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Covid-19 & Sierra Leone

Sadly on Tuesday the first case of Covid-19 was announced, followed by a second un-related case on Wednesday. Yesterday, Saturday, another 2 cases were declared and as I type this another 2 cases have been reported this morning. The Government has closed all schools and banned church and mosque services. The land borders have been closed for a while and there are no flights in or out. This Sunday there is a 3 day “lockdown” when people will not be permitted to leave the immediate vicinity of their dwelling and this will be enforced by the police and the army.

AlansAfrica funding

Due to the social distancing guidance I have had to postpone a number of fundraising talks for the foreseeable future, which will hamper my general fundraising efforts and potentially create a bit of a cash flow problem for my projects. I have some “ring fenced” money for two water projects but this can only be used for those specific projects. I do have some general funding available, but have had to divert some of this, which was intended for one of the water projects, in order to supply vital food & hygiene items to some of the communities.

Hair raising for AlansAfrica!

Some regular supporters of mine, a local family, recently, via social media, witnessed the son of the family, who lives in Bristol, having a “buzz cut” undertaken by his wife, who is not a hairdresser! The clippers were set on number 2 and off she went, spurred on by the fact of an initial donation of £5, from one of the audience. I have just received a cheque for **£60** as a result of the event but apparently the cut was so bad that I was not allowed to see a photo. Just as well isolation is taking place, his hair has time to recover!! With barbers and hairdressers closed maybe this could be an ideal fundraiser for you, unless you’re just going to “Let It Grow, Let It Grow”.

Small change makes a BIG difference

Another regular supporter has just sent me **£36**, the contents of her 20p/£2 savings jar. This will provide essential food supplies for Momoh and his carers for nearly a month – thanks Jean.

Banbury International Community School

The toilet block for Junior Secondary pupils was completed yesterday afternoon. Photo courtesy of my “man on the ground” & good friend Fayah



I received this e-mail this morning:

The entire staff, pupils and community elders of Banbury International Community School extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to you, Mr Alan, and your donors Brethertons and Banbury Heating Supplies for providing us a newly built toilet block. Our school is one of the best schools in the area and you have made a great difference in Sierra Leone in terms of educational facilities. You will ever remain in the history of the Sierra Leone Banbury Community. Once more we want to say thanks for **“making a real difference”**.



I would like to record my sincere thanks to Shaun, and everyone at Brethertons Solicitors, and Alan at Banbury Heating Supplies for sponsoring this project which will **“Make A Real Difference”**.

Two Banbury (UK) businesses supporting the Banbury International Community in Sierra Leone

AlansAfrica is supported by:



Mahera Wharf Oxford United

On Friday I sent some additional funding to buy food supplies and soap etc to help all the members of the football Club, and their families, through the period of lockdown. There are over 60 boys involved in the Club set up. Eight of the older boys (teenagers) who are orphans live at a Hostel with Abu, the team manager, and the remainder live with their families in the local community.



We bought three 50 kilogram sacks of rice, some for the hostel, but they decanted some & each boy had a small bag to take home to their family.



They also bought milk, sugar, sauce, palm oil and **Gari** - the second most stable food in Sierra Leone. It is flour made from cassava tubers and is commonly eaten by soaking it in cold or hot water and adding any, or a combination of, sugar, milk, coconut, roasted ground nut, coconut or cowpea. Hot water can be mixed with it to form a paste and then eaten with a sauce of choice. AKA Tapioca.

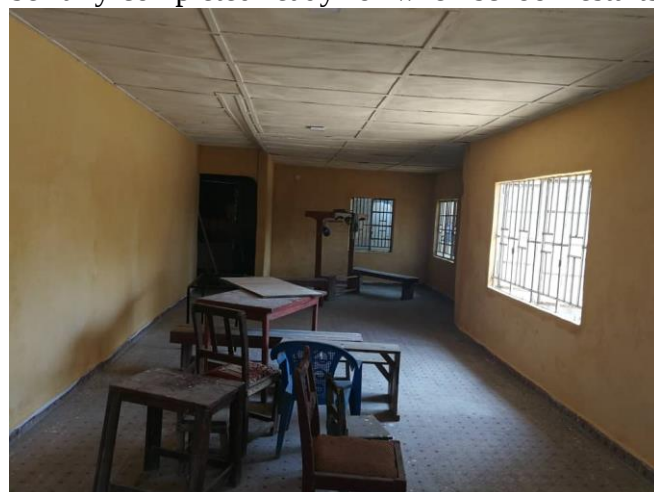
Not just a Newsletter but also a cookbook!



Abu, the team manager, demonstrating the hand sanitising items which were bought for the Hostel.

Calvary Primary School

The new nursery accommodation at the school is looking really good and hopefully everything will be fully completed ready for when school restarts



Witney Rotary Club & District 1090

I recently had £1,000 donated from Witney Rotary Club & “matched funded” by Rotary District 1090

Liverpool School Science equipment

The first phase of spending was the purchase of the remaining essential laboratory equipment for the new science laboratory at the school. I know the staff and children will really appreciate this donation when school resumes.

Banbury International Community School

The second phase will be to install a water harvesting system on the two classroom Junior Secondary block. Due to the Covid lockdown we have had to postpone the start of the work but I will be closely monitoring the situation and work will commence as soon as is possible.

A big thank you to Witney Rotary Club & the Grants Committee of District 1090 for their continued support which is greatly appreciated by me and the two school communities in Freetown.