



Bereko Community Partnership
Annual General Meeting 21 March 2017

Chair's report

The first year of our Bereko Community Partnership also marked the 10 year anniversary of the link between the Anglican church in Bereko and in Paddock Wood. This was the genesis of our community link and this Bereko Community Partnership.

During 2016 we arranged a number of activities to celebrate our birthday. We held a fund-raising quiz night, with thanks to the organiser, Cllr Ray Moon. We also took part in the Paddock Wood carnival and designed an interactive display about power, comparing the ease of access to electricity here with that in Bereko. The stand included posters and a quiz for children, a badge maker and a smoothie making bike – the fruit very generously donated by Mack Multiples.

It is very important to us that this link is well communicated throughout Paddock Wood and we were delighted to be able to set up a website: www.bereko.co.uk. This was jointly funded by Paddock Wood Town Council and St Andrew's Church and we are grateful to both for their generosity.

In October/November 2016, we visited Bereko. The group comprised 11 people from St Andrew's, Paddock Wood Primary School and the Scouts. Cats Smith also joined us and was an invaluable member of the team as she brought skills in working with children with special needs – this was one of the focuses of the trip.

In Bereko, our 10-year anniversary was celebrated with a four-day evangelical conference, culminating in a confirmation service attended by the Bishop of Kondoa. We gave gifts of a table cross, nativity scene and an anniversary photo book.

This was a hugely successful trip and much was achieved, most importantly deepening our friendships in Bereko. More information can be found in this presentation made to Paddock Wood Town Council in February 2017, which is available on the BCP website or here: <http://www.bereko.co.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=185977>.

During the visit, we spent £1,000 from our funds. £660 was used to buy medicines and medical equipment and £340 was donated to Bereko Town Council, who later decided to use the money to contribute to the cost of building a much needed new classroom at the new Primary School in Bereko (Kurasini Primary School).

We then arranged a display at St Andrew's church over the weekend of 27 January 2017 to accompany feedback in the church service about the 2016 visit.

May I take this opportunity to thank all involved with this link. It has grown beyond all that we could have dared to hope for and, apart from many other benefits, is bringing us all together in Paddock Wood – an unexpected bonus!

We look forward with much enthusiasm to what the next ten years will bring.

Sue Chalkley

Chairman