



AGORO OYOMBE FACTS:

- Founded in 1989 with 2 pupils
- The founder and headteacher is Mr Joshua Osuri
- Now has in excess of 500 pupils
- Located near Kisumu in Lake Victoria
- The link with West Buckland started in 2005

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Kenya link update

ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2012

The partnership

West Buckland School has a lively and innovative partnership with Agoro Oyombe Secondary School, Kenya. The partnership was established in 2005 and developed solely to establish joint-curricular projects between the schools' Geography departments.

These successful projects, involving students at both schools, are still operating and include the flower trade, carbon footprints, population change and the weather. I visited the school in 2007 and planted the first of over 5000 trees that have now been planted in at the two schools. A number of new projects are currently developing in Music, English, Biology, Food and Nutrition, PHSE and the Prep School.

The shared vision of our partnership is one in which the pupils, staff, parents, governors and local communities benefit. The pupils have learnt a lot

about each other in the classroom, but it is time to move onto the next stage in the link, one which will enrich the lives and experiences of students from both West Buckland and Agoro Oyombe. Nineteen West Buckland students and



The flag presented to Mr Osuri in assembly earlier in the year is raised for the first time at Agoro Oyombe

four staff will travel to Kenya for two weeks in July 2013. A reciprocal visit involving eight students and two staff will take place in the following November.

These exchange visits will not only be the pinnacle of the partnership, but they will also provide excellent opportunities for all the students to learn about their partner school, the lives of their peers and the region in which the schools are located.

This newspaper is designed to inform you over the next few months about the exchange visits and the students from West Buckland and Agoro Oyombe who are visiting each other will be contributing their thoughts on both the link and anything else that catches their interest. I hope you enjoy reading some of the articles.

Matt Brimson

Fundraising for the student exchange

The students (and their parents) from West Buckland who are visiting Kenya in July 2013 are financing the trip themselves. Some of them are raising money to put towards the cost of their own two week trip, but they are all contributing towards the fundraising efforts to fund the reciprocal visits of their peers from Kenya next winter.

This money is raised is being in

different ways. For example, the school is hosting a dog show being organized by the North Devon Canine Society on Sunday 22nd September, at which the students will be stewarding and providing refreshments.

On Speech Day, Rachel Groome is running a craft stand outside the sports centre, while other students will be roaming around the various sporting venues after lunch trying to

tempt the spectators with the cakes and buns they have cooked themselves.

Anything you can do to help us raise the several thousand pounds required would be much appreciated. Please e-mail me at mtb@westbuckland.devon.sch.uk for more information.

Matt Brimson

Celebrations and festivals here and there

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival is the celebration of the growth of food in this land.

We have many ceremonies and celebrations to thank for a successful harvest, which have been performed on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon, (the full moon which is closest to the Autumn Equinox) ever since Pagan times.

We celebrate Harvest Festival by singing, praying and decorating our churches with baskets of fruit and food, to remind us how fortunate we are to have plenty, and give us the need to share with others who are not as fortunate.

The food that has been put on display is then parcelled up and given to people in need.



Maralal Camel Derby

This event is held every year at the end of August, beginning of September, in the small village of Maralal which is 348kms away from Nairobi. People from all over the world come to compete against some of Africa's top riders in the three day event, and it may surprise you to know that camel racing is in fact considered an international sport. Winning the Derby is a local honour and each year the title is hotly contested, as this shows off their family's prestige in riding, and breeding stock of the animals. The festival also features cycling races, donkey rides and interesting cultural dance performances.

Cicely Pring



...and I really think it "inspired a generation"

London Olympics 2012

As you probably know, London hosted the Olympics this year. There was a massive lead up to the opening ceremony – it was the main topic of discussion and everyone was really excited! The opening ceremony was cool with a lot of typically British themes like the NHS and Mary Poppins. When I went to see some events on the second weekend I found the Olympic park itself was very impressive! It was absolutely huge,

and would take about 30 minutes to walk from end to end! I hadn't realised the huge scale of the Olympics. It was overwhelming to walk into the park and see just how much time and effort had been put into all the buildings! The sports themselves were pretty impressive too! We watched two hockey matches which were really high-speed and exciting to watch. I watched quite a lot of Olympics on TV as well,

including the 800 metres, won by David Rudisha of Kenya! Overall, the Olympics were amazing for everyone involved and I really think it "inspired a generation".

Kate Openshaw



Day of the dead

The day of the dead (El dia de los muertos) is a Mexican holiday celebrated on November 1st. The holiday is all about families celebrating the life of their loved ones who have died. Besides the name of the holidays being all about death it is a bright and lively festival full of decorations of flowers and sugar skulls.

