulugu Project Sort Code: 60-24-52 Account: 14643936 Reference: Donation

Name.....

Address.....

- I wish to make a regular donation and have set up a standing order online
 I wish to make a regular donation and have completed the standing order form below
 I enclose a cheque for my donation

If you have not previously completed a Gift Aid Form for donations made, please complete and sign below:

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts made from the date of this declaration and in the past four years. I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Signed..... Date.....

Please notify the Charity if you want to cancel this declaration/change your name or home address/no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capitals gains. Gift Aid is linked to basic tax, currently 20%, which currently allows charities to reclaim 25 pence in the pound

STANDING ORDER for DONATIONS

To The Manager.....Bank/Building Society

Branch address.....

Please pay to NatWest (Code 60-24-52) for the credit of The Wulugu Project (Account 14643936)

The sum of (Words).....Pounds (Figures) £..... Ref: Donation

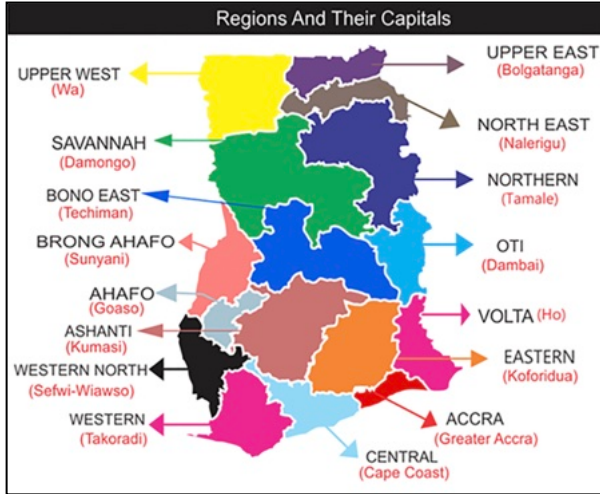
Monthly/Quarterly/Annually beginning on20..... and a like amount on the same day of each of the following months/quarters/years until this order is cancelled.

Signed..... Date.....

Account Name.....

Bank Sort CodeAccount Number

This Order cancels any previous Order in favour of The Wulugu Project (delete if inappropriate)



ABOUT US

We work across the Northern Region of Ghana in the most challenging of Ghana's Regions.

For twenty seven years we have worked closely in partnership with local communities, chiefs and across religious groups to reduce poverty through education.

Focusing our efforts on girls and women's access to education we have enabled many tens of thousands of young people and their families to have greatly improved futures.

Run by an experienced team of volunteers in UK and Ghana we invest over 98% of our income directly on projects in Ghana.

Our projects are mainly building and renovating schools but with our local on-the-ground approach we can respond quickly to wider urgent needs such as micro-loans to develop businesses, providing clean water boreholes to reduce the spread of COVID and supporting a much-needed basic health care and screening team.

All our work is aimed at improving the quality of life in an area where sixty percent of the population live in abject poverty.

For more information about us and how you can help see our website at www.wulugu.co.uk

WULUGU works in the Northern Ghanaian Region to tackle poverty through education

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER CAN YOU HELP US?

We still have much to do. We have a list of schools that are in urgent need of repair or new schools and desks are always welcomed (see page 5), basic supplies for our health team would be appreciated and material and equipment supplies for our Vocational Schools (see page 3) are always in need.

We are proud of the considerable involvement of locals in our work. They appreciate that we struggle for funding and always do what they can to support our work together.

Finally, importantly, our amazing treasurer, Harold Pond, is standing down. Lyn Haines will take over but things will continue as before for a while.

Lynne Symonds Founder WULUGU



HOW WE WORK

We always make sure we only work with those communities who want to help themselves and their children to break free from poverty. We work closely with the communities and listen right from the start. This enables us to really understand what is needed, what is possible and how we can help them to help themselves.

HOW TO CONTACT US

We can be contacted at WULUGU Project, Church Farm, Great Melton, NORWICH NR9 3BH Phone: 01603 810748
 E-mail: wuluguproject@gmail.com or The Chair, Jane Scott Phone: 01603 453750