



Construction of new GSA classroom at UCC is almost complete!

Here is a recent progress photo of the classroom block funded by Ghana School Aid for the University of Cape Coast Primary School in memory of Alan Mayhew. Due to be opened formally later in 2010; the new building, designed by Kumasi architecture student Ruth-Anne Ankrah (middle, bottom image), is looking fantastic!



IN THIS 'NEW LOOK' ISSUE....

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
PAGE 2

DR FL BARTELS
PAGE 4

GHANA LET'S READ!
PAGE 7

THE JOE BEDU PRIMARY SCHOOL
PAGE 10

GSA SCHOOL LINKS 2009
PAGE 14

MEMORIES
PAGE 19

NEWS & PROJECTS
PAGE 22

ACCOUNTS
PAGE 25

BOOKS
PAGE 26

OBITUARIES
PAGE 27

Left: Mrs Ohene and Kofi Ohene (far left), present Ruth-Anne Ankrah, (middle) with the £100 prize, February 2010. Professor Ntsiful (Professor of Architecture, KNUST and consultant for the project), and the Head of Department are on the right.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has been an interesting year and since our last AGM when I presented not only my report but a summary of my visit to Ghana [see below page 22] we have been progressing well. The Cape Coast [classroom] project nears completion and we are continuing to support in a big way the Sandema project as it struggles with so many difficulties. The June 2009 AGM was a success with almost fifty attendees. On this occasion our guest speaker was Nick Elam, a former colleague of mine who, on retirement from the Foreign Office, became the director of the Caine Prize for Africa. This is a literary award presented annually to the best new writers from the African continent with Ghanaians doing particularly well. We all found his address fascinating and he did respond well to a few quite challenging questions from our members. The meal was most enjoyable and we are meeting at the same venue next time [John Adams Hall, June 15th 2010]. After the meeting we were able to recruit two new members to our committee, namely Jo Hallett and Penny Sewell. Both have recent experiences in Ghana and are regular visitors there. They are really most enthusiastic about our projects and are able to offer so much as they remain in close contact with the country. [Both Jo and Penny have contributed articles to this Newsletter. Ed]

Paul Boateng, one of our patrons, is now back in the UK after a period of four plus years as British High Commissioner to South Africa and he remains most enthusiastic about our work. He has offered to help out if required and I am looking forward to meeting up with him again soon. The change of government in Ghana resulted in a change of High Commissioner in London. Annan Cato left early last year and



Ted Mayne at UCC Primary School, February 2009



Nick Elam addressing the 2009 AGM



Attendees of the 2009 AGM enjoying lunch



Ted Mayne and Miranda Liardet at the 2009 AGM

there was a long inter regnum and his successor Prof Kwaku Danso Boafo only recently took up his appointment. This did mean that there were no representatives from the Ghana High Commission at our AGM/reunion. I am, however, in touch with Prof Danso Boafo who is enthusiastic about our work. I am sure he will enjoy his association with Ghana School Aid.

As a charity we are quite small and keep going thanks to the support and evergreen keenness of the committee. I am indeed grateful to everyone for their efforts. In particular I would like to thank Stanley Anthony for all his work as treasurer. He has carried out this important duty with the same passion which he exercised sixteen years ago when I joined the committee. Sue Hewlett has kindly agreed to act as his assistant to remove some of his workload and for this I am most grateful. We are always looking for fresh blood with new ideas, so if any of our readers would like to help out, then please let me know.

I hope to visit Ghana this year but nothing is planned at the time of writing. Many of us would like to visit the Cape Coast project and it would be good if a group of us could make it to the official opening [of the new classroom]. This was the most ambitious project on which we have ever embarked and is a fitting tribute to Alan Mayhew who dedicated so much of his time to Ghana and Ghana School Aid.

Finally a word of appreciation to Jennifer MacDougall for her efforts in getting this Newsletter produced. It has been so well prepared and makes excellent reading.

Ted Mayne

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I hope you enjoy this new look version of the Newsletter. We have tried to maintain the overall appearance while making some minor changes of style and content. We try to include as many photos as possible, but due to the very high cost of colour printing we have decided to print most of them in black and white this time. I am very grateful to my daughter Anna MacDougall (third generation GSA supporter!) for taking over the formatting which involves a lot of time and computer skills that I lack! Many thanks for all his work on the last two issues to Michael Hammer.

