



“making a real difference” in

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Banbury International Community School

I have already agreed to build an additional 2 classrooms, in Fayia's memory, and we will be finalising the exact location of the classrooms and this project will hopefully start on the first full day of my visit. I need to ensure that the classrooms are built in the best location, allowing for possible further development in the future. The staff have suggested that the two classrooms have no central wall meaning that the rooms can be used, on occasions, as an open plan hall/meeting room and this will be discussed and agreed upon during my visit. The building, regardless of the final internal layout, will be called **“The Fayia Foday Memorial Hall”**. To build & equip the 2 rooms is currently **£5,500** but the cost of raw materials is unfortunately likely to rise. I have some funds to “kick start” the project, but yesterday we launched a Just Giving page for the project.

If you would like to donate, please visit: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alans-africa

EVERY £ donated goes directly to the project and EVERY £ will “Make A Real Difference”

To give you an idea of costs:

- Each concrete block costs £1 to produce – they are all made on site, which is both cheaper than buying them and provides employment for local labourers.
- A bag of cement costs £10 a steel classroom door costs £100
- An 8-foot x 4-foot sheet of galvanised Zinc costs £6 – they are sold in bundles of 20
- A desk and bench set for three children costs £20 – these are all made on site by local carpenters

Fayia Foday's children

I am pleased to report that with some fantastic support from a number of people we have managed to fund a year's education for all the children – sincere thanks to all of you that made this possible. Tewah, Fayia's widow writes **“I want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the donors who have supported my children with the paying of school fees, uniform and other essential items of school equipment. As a widow in Sierra Leone, things are very difficult for me, but I am hopeful that with the continued support of you and your donors the future of my children's education is guaranteed”**

Sierra Leone trip

Plans are coming together for my 8-day trip, now less than a fortnight away, but I've still got lots to do!! As I stated in my last Newsletter it will be my first trip without Fayia as my “main man”, but with help from Solomon, Pastor Mark, Abu (Oxford United Mahera Wharf) and Mohamed (Oxford United Aberdeen), a young man that I support, things are taking shape.

I will be attending the official opening of the new classroom block and toilet block at Kankalay School and visiting a total of 5 other schools that I support, seeing Momoh's house, for the first time, and visiting two football communities that are proud to wear kit donated by Oxford United – all in all, a very busy schedule.

I must take this opportunity of thanking the following for all their support for my forthcoming visit:

- Westminster Group PLC for sponsorship towards my flight and all the help in booking my trip
- Banbury Print & Design for their continued support with PR posters, publicity materials and photos
- Oxford United, Easington Sports, Banbury Irish FC and Orchard Vale Community School, Barnstaple for donations of football team strips which will be distributed to several communities.
- Banbury Rugby Club for donating another team strip, which will be given to pupils at the Banbury International Community School.



- Martin at Newsome tools, in Sheffield, for their most generous donation of trowels, plastering floats, wood saws, hacksaw and spare blades, tape measures, spirit level and other items. I am hoping to be able to take all of these with me and donate to the local builders. These tools will be used in the construction of the two additional classrooms at Banbury International Community School.

- Sam Barnes, Books & Ink Bookshop, for setting up my Just Giving page, which has just gone live.