

Kids ready for abseil challenge



● Students from Coopers' Company and Coborn School

One giant leap for charity

HAVERING East Rotary Club is organizing its sixth charity abseil down the Romford YMCA.

The annual event has seen nearly 700 people descend the YMCA building at Roneo Corner and raised more than £120,000 for different charities.

This year again up to 200 more action-seeking abseilers will zip down the 120ft building and – for the first time ever – the event will run across two days instead of just one, on Saturday September 5 and Sunday September 6.

So far around 90 people have already signed up – including Councillor Clarence Barrett who is taking part in aid of First Step special needs children's charity, and abseilers for Corbets Tey Special School and St Francis Hospice.

One group taking on the scary descent are students from Coopers' Company and Coborn School, in Upminster, who are trying to raise cash for a school expedition to Zambia, Africa, to help a communi-

By **LUCY DICKINSON**

ty school there set up by Coopers' in 2006.

The 30 students, about 16 of whom are taking the plunge with five others not going on the trip, hope to raise £15,000 to help paint the existing five classrooms at the Twabuka Community School (named after its village), install solar panels in the roof, buy playground equipment, and introduce a first aid unit or village hall for the school and community when they visit the village in July next year.

The school, which has grown from just 24 pupils to 150, was built to cater for children, aged five and up, whose nearest school previously was an 8km jungle trek away.

This will be the third time a group from Coopers' has been there. Year 11 student Tom Hindson, 16, of Grosvenor Gardens, Upminster, who did the YMCA abseil two years ago for St Francis Hospice thought this would be a great way to raise cash for the school and rallied a team together



● Candice Bright from last year's abseil

to take part.

Tom said: "There's 21 of us doing it and about 16 are going on the Africa trip. We hope to raise about £100 each. Any more will be a bonus."

On the trip he said: "I've never done anything like this before. I'm really looking forward to it."

To sponsor the group visit their website: www.back2africa2010.co.uk and follow the link.

Anyone wishing to sign up for the abseil can contact Havering East Rotary Club's Linda Coe on 01708 221504 or email Linda.coe@btinternet.com