We are delighted to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mfantsipim School's first African headmaster, the distinguished Dr FL Bartels, who has allowed us to publish his address to the Mfantsipim Foundation reunion in November 2009. This issue also includes contributions from our two new committee members, Jo Hallett and Penny Sewell, which provide a great introduction to their work and background. A new section on Memories was inspired by our former committee member, Eric Cunningham, which I hope will in turn encourage other readers to submit their own stories.

Many thanks to all our contributors, especially Letitia Boateng (presently based in Ghana) who has sent a great number of photos and letters from Aseseeso-Abonse, of which we are only able to include a small selection in this issue.

Please contact me with any comments and/or contributions for the next issue at jennifermacdougall@yahoo.co.uk or 0207 5887520

DR FL BARTELS

Mfantsipim's first African Headmaster celebrates his 100th birthday

On November 15th 2009 the Mfantsipim Foundation celebrated its 133rd Founder's Day and the forthcoming 100th birthday (on March 13, 2010) of its first African Headmaster, Dr FL Bartels, at Methodist Central Hall, London. Dr and Mrs Bartels were present, as were several members of his family together with alumni, friends and expatriate staff from his years as Headmaster (1949-1961). Dr Bartels is an alumnus of Westminster College (1931-1935), now part of Oxford Brookes University, and to whom he made a presentation of his papers. It was an enjoyable occasion marked by many sincere tributes and enlightening reminiscences. The highlight was an address given by Dr Bartels in his usual dynamic and inspiring manner belying his great age, in which he looks, as ever, to the future. He has kindly allowed us to publish his address which follows in slightly edited form.



Dr FL Bartels at the Mfantsipim reunion

Emerging Opportunities And The 'Amber' Warning Light

By Dr FL Bartels

The 'Development Business' continues to grow; and the volume of material on policy analysis goes on expanding. From 1960, which the international community rightly christened the Africa year because colonialism was beginning to give way to independence, there was a flood of advice into sub-Saharan Africa. By 2007, the flood was turning into a deluge. The overriding issue as we move into the second decade of the new century is how to distinguish 'good' from 'bad' advice and present it in a form that will help decision-makers to do the right thing by their countries. The task involved requires the presence, in key national strategic places, of citizens in sufficient numbers who are not only clear-headed and well-informed about prevailing contending policy advisory directions but are also in touch with external sources of new knowledge in their fields of competence and are thereby equipped to create, out of external as well as internal information, new knowledge for the development of their changing environment. Below are examples of the kind of advice we should be looking for.

In 1961, African Ministers of Education met in Conference for the first time at Addis Ababa. Ghana's Minister of Education, Dowuona Hammond, was the President of the Conference. Under his able guidance, the Ministers produced the far-seeing Addis Ababa Plan. Hopes were high; but there was enough realism for the Conference to underline the following invaluable thought:

"More than money is required to give a less-developed country a firm start. Also required are certain conditions in the aided nation. These

include careful planning and clearly defined goals, a strong commitment of local resources to the pursuit of these goals, determination by the government and people alike to get on with the job and, most important of all, a concurrent commitment to the promotion of social justice. Given these conditions, the possibility of external assistance contributing successfully to economic and social development is good; without them it is non-existent.” [UNESCO Final Report - Conference of African Ministers of Education, Addis Ababa, 15-25/5/1961, p. 19, para. 33].

In those early sixties, Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore set out to win friends in Africa for his part of the world. After seeing Conakry in Guinea and Accra in Ghana and meeting leaders “who talked in socialist terms of the distribution of wealth” he came to the conclusion that those leaders were preparing themselves to lead their countries into poverty. [*The Singapore Story*, Times editions, p. 532]. He was subsequently proved right.

