

# Saint David's (Africa) Trust

## 1995 Newsletter

### Gift From Gibraltar

The Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce has recently donated a new Land Rover Discovery for the Trust's use in Morocco. This fine gift will enable the Trust to provide reliable transport around Morocco for visiting students who are increasingly located in volunteer establishments at some distance from our house in Taroudant.

Such transport will also encourage visits to be made to some very beautiful and interesting parts of Morocco which are not so easily reached by public transport.

In return for this generous donation the Trust will be making available annually one travel/study bursary for a young person from Gibraltar. This will be to join a group of European students in Morocco free of all charges for six months from January each year. Educational establishments in Gibraltar are aware of this opportunity and it is expected that this international cooperation will appeal to a large number of young people in Gibraltar.

Our thanks also go to Land Rover U.K. who have assisted with this generous gift.

---

### Royal Visit to Morocco

This year His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, heir to the British Throne, made his first visit to Morocco. As expected, His Royal Highness' stay was a great success as he was able to meet a wide cross section of young people. Amongst his many meetings was a short time spent with two of this year's team in Morocco, Felicity Mackness and Mario Kozah.



It was Felicity's second volunteer/study visit to Morocco where, this year, she spent time with the Orphanage in Taroudant and at a Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped Children in Casablanca, having left Bryanston School last year. For Mario the visit was spent as a serious student of Arabic before going up to Cambridge University to read Arabic later this year.

Both members of our team were able to give His Royal Highness some idea of our objectives including that of better understanding the Islamic culture in Morocco.

[Picture: The Prince Of Wales meets Felicity Mackness and Mario Kozah]

---

### Taroudant

Once again we have been made most welcome by His Excellency, The Governor of Taroudant and by many others in the city and surrounding areas. This year we have had two groups of British students starting their educational visits to Morocco in Taroudant. The first group of seven young men and three young women arrived in January for six months leaving just before the high summer temperatures hit town. In September a smaller group of young women only arrived for a three month visit. In each case the initial period is spent in Taroudant with the concentration on Arabic studies, improving their knowledge of French and gaining confidence in better understanding the Islamic culture.

Our traditional house set within the city ramparts and with a modest courtyard garden of orange and banana trees provides an excellent setting for this early part of each visit. We are also fortunate to have the support of Mohamed Bouazza as house steward and Abdelkrim Amechnoug as administration manager.

---

## Educational Volunteer Placements

**During the initial period in the house** at Taroudant the students have been able to practice their early Arabic phrases on the very sympathetic members of staff and children at the orphanage and blind school in the city. In addition, the young men have been given instruction by Hameed El Hamedi and his family in the making of bamboo furniture. This takes place outside the city walls. It provides an excellent introduction to one of Morocco's oldest crafts, teaches the students some handicraft skills and is a centre of much mint-tea making and merriment.

Following the initial period of studies the groups have divided into smaller teams or made individual visits to placements outside Taroudant. At the same time at least two young women have remained at Taroudant to give some full-time volunteer assistance at the orphanage. In Casablanca the students have been made welcome at the Handicapped Centre for children most of whom are day students with a few residents. Four of our young men are able to stay at the Centre whilst the young women stay in a self contained apartment provided by a French Order of Nuns in Casablanca.

We have also had another placement again this year with an animal care centre in Marrakesh. This is one of many such refuges run by Soci  t   Protectrice des Animaux, the Moroccan section of the British charity - Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad ("SPANNA"). These are excellent visits for students with any animal care experience and for those going on to veterinary studies.

---

## The Friday Project

**This year, once again**, the students have helped with the private Friday project in Taroudant. On Fridays after midday (except during Ramadan) there is an educational afternoon arranged for a number of young children from modest family backgrounds.

This mainly consists of supplying educational toys and model making kits for the children. Such items would include dominoes, jigsaw puzzles, draughts, chess, lego and modelling clay. This gives the British students an excellent opportunity to practice some simple Arabic whilst teaching (often for the first time) the skills of play and learn. It has proved to be a lot of fun for everyone.

