

# One World Link

The friendship link between Bo District in Sierra Leone and Warwick District, UK

[www.oneworldlink.org.uk](http://www.oneworldlink.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 700714

## Want a Useful Tip.....?

Bo District do.....  
and thanks to OWL, they will soon get one.

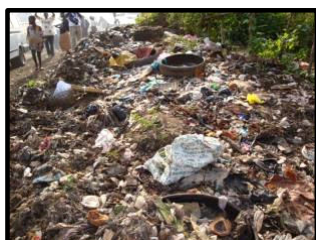
**And we're not talking about a dead cert in the 4.30 at Newmarket - we are talking here about a sustainable waste management scheme for Bo and its neighbouring District of Makeni.**



Jane Knight

This was the focus of a Local Authority Team visit last November, led by former OWL Chair, Jane Knight. Members of the team were Glenn Fleet, WCC sustainability group manager and Andy Smith - WCC European programme manager and a long time OWL member - and another very experienced OWL member, Kip Warr. Glenn was the technical advisor, Andy took care of everything financial and Kip assisted with the facilitation of meetings and producing the documents.

Bo OWL is very excited about the fact that OWL has been the engine behind the formation of the waste management programme, especially with its prospects of reaching out to other councils in Sierra Leone. Jane had been out in Bo last July when the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Freetown agreed to the partnership programme for waste management in Bo and Makeni, and co-funding from the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) Good Practice Scheme had been agreed. This latest visit was an opportunity to bring together all the key players in Sierra Leone and Warwickshire to make sure the local logistics and practical issues were all identified and addressed before the time came to actually implement the programme.



Existing Arrangements in Bo

Changes in UNDP staffing, and the need to introduce OWL and its activities to Makeni City Council (MCC) were challenges which were fortunately met. The two politically-divided

councils in fact worked very well together and obviously appreciated mutual support for this new venture. Despite all the potential difficulties, the reality was such that all the meetings and the culminating workshop were very successful

and fruitful - more than had been hoped for.

The waste management programme cannot start until the two councils have acquired diggers, lorries, skips and trailer bikes.

UNDP is procuring this equipment and paying for it. The likely date for the procurement process to be completed should be around now (March 2009). Meanwhile the councils are setting up the steering committees, preparing council staff and the public, and planning the detailed logistics.

The second phase of the programme (funded by CLGF and UNDP) i.e. the training of all the different actors from drivers to chiefs and the public, is also planned to take place soon. The timing for this is dependent on the arrival of equipment. The procurement process is proving to be a tense nightmare, but once this problem is sorted, and assuming the machines do arrive, Glenn and his expert landfill site colleague, Derek Greedy, will return to Sierra Leone for 2 weeks to support and do training work.

Much was achieved during this visit. The spontaneous cooperation and mutual support which took place between the two councils was exciting to witness. The action during the next few months will be crucial for satisfying the high expectation and vision which has been developed.



The Local Campaign

For the full report visit [www.oneworldlink.org.uk](http://www.oneworldlink.org.uk)

# Chairman's Notebook



Greetings!

This newsletter comes to you fresh from the editorial scissors of Ron Stone. He has very kindly volunteered his skills as our new newsletter all-in-one editor and layout man. Welcome aboard, Ron!

As ever, visits are foremost in our minds. We are planning a three week visit for three from Bo in June this year: Maada, the BoOWL treasurer, Catherine a teacher and long a link member, and Alpha, the Youth group co-ordinator are all hoping to come. We hope setting this up for June will make the most of the early summer when days are long, perhaps warm, and schools are winding down after exams. Also, we hope they will be here to celebrate the Day of the African Child with us. As ever, steering visa applications and financing the trip will be the hurdles in the run-up to their visit.

Now that the building of the community centre is finished, our friends in Bo and ourselves are working on its continuing development as a resource for the community and for teachers and schools. As they become more familiar with the opportunities and challenges such a facility presents, they are understanding more and more how they see its future, and we are in continual discussion with them about this. Additionally, they are coming to terms with the reality of making an enterprise such as this pay for itself both in the short and long term.