We in Ghana were left in 1957 with £400 million pounds with which to build a new nation. We were not too successful in using that windfall wisely, as President J J Rawlings indicated forty years on in 1993. He said: “How we can readjust the structure of our economic relations with the so-called Western or industrialised countries, quite frankly, is something that eludes us all the time.” [Interview on the programme “Out of Africa” with Zaina Badawi of Channel 4 in the UK] The inability to grasp opportunities that such words portray is a crucial issue for debate at the national level. If Ghana continues to be unable to marshal fully its intellectual resources – the only real asset any country ever has – to serve its own interest, the prospects offered by the future will go un-harvested. Moreover,

several countries in sub-Saharan Africa, which have been blessed with rich natural resources, have found their wealth to be a “curse” rather than a blessing; they have indeed led to adverse effects on growth and development.

GHANA has discovered oil offshore. I appeal to you, Ghanaian nationals in the Diaspora, to work to avoid the “paradox of plenty”, the “resource curse” or the “oil curse.” I exhort you to mount a robust evaluation of the current state of preparedness to manage petroleum revenues efficiently and to join in a national effort to guarantee that Ghana benefits from its petroleum resources.

Strong incorrupt institutions are the key factor for development and growth along not only with diversification of the economy and robust regulation and laws but also an increasing number of men and women who prize honour and integrity above the external advantages of rank and wealth. Ghana has taken steps in the right direction to learn and adopt good practices in petroleum management. However, the structuring of the oil sector, together with major investments in the institutional infrastructure and human capital ‘we need for the building of our democracy and the physical infrastructure necessary for growth’ [Joseph Stiglitz: *Making Globalization Work*, Penguin Books, 2007, p. 40] have yet to become a top priority of the government. *If Ghana is to avoid the fate of its African oil-producing neighbours, strong leadership with clear commitment to long-term development is crucial for creating economic growth and welfare based on its petroleum resource sector.*

In 2007, President John Kufuor announced the discovery of about 600 million barrels of light

crude oil offshore. Champagne bottles popped. He also made the following statements: “Even without oil, we are doing so well. With oil as a shot in the arm, we’re going to fly; we’re going to really zoom, accelerate, and if everything works, which I pray will happen positively, you come back in five years, and you’ll see that Ghana truly is the African tiger, in economic terms of development.” [BBC News: Ghana will be an African Tiger.] When countered with the history and mismanagement of oil revenues of other African oil producers, the President dismissed this possibility since it was not in the destiny of Ghana to be victim of the “resource curse”. The Oxford English dictionary defines a tiger as a large carnivorous animal, widely distributed in Asia, and proverbial for its ferocity and cunning. With that definition in mind and the facts on the ground in sub-Saharan Africa flashing a warning amber light ahead, I am frightened. I therefore ask you, members of the Mfantshipim Foundation,

to co-operate with as many Ghanaians in the Diaspora in this part of the world as possible to direct energy towards ensuring:

- (a) that the ex-President’s words do not literally become prophetic;
- (b) that the figurative import of his words, signifying vigour, persistent and unyielding effort and sober optimism, grows to characterize Ghanaian political thought and national action;
- (c) that well-articulated policies are put in place to be followed by action that is continuously guided by a concern that the institutional infrastructure of the ways and means by which the country’s leadership makes decisions and promotes action are rooted in:
 - i) whatsoever things are true,*
 - ii) whatsoever things are honest,*
 - iii) whatsoever things are just,*
 - iv) whatsoever things are pure,*
 - v) whatsoever things are lovely, and*
 - vi) whatsoever things are of good report,*



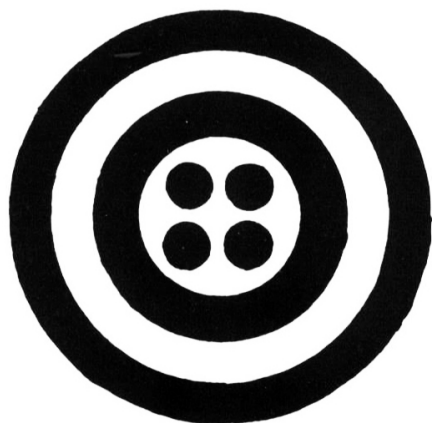
Dr Bartels with expatriate members of his staff from the 1950s & 60s - (L - R) Leslie Beckett, Hugh Benzie, Mary Beckett, David Williamson, Dr Bartels, Alan Welch, Isabel Benzie, Jennifer MacDougall (daughter of Ian and Barbara Roddick) & June Williamson

which must themselves stand the test of virtue and praiseworthiness [Philippians IV, 8] and, (d) that the cost to Ghana of wasted opportunity that has led to decline over the years is not forgotten.