---

## Other Activities

**During the first weekend in Morocco** for the January group there was a warm welcome extended by the teaching staff at the Lycee at Fom Zguid. This is several hours drive from Taroudant across the Anti Atlas mountains to the edge of the Sahara Desert. It was a good opportunity for the Moroccan students of English there to practice their good English with their own peer group. Many of the students observed the month long daytime fast of Ramadan (as did everyone outside the house) although there is no compulsion to do so within the house. Several families of participants visited which was very pleasing. There were many football matches with young (and usually winning) teams around Taroudant as well as tennis on the hard courts in the city. Several visits were made to the desert, the mountains and the ocean. Most students managed to visit all the Imperial Cities whilst absorbing a healthy but not too dangerous a suntan!

---

## Travel/Study Bursaries

**The Trust is able to advise** suitable applicants on sources of financial support. Those studying Arabic or French, those with Scottish Catholic backgrounds, those with Christian service experience, or whose families have lived/worked in The City of London, Africa or Gibraltar should apply early seeking guidance.

---

*Philippa D'Arcy-Ryan and Clare Denny leaving the house at Taroudant for the orphanage.*



*Dan Parker at The Friday Project*

*The group visit to Fom Zguid...*



*...and deeper into the desert.*

---

## **Khémisset**

**This year saw the beginning** of educational volunteer visits to the Handicapped Centre at Khémisset in the north of

Morocco between Rabat and Meknes. It is a residential Centre for children a few kilometres from the town centre. The British students were able to help renovate the play area, build a "Chateau des Enfants" and assist generally around the Centre. They also put on a "British Day" which included a short play for the children which was much enjoyed.

His Excellency, The Governor of the Province of Khémisset and many others extended a most hospitable welcome. During the visit of Miss Betty Boothroyd (Speaker of the British Parliament) the students were invited to meet her along with The Governor and other leading dignitaries in Khémisset.

The Centre is also well placed for weekend visits to the Imperial Cities of Rabat, Meknes and Fez as well as the fine Roman ruins at Volubis. Some of the students made a further trip to the eastern border city of Oujda whilst also taking a run through the Rif mountains.

In the September group we also had students staying with Madam Najia El Moutaoukkil at a villa in Khémisset. There she manages a programme for integrating handicapped children and their families into the community which is a programme supported by Save the Children. SPANA also has a refuge in Khémisset which the students were able to visit.

Khémisset is a fine town albeit not a tourist centre and we hope that it may develop as a good location for future projects and, in time perhaps, a suitable place for the opening of a second house in Morocco for the Trust.

---

## The British Week in Taroudant

Following the success of the 'British Day' put on by the students in Khémisset we were encouraged by The President of the Municipality in Taroudant to present a week long exhibition.

With the support of both The British Council and The British Embassy in Rabat the students were able to mount a comprehensive photographic and video exhibition of life in Britain today with an emphasis on youth. There was a wide distribution by the students of freely available publications in both French and Arabic.

The Pasha of Taroudant graciously opened the exhibition and, with many others, took English tea and biscuits. On the opening day the British students each had a table laden with publicity as well as a range of illustrated information about a particular aspect of life in the United Kingdom. With invitations in Arabic having gone out to all our friends in Taroudant as well as the Municipality's posters around town there was a strong attendance. This gave our students the opportunity to thank individually the many who had extended a warm welcome and much hospitality in Taroudant.

---

## Donations and Thanks

**The Trust continues to be fortunate** in having had support this year again from The Mercers' Company in the City of London and The British Jesuit Alumni/ae. In addition a number of past and present participating students, their families and friends, have also made contributions. These have allowed small presents of thanks to be left at locations where we have been made welcome as well as contributing to the central costs of running the Trust.

Our thanks also go to His Excellency, the Moroccan Ambassador in London and Mr. Ilah Bennis for their continuing encouragement and assistance.

Mr. Arturo Capurro of Capurro & Sons in Gibraltar has been very generous of his time having initiated and followed through the donation of the Land Rover Discovery. Only his honeymoon prevented him from being in the handover photograph! Image Graphics of Gibraltar have provided much valuable support in the production of this newsletter and Mr. Len Hughes in Gibraltar has been a great help with transport.

---

# The Future

**Increasingly there are applications of interest** from students in different European countries and the U.S.A. who have a knowledge of French. The Trust may therefore be opening a second house in Morocco in readiness for January 1997.