There's much to look forward to: the rolling out of the Waste Management scheme, the bedding in of the Community Centre, and the visit in June.

Can't wait!!

*Chris King*

## Coming soon...



Catherine Kamara



Alpha Bah



Maada Fobay

**! COMPETITION !  
! COMPETITION !  
! COMPETITION !**

for.....

### a lasting memorial to One World Link in Warwick District

Bo OWL have their community centre as a living monument to the Link in Bo, and they have said how good it would be if there was also a public presence of the Link here in the UK. The committee thought this a great idea and one where the whole membership can get involved.

**So...** Let's have your suggestions for a monument that would be lasting, interactive, informative, and relevant. These will then be put to the vote.

The winner will be rewarded either with a prize or acknowledgement on the monument itself, which ever seems the most appropriate.

**Please send your suggestions in writing by 1st May to:**

**OWL Secretary, 11 Leicester Street, Leamington Spa, CV32 4TF**



## The March of the Army Worms!

**John Myers** calls for OWL to address climate change - as a matter of urgency!

**I offer an immediate apology for this joke-sy title to the very many Liberian villagers** who have fled the invasion of marching columns of millions of caterpillars that have destroyed their crops and whose excrement has polluted their wells and streams. In fact, the species was easier to control than was first thought. However, if this had been an outbreak of army worms (which are a major threat to crops in large parts of Africa), it could have had a devastating and widespread effect on food security, including in Sierra Leone.

Few now doubt that climate change is inevitable. All poor countries will be more severely affected. Army worms are just one example of a threat that, given the right climate changes, could spin out of control and ruin any chance of food self sufficiency in Sierra Leone. We in the developed countries are the major contributors to global warming; at the same time, we also expect Sierra Leone to conserve its rain forests and not exploit them for short term gain. Contradictions! Questions!

Our One World Link with Bo has not addressed this very great threat to us all with any priority or sense of urgency. Our next public meeting on **26 March** will address this subject; I very much hope that out of that we will develop a plan. There is also a United Nations Association Meeting on **21 March** which also tackles this problem (**see back page for notices**).

**See you there!**

## Youth Group makes a start

The OWL Youth Group has recently had its first few meetings of interested young people. We are a mixture of university, college, sixth form students and full time workers, and one of us has recently returned from living in Zambia. Anybody is welcome!

We have lots of ambitious ideas and will be meeting fortnightly to progress these both at the University of Warwick and in Leamington.

We are planning to hold a large scale music event on the weekend of June 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> to raise awareness of the link amongst young people, so we need all the help we can get! We hope to raise funds from this event to allow other projects to take place. We are looking to start a video project soon at this end of the Link to show a little of how young people live here in Warwick District and hope to be able to facilitate the same thing in Bo. We would love to run an exchange programme for young people involved in these projects!

**If you would like to get involved or know any young people who would be interested please contact: JoAnne Fisher 07904 351247/ joannefisher1982@googlemail.com**

## Alan Moss reports.....

on the work of the

UK One World Linking Association



As a member of OWL Warwick, I was invited to become a trustee of the UK One World Linking Association, or UKOWLA, in October 2007.

UKOWLA is the UK's leading community linking charity with contacts in the UK and around the world. It has over 300 members with links in 60 countries. It is led by a board of 14 trustees from diverse backgrounds. The day to day running of the charity is carried out by 3 part time staff based in Ilminster, Somerset.

OWL Warwick is a member of UKOWLA and in fact was one of its founding members some 25 years ago. We helped to run the recent UKOWLA conference held in Coventry and enjoyed the opportunities for networking with others involved in linking, as well as attending some thought provoking workshops.

One thing UKOWLA has done is to develop a 'Toolkit of Good Practice'. This Toolkit contains a range of information and guidance tools, plus events to promote development awareness and to support equitable and mutually beneficial community linking.

UKOWLA was a founder member of **BUILD** (Building Understanding through International Links for Development). While UKOWLA exists to help its members (and potential members) to setup and grow international links, BUILD's focus is on raising awareness of linking and development issues with opinion formers.