In practical terms, we will do well, first, to embark on a national campaign of self-education to put at the centre-stage of political thought a growing awareness of the conditions that lead to internal decline, such as

- (a) increased consumption,
- (b) decreased savings,
- (c) resistance to taxation,
- (d) inequality,
- (e) corruption,
- (f) mounting debt and
- (g) finance that becomes more dominant in the economy than industry

[Charles Kindleberger, Cited in the *Financial Times* 12 November 2009 p.9: Analysis, “Decline but no Fall” by John Plender] and, secondly, resolve - and act accordingly - to make certain that whatever the mistakes of the past, we will do our utmost to save Ghana from being dragged once again into any of these categories - with or without oil.



GHANA LET'S READ!

By Jo Hallett

(New GSA Committee Member)

I must have been an adventurous 17 year-old, but I can still remember the wild butterflies in my stomach as I waved good-bye to my parents and younger brother who were standing on the quay at Tilbury Docks! It was 1962. The Elder Dempster Line's SS Calabar pulled away into the Thames and that was the beginning of my year as a Quaker Volunteer in Ghana.

I lived and worked in Wesley Girls High School, Cape Coast – a fantastic experience that sowed the seeds of my love for Ghana. In 1963, I returned to the UK to study at university. I later married, became a primary school teacher and brought up a family.

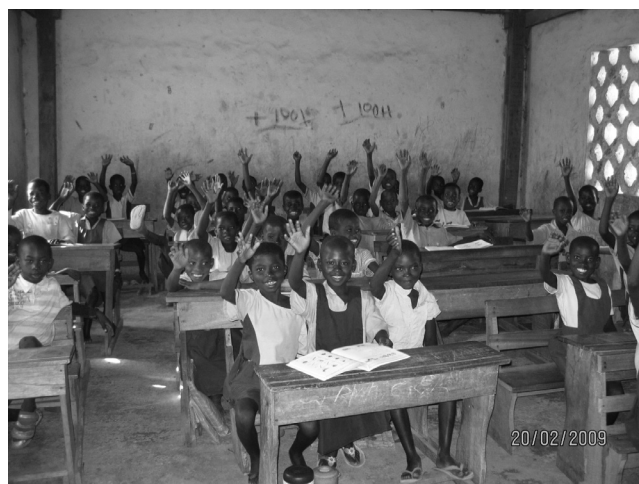
Then in 2000, a tiny ad in the Times Ed jumped out at me – they were looking for Millennium Volunteer Global Teachers – and one of the countries named was Ghana! The ten of us – mostly primary heads and deputies – were sent to remote villages in the Upper East Region (UER) to live and to work in the local primary school for five weeks. Our remit was to introduce a wider range of teaching methods to the staff in the school. Of course, this being Ghana, we were welcomed with open arms, and learnt at least as much as we could teach. It was a truly unforgettable five weeks.

The scheme was run by *Link Community Development*, an organisation set up some 15 years ago to help improve the quality of education in sub-Saharan Africa. It works in the poorest districts of five countries – with a sound development model that seeks to empower those at the bottom of the chain of command

(in this case the Headteachers of local schools), as well as working to support and improve the education system at district and national levels. There are permanent teams of project workers based in each of the local areas, as well as Link staff working with the national Education Departments. Many of the schools in the project are linked to UK schools, with some of the funding for school development being provided by the school in the north.

Southfields, my own primary school in inner city Coventry, has now been linked to Nyogbare School in Talensi-Nabdam district for seven years. We have exchanged many letters and drawings, tape-recordings and photographs; we have had a reciprocal exchange of Headteachers, and worked together to persuade Water Aid to sink a borehole in the school grounds to provide clean water for the school and the community. Of the ten Global Teachers posted to Ghana in 2001, six of us returned to Ghana, and four of us are still working voluntarily with Link Community Development some eight years later.