The Trust is in discussion with L'Entraide Nationale in Morocco (which has national responsibility for a number of well run, health and welfare programmes) so that longer term arrangements can be made for gradually increasing the number of student visits.

It is also an objective of the Trust to begin arranging visits to Europe for suitably qualified students and their accompanying teachers from Morocco.

*His Excellency, The Governor of Khémisset with Miss Betty Boothroyd, Patrick Trueman, Andrew Hunt, Dan Parker and Jon Nalder with others at Khémisset.*



*Dan Parker, Patrick Trueman and Anthony Ness with a picnic party near Khémisset.*



*Patrick Trueman at 'work' in Casablanca and at 'play' in the High Atlas mountain snow.*



## Ahotokrum, Ghana

This year saw the start of a project in Ghana, West Africa. We



were fortunate to have the opportunity to place two pre-University students, Duncan Bailey and Barnaby Denison for six months at the Ahotokrum Rehabilitation Centre. This is at Elmina on the Cape Coast about 100 miles West of Accra, the capital of Ghana. Although the Centre was started to meet the needs of a nearby village for leprosy sufferers it now includes a junior school for 190 children, a house for the elderly, a needlework/dressmaking school for about 40 girls aged 16 to 20 and a residential house for about 20 handicapped and orphaned children. It is managed on a day to day basis by Sister Monica and Sister Pat from the Catholic Order of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph in conjunction with an Italian Order of Franciscans.



**The working language is English.** Both young men were fully supported by Eton College to whom we owe many thanks. In addition, each of them separately raised £1000 for the work they were to organise at the Centre during their six month visit. This was focussed on two particular projects.

The first was the building of a new playground which meant designing and then ground-clearing enough space for the swings, seesaw, sand pit, castle climbing frame and slide. Mangoes and rubber plants were cut down, ditches filled and a cement base put down. An abundant supply of West African timber provided the main building material covered with large quantities of colourful paint.

As there is a smallholding of pigs, chickens and crops it was decided that the second project would be some improvements to the piggery to provide greater protection from tetsi flies.



**Other time was spent teaching** basic English two days a week to the girls at the needle work/dressmaking centre. Although somewhat daunting at first both students soon had their own programme organised. This consisted mainly of extending vocabulary, spelling and dictation which would be useful for the girls in their future as seamstresses.

Another day a week was spent coaching football which included the organising of a girls team. There were also excursions with the children to the nearby beach for safe (if careful) swimming and picnics.



## Ghana

**There were weekend visits to Accra** as well as to Kumasi in the North. At the end of the visit both students travelled North to visit Burkino Faso and Mali before returning via Togo to fly back to London from Accra.

The visit was encouraged by The British Council and The British High Commission in Ghana who kindly invited the students to apply for High Commission financial support for the Centre. This will be

for a fridge to be delivered for the children's home.

**In January 1996** it is intended that two young women Clare Goodhand and Marianne Garvey will visit for six months. In the following year there may be a larger group. Both young women are from Christ the King VI Form College in Lewisham, London. One of the College chaplains, Fr. Doug Bull, has initiated a College programme to provide some long term support for the Ahotokrum Centre.



**Our special thanks** also go particularly to The Archbishop of



Cape Coast as well as  
to Sister Monica and Sister Pat for their strong support and encouragement which made this first visit such a success.

We have also had much advice and encouragement from Mr. Mark Mantey, a senior member of the Ahotokrum Centre who has recently been studying in Oxford. We look forward to his continuing guidance now that he has returned to Ghana.

[Pictures - Top to Bottom: Elmona, Cape Coast; The new climbing frame is tested for strength; Sister Monica and Sister Pat with the Home Team and Guests in May '95]

---

[Return to St David's \(Africa\) Trust homepage](#)

---

**Contact:**

*St David's (Africa) Trust  
Beaufort Chambers, Beaufort Street, Crickhowell,  
Powys, Wales NP8 1AA, UK*

*Tel & Fax: 01873 810665 (at any time)*

*Int Tel & Fax: 0044 1873810665*

*[E-Mail: wales@africatrust.gi](mailto:wales@africatrust.gi)*