UKOWLA is actively involved with a consortium delivering the **Global Schools Partnership Scheme** (DGSP). The current DGSP contract with the Dept for International Development (DFID) is due to end on 31st March and the consortium are waiting to hear if they have been successful with their bid for the new contract. If they are successful, then the role that UKOWLA plays will be much enhanced and will require additional resource.

In addition to the DGSP contract, UKOWLA, along with 2 other partners, has just put in a bid for a new DFID programme, called **Community Linking**. This programme will be funded by a grant of £3m over 3 years and is targeted to increase the numbers of community links operating and, at the same time, to raise public awareness of the advantages of linking. As Warwick OWL has a great deal of experience in community linking we do expect to be involved in this very exciting project.

**If you would like to know more about the work of UKOWLA  
please contact Alan Moss on 01926 332828/alan.j.moss1@btinternet.com**



## Women to Women

News from Val Davis,  
Women's group Co-ordinator



The Community Centre has been a great success for the whole community, but the women of Bo, and particularly those belonging to the Kayoma Group, wanted somewhere where they could carry out training and prepare local women to set up their own businesses. OWL has helped them by providing funds and practical support for the erection of



a hut near the Community Centre, and it's great now to be able to carry these pictures of the hut and the use that it is getting!

We have now turned our attention to how we might ensure that women in Leamington and women in Bo might understand each other's life better.



A get together underway in the 'Hut'

For all of us who have not had the opportunity to travel to Bo or to Leamington it is difficult to picture the kind of life women live in the two countries. So we've decided to produce a "story book" of the life of a woman here and to encourage the women in Bo to do the same about one of their members. Although we have produced a DVD with a commentary on a day in the life of a 45 year old business woman who is a Finance Director, wife and mother, we decided that we should also produce the low tech equivalent - a booklet - which we have now done.

We are looking forward to the visit of Catherine from Bo later this year and have written to Kayoma expressing the hope that they will give her a similar product to bring to Leamington. We shall send ours back with Catherine and are looking to produce other examples, particularly with the theme of women setting up businesses.

Other news is that Soroptimist International (the women's equivalent of Rotary and a world-wide organization) has as its four year international project raising money and support for mothers and children in Sierra Leone. Leamington's Soroptimist Club has been asked to sponsor and become the sister club for a club being set up in Bo because of Leamington's One World Link. The Soroptimist International President has visited Bo and met with a group of 15 women hoping to establish a Club in the very near future.

**If you would like to know more about the work of the Women's Group, please contact Val Davis on 01926 422056 or val@davisv.spacomputers.com**

**If you want to know more about any of the projects or issues covered in this issue, you can always visit:**

**[www.oneworldlink.org.uk](http://www.oneworldlink.org.uk)**

## WANTED

To complete our Communications Team we need a person to deal with our relations with the media.

This will complement the work of our website manager, newsletter editor, news monitor, and Information coordinator.

If you would enjoy building a relationship with the media and identifying and preparing stories for release to help OWL truly represent the whole of our community by

- a) keeping it informed of our activities, and
- b) raising relevant global issues,

then please let us know!

Contact Chris King on 01926 421093 or [caking@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:caking@hotmail.co.uk)

N.B. There are plenty of other ways that you can be involved in OWL. Whatever your interest or talent there is a role or a job waiting for you.....

**Make the Link**  
**climate change and poverty**

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Thursday 26 March**  
**7.00pm**  
**St Peter's Church Hall, Dormer Place,**

**THIS IS A PARTICIPATORY MEETING**  
sponsored by **One World Link**

Presented by  
**Katherine Pasteur from PRACTICAL ACTION**  
and  
**Janet Alty, from The Green Party**

**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION**  
**WARWICK DISTRICT BRANCH**  
188, Rugby Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 6DU  
Tel 01926 338430 or 01926 412289  
Or email [gianclare@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:gianclare@warwickshire.gov.uk)



**Peace Building and Climate Change**  
**must go Hand in Hand**

**Guest Speaker: Hilde Rapp**

**Saturday, 21 March 12.00-2.00pm**  
**St Paul's Church, Leicester Street,**  
**Leamington Spa**

**Ploughman's Lunch and Coffee - Adults £3.50**