We first went back to run teacher workshops on interactive teaching and phonics, and Headteacher workshops on leadership training. These workshops were welcomed with enthusiasm by the teachers, who have very few in-service training opportunities. During one of the sessions, a Headteacher commented that these ideas about budgeting, staff planning and curriculum development were all very interesting, but what they REALLY needed were teaching materials. Subject textbooks that were supposedly provided for schools were few and far between, and the majority of lessons were delivered with only a blackboard and chalk. Three of our group – all experienced primary Headteachers – took this on board and



Nyogbare School classroom



Above and below: Photos of teacher workshops in a Navrongo school and the Catholic Social Centre, Bolgatanga



produced a very comprehensive reading support programme which we now call “*Ghana Let’s Read!*”

The scheme uses full-colour laminated cards, some A3 and some A4. There are packs for every age-group from Kindergarten to P6. They support the Ghana Primary School English curriculum, following the same topics and objectives. The Kindergarten cards, for example, focus on colour, number, shape, actions, modes of transport, as well as suggestions for story telling, songs and rhymes, and ideas for local resources to use and games to play.

P1 to P3 cards have large A3 colour photos – many taken by us in and around Bolgatanga – to use as a teaching resource to extend the units in the textbooks (which are now much more widely available). There are around 30 cards in each set, together with laminated word cards, number cards, letter cards and a large alphabet wall hanging in calico (screen-printed in Bolgatanga by a teacher from Gbego School for the Deaf).

P4 to P6 cards are designed for pupils to use at their desks. There are fifteen of each card, so in a class of 45, one card is shared between three, and if there are 60 in the class it is one between four. The cards have text, diagrams and photographs and match closely the chapters of the Ghana Primary English Pupil Books. The whole scheme is based on our experience and observation of the needs in UER primary schools. Between us, we now have a wide experience of teaching and learning in different schools in that area.

There are over 40 schools in three districts now using the Ghana Let’s Read! materials. We go to Ghana on short visits every year – often twice a year - to run teacher workshops,



What weather is needed to grow a good millet crop?



On the farm

What is the story of the millet?



water sunshine harvest drying grinding cooking

Examples of P3 workcards

▲

Unit 14

STAYING HEALTHY

How can I keep healthy?

To keep fit and healthy you need to eat the right sort of food, get enough rest and sleep, and you need to take plenty of exercise. A healthy body can fight off most germs and diseases, but sometimes people need medicines to make them well again.

What are germs?

Germs are tiny living things such as bacteria or viruses which are all around you - in the air, on your skin and on the food you eat. Most germs can't hurt you, but some cause illnesses such as colds, flu, and tummy upsets. Germs get into your body through your nose or mouth or through cuts in your skin.

Why do I get an upset stomach?

Sometimes germs get into the stomach, and the stomach does not want to work any more. The germs may come from food that has gone bad, or from dirt on your hands. The stomach pushes food back the way it came, making you sick. Once you have got rid of the germs you feel better.

Why do I feel hot when I am ill?

When you feel ill and get very hot it is because your body heats up to kill the germs which are making you ill.

Why do babies need injections?

The injections have in them dead or weak germs. As the babies fight off the germs it makes them stronger. If they come across the strong germs when they are older they should be able to fight them off without becoming really ill. Sometimes this is given to babies in their mouth instead of an injection. This is called immunisation.




Example of a P4 workcard

undertake assessments, and involve the Circuit Supervisors. The Link workers in the Bolga office provide on-going support for teachers and produce the cards. We now also have our own VSO volunteer, a young teacher from Scotland, living in Bolgatanga. She visits schools regularly to support teachers in the classroom, and run training sessions.

In 2009, we linked up with another organisation called *Afrikids*, a Child Rights Organisation, which works alongside indigenous communities in Ghana to improve the quality of life for rejected and vulnerable children. They set up their own school, which is now part of GES and is hoped to become a model school. They see Let's Read! as a way of raising standards and improving the quality of learning and teaching. Initial training workshops have taken place and we will see how this development goes. If it is successful we hope to work with Afrikids and the GES to support early literacy in many more schools in this most challenging area of Ghana. Let's Read! is run on a shoestring! A small grant from an educational charity funds our VSO volunteer, we pay all our own travel and accommodation costs, and are constantly fund-raising to finance teaching resources and teacher workshops.