Lots of families make altars to their loved ones and give offerings of food baked in the shape of skulls, scented candles and yellow flowers; along with a picture of the family member being celebrated. Even though the festival originated in Mexico the festival has spread all over the world including to places like Brazil

and Spain. During the day streets are filled with decorations and parades with people but in the evening people either stay in their homes and pray at the altar of their loved ones or head to the graveyard and celebrate them there.

Georgia Cope



West Buckland School - in one minute



West Buckland School, located in its 100 acre campus on the edge of Exmoor in North Devon, is very different to Agoro Oyombe School. The majority of pupils travel to school by bus, plus those who drive and about 100 boarders. Our school day starts with

West Buckland School from the air

registration at 8:45 and some days we have assemblies in the Memorial Hall. There are eight or nine 35 minute lessons, depending on which day of the week it is. There is also a variety of clubs and activities, including music, drama or sports, that students can take part in at lunch (which is at 12:40 for juniors and 13:15 for seniors) or after school. All pupils are encouraged to get involved in these, and also to try and take part in house events. There are four houses: Courte-

nay, Brereton, Grenville and Fortescue and who compete throughout the year, such as the Exmoor Run which is rumoured to be the longest compulsory school cross-country run in the country, the House Music competition and Sports Day at the very end of the year. All the points that the houses have earned over the year are added up to see who has won the Southcombe Shield. Both West Buckland and Agoro Oyombe have neighbouring feeder primary or prep schools. There will be more information in subsequent issues.

Hannah Sullivan

“The Exmoor Run is rumoured to be the longest compulsory school cross-country run in the country”

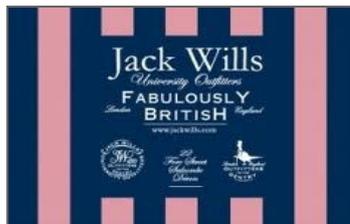
Clothes and fashion

According to a poll conducted by Sure for Women, the average woman spends nearly £84,000 on clothes in a lifetime. The poll also shows that women buy roughly 3,109 items over the years including 271 pairs of shoes (£13,989), 185 dresses (£7,699) and 145 bags (£5,420). Many feel the pressure to keep up with ever-changing fashions that are so influential and this means they're always buying something new.

Younger age groups are likely to spend most in their lifetimes, with the under 25s heading towards a total of £129,903. These colossal figures clearly prove that for 'the average person' fashion and clothes are very important and going shopping in order to enjoy some retail therapy is a favoured hobby, especially as rain often prevents other outside activities! Shopping, for the majority of girls, teenagers or

adults, is an enjoyable activity that isn't affected by the unpredictable English weather!

Charlotte Cornish



Horses in the UK and Kenya

In Kenya horses are used on farms to pull the farm equipment. Other uses include sports, as a family pet and as a means of transport as cars are expensive to buy. In the UK horses mainly are used for sport. Very few are used for agriculture reasons due to all the machinery. There are lots of different sports that the horses are used for such as polo, in which several horses are needed per player; they gallop

to try and get the ball to score goals. There is also racing, which some people bet on to make money as well as show jumping, in which the horse and rider have to get around a course of multi-coloured jumps with the least amount of faults. There is dressage, described by some people as 'dancing on horseback' and finally cross country, a test of endurance and stamina as the horse has to canter/gallop round the course

while the horse has to jump fixed obstacles.

Lydia Wheeler **Horses are used for safaris in Kenya**





West Buckland and Agoro Oyombe Schools

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This newspaper is to be published on a monthly basis. The articles will be written by students from both West Buckland and Agoro Oyombe Schools, principally those involved in the exchange program.

Articles from other contributors are most welcome. Please contact the editor using the contact details opposite.

The intended audience is varied: students, teachers, parents, governors and the wider community in the catchment areas of both schools: North Devon and Siaya District.

Raquel's handmade gifts

My Aunt, Mother, Sister and I enjoy crafts like making jewellery and sewing. When I decided to go on the Kenya 2013 trip, we decided we could put our creativity to good use. We began by making easy projects like note books, luggage tags and cat toys but now have moved on to jewellery and cases for electronic devices. I set up a Facebook

page called 'Raquel's Handmade Gifts' in order to try and sell the items to raise money both for my trip next July and the Kenyan students returning next October. The café I work in also kindly offered to let me sell some of my smaller items. So far I have raised about £70 which will be split 50:50 for my trip and the returning student's trip. On

the 16th September which is our Speech day (presentations day) we are having a stall to sell the items we have been creating. We will also be selling cakes made by all our students who are visiting Kenya next year. We are all really excited about the prospects this next year holds for both of the schools.

Rachel Groome



Two examples of items which are available on the Facebook page 'Raquel's Handmade Gifts'