

ONE WORLD LINK

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

www.oneworldlink.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 700714

Dear OWL friends and members,
I am standing in this month at short notice, for our Editor Kip Warr.

Since the summer, One World Link has continued to go from strength to strength but suddenly and as a terrible shock to all of us in Bo and here, we received the news that Maada Fobay, our much loved Chairman of Bo OWL had died. This occurred on December 18th. The previous week several of us had talked to him on phone and video and we were congratulating him on his promotion to senior technician in the Sierra Leone waste management programme. The following week he returned to Kono where he was working and on the 18th, his colleagues found him dead in his bed.

The following statement was sent from Warwick District OWL to be read at his funeral

"We were so very sad to read the report of the death of Alfred Maada Fobay, Chairman of Bo One World Link.

The shock of Maada's death hit his family and community in Bo with a huge impact of sorrow and loss. The energy he put into the development of OWL made that loss all the more poignantly felt by his many friends in Warwick and Leamington in the UK, who knew him and loved and admired him so much."

Richard Hall, Chairman of OWL in the UK said "Maada was a well-respected figure

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Maada in Leamington

community but was also admired and respected in the UK. He played a lead role in many activities with which OWL is involved and made many visits to the UK."

Maada will be remembered for his intelligence and sound advice when trying to understand all our cultural differences and how best to build equal partnerships with the Bo community. But he will mainly be sadly missed for the friendship he gave to many and the person he was. He leaves behind a wife and grown up children and his mother in their village. This is the third of her children whom she has lost in recent years.

**MAY MAADA REST IN PEACE
VISITS**

As I write , we have 3 visitors in Bo, our Chairman , Richard Hall, Phil Clarke, WDC planner, and midwife, Helena White.



They are seen above in the new Bo OWL Eco-brick bar with hosts, Theresa Bangali, Alpha Bah and John Sandi.

The purpose of the visit was to work on setting up a health link with Bo. We hope to bring together health and medical workers in Bo and Warwick Districts to find out ways of exchanging experiences and skills in a partnership which will benefit participants at both ends. Quite a challenge!

International award for OWL planners

The visit has so far been full of exciting events.

Below is a picture of WDC planner, Phil Clarke with the Permanent Secretary, and officers from Bo City Council including the brilliant development planner, Haja Luka.



One World Link has been recognised with a major international award for town planning work as "a model for others to follow". One World Link's work was "Highly Com-mended" by the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) in its 2019 Awards for Outstanding Planning Achievement in the Commonwealth announced in Ghana on Saturday 9th November. Entries for this award were received from around the world but One World Link was the only UK entry to be even shortlisted.

June 2019 - a Month to Remember

In June 2019 we welcomed four teachers from Bo; John Sandi, Ama-Fana and Jusu. This was the part of a British funded connect-rooms project. For some of us it was like welcoming old friends; for others there was such excitement at having a 'real person' from Bo in their classrooms, where pupils had been learning about life in Sierra Leone.



The highlight of their visit was bringing together 550 children for the Day of the African Child (DAC), this being the 10th Anniversary of DAC. As usual the children were treated to six workshops throughout the action-packed day and saw the fruits of their labours as their Ecobricks were made into a planter. See attached report.

Return teacher visit to Bo

In February Liz Garret will lead a new team out to Bo to kick off the new academic year of study by schools in both Districts. They are going to focus further on recycling and preventing waste and add literacy training to the package.. Very innovative!