From the small advert in the paper in 2000, and like a pebble in a pool, Let's Read! has grown and continues to spread its ripples through an increasing number of primary schools. One day we sat down and wondered how many children Let's Read! had affected and we calculated that it must be many thousands!

THE JOE BEDU PRIMARY SCHOOL

Daffor-Awudome, Volta Region

by Penny Sewell [New GSA Committee member]

Joe Bedu was born in 1941. I met him while I was employed as a French teacher at Wesley Girls' High School, Cape Coast. During the long holiday of 1966 I joined a VOLU workcamp in Anfué, not far from Keta, and Joe took it upon himself to look after me. He did that so well that thirty-eight years later, he was still doing it! Alas no more, as he left this world in 2004.

His home village was Daffor-Awudome, on the road to Hohoe [Volta Region], and family members are there today. Joe was a tireless promoter and defender of Ewe culture and Ewe people. He put education very, very high on his agenda, which meant that when, in 2004, it was suggested the local school be given his name, our children and I readily agreed.

I started sending out a Newsletter in December 2004, to any friend I thought would like one. I didn't make an appeal, but friends began sending me donations. I opened a dedicated bank account, and was soon able to start supporting the Joe Bedu school on a regular basis. I was thinking first of all of providing some money for excursions, prizes, treats and so on, but it quickly became apparent that what was needed was building work, the basics.

During my first post-Joe visit I was unable to communicate with the children because I never learned Ewe (shame on me...) and they did not have enough English to communicate with me. Since then, things have changed radically: English now figures much more prominently

in the curriculum generally, particularly at the higher levels. This is due to the school having grown hugely, partly because no fees are charged these days, and partly because a Junior High School has been added on. All this with little extra money from the Government. The support from the J. Bedu Memorial Fund has been invaluable: the Headteacher and his Deputy have worked hard with the local community to build extra classrooms, widen the curriculum, welcome new teachers and new pupils. We have also recently opened a Daycare Centre for eighteen-month to four-year-olds. Pre-school care does not receive government funding in Ghana, so the Centre is entirely financed by the J. Bedu Memorial Fund.

My aim is to spend a couple of weeks in Daffor every two years. I went in October 2007 and again in October 2009, was wonderfully received, and thoroughly enjoyed myself. Here is an edited version of my December 2009 Newsletter, complete with photographs.

Here are Salomey (Deputy Headteacher) and me sitting on Joe's Ghana grave with the school in the background. I asked that some students be given the responsibility to keep it tidy and weed-free.



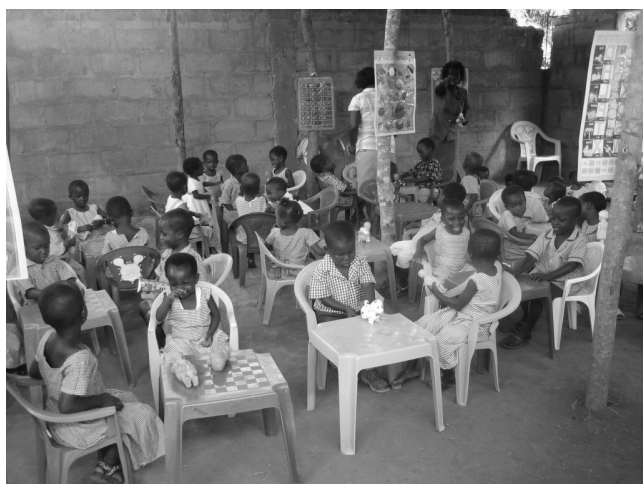
The Joe Bedu School is in good form. The roll is 414, including the Day Care Centre. 16 of the 18 new JHS children passed the Basic Certificate last year, of whom 14 went on to Secondary education. Thanks to the very good teaching, plus perhaps our help, the Joe Bedu School's reputation is growing, with some pressure on places now.

The Day Care Centre [DCC] (the roll is 44 children aged between 18 months and 4 years) has moved to this half-completed building.



There is no capitation grant for pre-school education in Ghana, so the DCC is entirely dependent on the small termly fee paid by parents, and on funds from us. In October it still had an earth floor, no doors or windows, no storage space.

