

Congratulations

SABRE NEWS

Sabre Charitable Trust
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Issue 2

Update on Dwabor...



With Spring perhaps finally on it's way, bringing with it hopes of a Ghanaian summer, we thought it best to capitalise on that optimism and let you know what's been going on over the last few months in Ghana, the UK and of course Vancouver. Whilst snow stopped work

(and play) in the UK, we were hard at it in Ghana. Completing and inaugurating the kindergarten at Dwabor, welcoming new volunteers, running school trips, sourcing new partnerships, finding new projects and welcoming new members of staff aboard - these are just some of the

things we've been doing to keep ourselves busy!

All this of course gives you something to read about, reflect on and engage with. Here's to another productive summer!

New Arrivals

Maxine Peel-Yates is Sabre's new fundraiser. Hailing from a background in both charity and institutional fund raising she is a welcome addition to the UK team and will be working hard to find the funds required to keep our projects moving forward.

maxine@sabretrust.org

Sampson Yahans is our newest member of staff in Ghana. His full-time role is that of Ghana Schools Liaison Officer, facilitating the delivery of the educational aspects of our Schools for Schools Partnerships programme.

sampson@sabretrust.org

Kindergarten Opening

The builders are out and the children are in...



Friday 19th February saw a dream become reality. The completion of Sabre's prototype sustainable kindergarten at Dwabor was marked by a large inauguration ceremony attended by local and international partners in the project, Dwabor parents, teachers and children, local dignitaries, press representatives and friends of Sabre.

On the day, the materials and techniques that went into the build were on show for all to see and appreciate before settling down for refreshments and speeches. The school created quite an impression on those visiting for the first time, and it was fantastic to receive such ringing endorsements from the government and



donor representatives.

It has been an amazing journey from concept to completion, eighteen months ago Sabre first visited the elders in Dwabor, and since then a huge amount of work has gone into the school's design and implementation. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in the project, at every level, and special thanks must be reserved for our fabulous partners Davis Langdon and Arup, without whom this quite literally would never have happened.

We are utterly amazed by what has been achieved by so many in such a short time. For us, the building may now be finished, but in many ways



the real work has just begun. With functioning class rooms and dedicated teachers, the kindergarten children of Dwabor now have a real chance to shine in a purpose-built, dedicated environment.

Not ones to rest on their laurels, the design team are already back at their desks, preparing for the next school build, which begins in Ayensudo from September. If you would like to get involved then please **contact us** or see our **website** for further details. In the meantime we will continue our work with the teachers in all of the communities we support, helping them to build a brighter future for school children in Ghana.

Caspar Rory Malcolm-Green is the latest addition to the Ghana branch of the Malcolm-Green clan. Born December 2009, Caspar will be moving to Ghana at the end of the month when his parents and siblings return. Congratulations to Aubrey and Louise on number 4!

What's New...

Future short-term volunteers will have a new home at **Stumble Inn**, Elmina. This beach lodge will serve as home for volunteers coming out for 6 weeks or less. The perfect place to relax after a hard days' work - it's such a perfect, tranquil setting that we're sure that once here, you'll never want to leave!



UK Fundraising

You've read and maybe been involved in the fantastic new school that Sabre's supporters have helped to build in Dwabor. Already it is making a real difference to the lives of the local children. The school in Dwabor is just the start and with your help we can support another community,

All of this means that we're even more determined to raise much needed funds, and to do this we need your help. As Spring approaches we all feel a little more energised, so how about joining us at one of the exciting following events? Get your friends to join in, have fun and raise funds for Sabre's work at the same time.

Alternatively how about planning your own sponsored event. Ask your friends, family, local school, colleagues and even local businesses to sponsor you. Let us know and we'll help you every step of the way. It couldn't be easier, just get in touch: maxine@sabretrust.org

May - Get your whole school or workplace to do a sponsored walk for us. With the weather picking up you could even take a picnic and reward yourself for all the good work you're doing.

May 1st - Café Africa Charity Day, Amersham Old Town. We're Café Africa's charity of the month in May and this fun event will see crafts, music, dancing and more. Bring the kids down and get involved.

May 22nd - GRIM 'Beast in the East' Challenge. A new addition to their 2010 calendar and an opportunity to run 10k through the mud, sand and hills of Kent's best motocross circuit. Dom, Sabre's Development Director is taking on the challenge, why not join him in getting dirty for Sabre or sponsor him [here](#).

June 13th - Dragon Boat Racing at the Marlow Town Regatta and Festival. Fancy dress is optional (but not really!). When was the last time you went for a paddle?



Kwame keeps his cool

Kwame (the Snow Leopard) Nkrumah-Acheampong, Sabre's patron, reached the pinnacle of his alpine career by successfully completing 2 runs down the mens slalom course in the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics, bringing him 47th place out of a field of 102. We would like to extend our hearty congratulations to Kwame on his fantastic achievement and making himself, his family and his country proud. We are looking forward to having a catch up with him once he has had some well earned rest and a chance to plan the next stage of his career. He may have hung up his boots but his sheer determination won't keep him still for long. Follow Kwame's latest news on the Ghana Ski Team [website](#).



Partner Ghana Launched



On Friday 5th March, Sabre's new school partnership collaboration "Partner Ghana" was officially launched at the annual conference of the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL). Partner Ghana is a three way collaboration between Sabre, ASCL and World Challenge Expeditions, which aims to significantly scale up Sabre's existing programme of school partnerships. The ultimate goal is to establish a relationship for every Junior High School in the K.E.E.A. Municipality.

Ian Bauckham, Chair of ASCL's International Committee, had visited Ghana in late February to gain a better understanding of how the partnerships work for the mutual benefit of both schools. In reflecting on his visit, Ian wrote "Sabre are very

clear that in school to school partnerships the learning and benefits must be two way, and it is really important to guard against the Ghanaian school coming to see the UK school as a 'cash cow'. Having seen the conditions at first hand, I would emphatically endorse this view."

On Sabre as an organisation, Ian added that: "Sabre operates in Ghana in exactly the way it claims to on its website and in other documents. It is a high value operation, despite its small size. The key staff are utterly focused and totally committed, share the charity's ethos, and are committed to getting value for money." High praise indeed.

In launching Partner Ghana, both Ian and ASCL President John Morgan emphasised how

valuable this scheme would be to both groups of schools, with students and teachers benefiting from shared learning opportunities and reciprocal visits. If you know of a school community that would be interested in getting involved, please do **contact us**, or see our [website](#) for further details.



Volunteering update

Our Construction and Activity Leading opportunities continue to flourish with 11 new volunteers this year already and a further 13 arriving in the next quarter, keeping us close to capacity for long-term volunteers. Thanks you everyone! For more information on volunteering please visit the [website](#), or email volunteer@sabretrust.org for further details.



Brenu-Akyinim students to visit UK

The 20th March will see our first Ghanaian student exchange arriving in the UK. Two students and a teacher from Brenu Akyinim will be flying from Accra to Gatwick to join Chesham High School for 10 days. This first reciprocal visit comes just 6 months after a group of Chesham students visited Brenu on a sports tour, and there have been plenty of pen pal exchanges since as well as shared projects. We hope that this will be the first of many such visits by Ghanaian students and teachers to visit their UK peers.

June's Issue

Ghanaian Proverb of the Month

"The eyelid and the eyeball should not quarrel"

School trips
Ayensudo Kindergarten plans
Dragon Boat Racing
Vocational Training Centre,
Sports programmes...

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