



CONSTRUCTION
& DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our latest newsletter. It's been a busy few weeks, all culminating in a visit by some of the Trustees to Sierra Leone where we were able to see your latest consignment of books arrive in Waterloo.

Safe arrival of books

At 3pm on Friday 24 September, the latest container packed to the brim with books arrived in Waterloo. As you will recall, our summer book collection brought in over 1,500 boxes of books and this first container, although packed to the gills, held no more than half of the boxes. The container had been delayed a while on the quay, which was frustrating in one sense, but when we learnt that the reason was due to increased steps being taken by the Government to keep a check on NGOs and imports to clamp down on corruption, we could understand the importance of this.



Rosetta Kargbo being interviewed



One very full container

The need for further checks did unfortunately mean further work for our Logistics Co-ordinator in Sierra Leone, the indomitable Rosetta Kargbo. However the fruit of all her efforts could be seen in the excitement in Waterloo when the container finally arrived. Indeed, as you can tell from our photos, even the local press, in the form of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Commission or SLBC were there. CODEP are grateful to all the people from Waterloo who came out to assist in the unloading of the books, boxes and furniture.

The books are being temporarily stored in the local school where Fannyann Doherty, the head of the Reading Culture Committee ("RCC") works. They will then be sorted by members of the committee, before being sent off to Lunsar, a community which is approximately one hours' drive from the centre of Waterloo. Before the books are distributed, the committee will also be arranging for literacy co-ordinators in the Lunsar schools to be trained. We are very pleased that we have been able to extend the reach of our school library scheme beyond Waterloo to other communities; but more than that, we are particularly pleased that the expansion of the scheme to Lunsar is being achieved with considerable support from people from Waterloo. For our projects to succeed in the long term, we have always considered that the key is home grown and sustainable development.

CODEP September Visit - Literacy Co-ordinators

CODEP Trustee, Jeremy Glover was able to visit a number of schools during his stay in Waterloo. One reason for this was to establish whether or not the Literacy Co-ordinator Training that the RCC had organised earlier in the summer had had any impact. The short answer appears to be that yes it did. The photo below shows Musa Sesay a co-ordinator at St Clement's Catholic School. Musa explained that as a result of his training one of the first tasks he had to carry out on his return after the school holidays was to reorganise how the books were laid out and also put in place revised procedures for loaning out the books to the children.



Literacy Co-ordinator, Musa Sesay

Jeremy was also able to review the notes taken by Musa at the training. These were very comprehensive and thorough. However CODEP recognise that it is important that a proper check is kept on not merely the books in the schools but also the progress of the literacy co-ordinators. We therefore agreed with the RCC to appoint two auditors who will be tasked with visiting every school with books provided by CODEP (and with 120 schools in Waterloo that means visiting 3 schools a day.) Our intent is that the auditors, will be act not just in their audit capacity but also as mentors to enable the services offered by the co-ordinators to keep on improving.

CODEP September Visit - Other news

Claire Curtis Thomas and Jeremy Glover returned to Waterloo during the week of 20 September 2010. Phil Dobson returned from his well deserved summer break at the same time. The visit was a very productive one - and not just in terms of the literacy co-ordinators. We all visited Lunsar to check on progress. We were fortunate to meet with the local MP, the Honourable A.O. Daramy at a local Islamic School. He expressed his gratitude for the assistance offered by CODEP and it is clear that everyone in Lunsar is looking forward to both the training of the co-ordinators and arrival of the books.



View of Lunsar

We were also able to visit the temporary library and meet with the librarian Fatmata Lister. The library seems to be very popular and has a mix of books for children and adults. Interestingly a quick straw poll of the adults revealed a preference for the non-fiction academic books above the fiction. The library is also stocked with a few games, purchased to encourage children to venture in. The library is fortunate in that it has shelving, on wheels, kindly donated by the Henry Box School in Oxfordshire. One of the problems CODEP has faced is how to display the books in schools with no shelving.



Fatmata Lister, our librarian

Often, the school buildings would not support shelves being fixed to the walls. CODEP are very fortunate to have the support of Green-works who have been able to provide a number of shelves and cabinets. However, we are hopeful that we will be able to boost that supply with the assistance of the PHDA - Physical Handicapped Development Association in Waterloo. They are currently working on a prototype shelving unit which we hope to put into production shortly - subject of course to agreeing a fair price for the work.



Furniture donated by Green-Works

CODEP News

One of the key figures, in any organisation is the secretary. Quite often you only appreciate just how much they do, when they leave. So it is with some sadness, that we said good-bye to Michelle Maloney this month.

Pictured below at the ground-breaking ceremony at the Equiano Centre back in February admiring the foundations she had designed, Michelle was a key figure in the CODEP team putting in unknown hours in trying to keep us all organised. Her dedication, hard-work and seemingly tireless good humour means that she will be sorely missed. Nevertheless we wish her well as she tackles the demands of a new job and the need to study for Chartership at the Institution of Civil Engineers.



Michelle Maloney

September has been a good month for a number of CODEP's friends and supporters. On 10 September 2010, the Guardian website ran a feature on the top 50 "Green Pioneers" in the UK. Named as one of those pioneers was Colin Crooks of Green-works, one of CODEP's trustees.

In addition, Nick Willson, the architect who is behind the design of the Equiano Centre has been nominated on the long list list for Building Design's 2010 Young Architect of the Year Award. Fingers crossed that he progresses further.

Contact CODEP

If you would like more information about anything you have read in this newsletter why not visit our website - www.codep.co.uk, join our Facebook group or email Jeremy Glover, the editor of this newsletter - jeremy@codep.co.uk.