

Akwaaba

As 2011 gets into full swing, there are exciting developments in the world of Sabre.

We have just launched our new **website** – if you haven't seen it yet please do log on and tell us what you think. We've tried to simplify the user experience, knocking the content back to our core focus and making it easier to get a sense of what we do. It's conveniently linked in to our **Twitter**, **SmugMug** and **You Tube** accounts giving us access to a whole host of social media and several platforms on which to promote our work. You can also browse our **online shop**, allowing you to raise money for Sabre whilst buying from a range of fair trade products that make great presents, either for yourself or someone else!

March also means celebrating Ghana's independence day, something we did both in the UK and Ghana. This makes March a fitting month to see Ghana challenge England at Wembley in their first senior team encounter ever, a friendly but historic occasion that will certainly see our allegiances divided!

We've now welcomed our next bunch of volunteers and are helping them get stuck into our projects both in and outside the classroom. A further two construction volunteers are joining us towards the end of the month.

Here's to another great quarter!




England vs Ghana

If you haven't done so already, here's a reminder to buy your tickets to the England versus Ghana friendly at Wembley on 29th March. Tickets can be bought through the **FA online**. We'll be there supporting our two favourite nations.



Ayensudo Update

Recently we've been battling rain, broken cement mixers and slow quarries, however, things are looking up. The community work gangs have been busy preparing the swales, Bilali has been bending steel for the foundations which have begun to be poured,

and Lawrence, Joseph and even Uma have been helping compact the concrete. We've also had our first set of construction volunteers of 2011 from **Arup** and **Davis Langdon**, whose presence on site was really felt by all and lifted the community spirit following recent project

set backs. From here on though things are looking very positive indeed, we've received the first tranche of funding from **Tullow Oil** and have more construction volunteers coming out later this month. If you would like to come and help (and we would love for you to do so!) please get in touch.



Trot 4 Trash

Thursday 3rd March saw the students and teachers of Bantuma M/A Primary and JHS school (one of Sabre's key partner schools) go running to raise environmental awareness.

This event was organised by Mel Popowich (a Canadian friend of Sabre) and her parents Wayne and Diane and was sponsored

by Canadian sports store **The Running Room** and **George P Nicholson School** who donated forty pairs of trainers and a bunch of t-shirts between them.

The event was in aid of educating the general public about rubbish and its effect on the environment. Zoomlion eat your heart out!

Asabaako!

Independence weekend brought with it a new and exciting music festival to the world calendar. **Asabaako** was set up by event organisers Rich Goddard and Kofi Debrah and brought Busua to life, promoting some fantastic local artists at one of Ghana's premier surf locations. With future expansion plans, **Asabaako** will be an annual event not to be missed.

Situated on one of Ghana's most beautiful beaches you would be hard-pressed to find a more perfect setting. Days were spent swimming, jet-skiing and playing cricket (obviously!) and the night time brought a classic carnival atmosphere with locals and tourists dancing long into the early hours. We can't wait for next year!

Ghana Athletics Trip

From 8th-23rd April, a team of 11 young British athletes and two coaches will take part in a regional training camp at Cape Coast, Ghana. As part of their trip they will also complete a small athletics infrastructure project alongside a set of Ghanaian athletes. This incredible opportunity is being facilitated by the Sabre Trust and funded by **Jamie**

Procter's Foundation. The trip aims to foster sporting talent, provide cultural awareness, supply some much lacking athletics equipment to the district school sports authority as well as leaving a lasting legacy of improved athletics infrastructure. It is also hoped that a reciprocal visit can be organised in the future.



Concert

November 6th 2010 saw **Aliquando** together with **One Drum, Belinda Sykes** and **Chaconne Brass** perform an outstanding concert in aid of Sabre.

The choir Aliquando, under the direction of Anne Evans (who has close family ties to Sabre) performed **Karl Jenkins' Stabat Mater**, and we're delighted that soloist Belinda Sykes, who sang for Karl Jenkins at the premier of his new work and on the CD, agreed to perform with them. Abass from One Drum was also able to bring a taste of Ghanaian drumming into the classical arena.

Sabre was the first charity to benefit from Aliquando's inaugural concert and fundraising efforts.

Anne Evans says "I am so pleased that we were able to support Sabre with our first venture. I would like to thank our Patron Patrick Kelly who made it all possible and also Dominic and Sophie who set up an interesting and thought provoking display featuring

Sabre's achievements and plans for the future. It contributed greatly to the success of the evening".

The event raised a fantastic £2,824.42 for which we are extremely grateful and would like to extend our thanks to all involved.

Fairtrade

28th February – 13th March was Fairtrade Fortnight. Organised by those wonderful people at the **Fairtrade Foundation** to highlight sustainable development, fair wages and empowerment, this two-week window is their biggest campaign of the year. You can continue to support the initiative and Sabre by buying something from our **online shop**.

Container

Towards the end of March a container full of educational resources will arrive in Takoradi in the Western region of Ghana. Assembled by us and including the entire contents of Church

Bus Run

On the 29th April 2011, another Bus Run will leave the UK bound for Ghana. There are still spaces available for this three-week epic going overland through France, Spain, Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso and ending up in Elmina, Ghana. If you would like to be a part of this incredible and exciting adventure please contact us. There are more details and a video of what you can expect at www.busrun.org



ASCL

Sabre Trust was out in force at the **ASCL** annual conference held in Manchester on 11 and 12 March. Dominic and Sabre trustee Moyra Zaman promoted the Partner Ghana school linking scheme at a prominent stand in the exhibition arena, and also delivered a workshop on international school partnerships to interested head teachers.

At the annual dinner, ASCL President John Fairhurst, launched an after-dinner collection which raised a fantastic £1,200 for Sabre's school projects in Ghana.

The **Partner Ghana** scheme helps UK schools to establish a sustainable link with rural Junior High Schools in the KEEA Municipality, sharing projects and experiences with the Ghanaian students, associated expedition visits to Ghana are supported by **World Challenge Expeditions**.

If your school is interested in finding out more please contact us by email at schoolpartnerships@sabretrust.org

Dragons

Sunday 12th June 2011 will see Sabre take on yet another dragon boat festival. If you want to get a team together and get involved with a highly entertaining way of raising money for us then please drop us a line. It promises to be another great day out splashing about on the river and will be held at Marlow, Bucks.

Proverb

"The teeth that laugh are the same ones that bite"

Contact Us...

UK
The Old Dairy
Unit 5
South Lodge Court
Ironsbottom
Surrey, RH2 8QG.
T: +44 (0) 2032 399 476

Ghana
P.O. Box 329
Elmina,
Central Region
Ghana
West Africa
T. +233 (0) 247 919 469

Web
www.sabretrust.org

Email
trust@sabretrust.org
volunteer@sabretrust.org



Davis Langdon



ARUP



Association of School and College Leaders