Small chairs had been bought, and I was able, in Ho, to purchase the twelve little plastic tables you see in the following picture. The children are playing with the one bag of small toys owned by the DCC. Everything is stored in a private house at night. The three teachers are very dedicated but could benefit from some in-service training to help them diversify the activities they undertake with the children. I left funds, hopefully sufficient, for an experienced infant

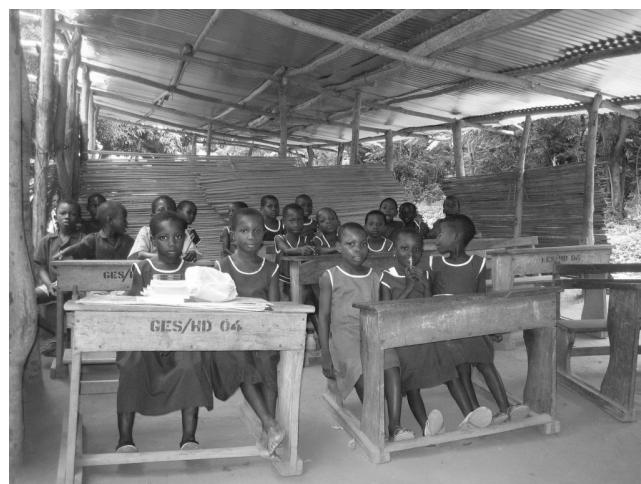


teacher to be invited to the village for two weeks to support our valiant three!

Several parents expressed gratitude that we had started the DCC as it enables them to get to their farms. The children are learning a bit of English, some nursery rhymes, lots of Bible verses and basically what it's like to be in school. By the way, they have no lavatory.

Let us go now to the Kindergarten, which the J. Bedu Memorial Fund helped build. KG1 and 2 each have about 25 pupils. It would be nice to have the walls painted, but that may have to wait. No cleaners are employed in the school: pupils sweep and tidy as necessary. Again there is no lavatory.

The Primary School, consisting of classes 1 to 6, boasts some 200 pupils. Classes 1 and 2 are housed in these temporary premises. Both classes need a proper floor, walls and a roof. Teaching is somewhat hampered by noise from the other class, plus the frequent distraction of people walking past. In spite of this, teachers manage to provide a good initiation to education in English. Here, Primary Class 1 await their teacher. The empty desks filled mysteriously later!

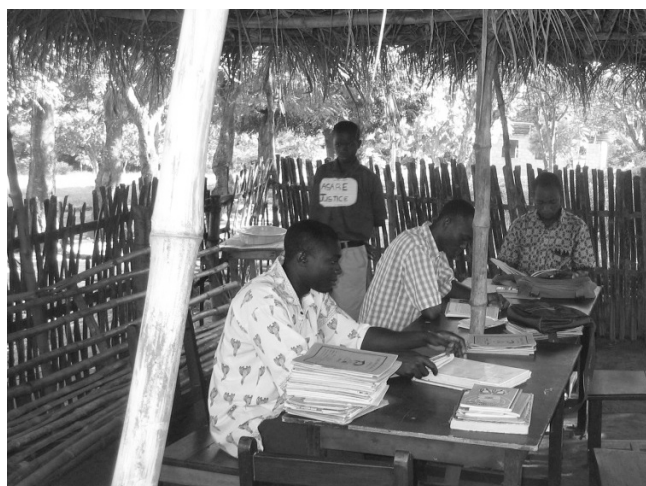


Creative Arts have been added to the curriculum recently. The children were really enjoying themselves making pots from local clay soil and leaving them to dry in the sun.

Primary classes 3 to 6 are in the original building. Facilities are minimal and the floor needs repair in places. The only lavatory is a "urinal" which drains off into the bush. (There is no running water). Not many children seemed to be using it, and I didn't inspect...

The Junior High School now has 120 pupils in three classes. Pupils in the JHS are aged between 13 and 16 or more years. Teaching is by subject staff who are clearly getting the results they seek. Over the two weeks I spent in Daffor, I was privileged to attend 30 minutes or so of a lesson in every class in the school and wish to thank the teachers for their welcome and their help.

This next photo shows the staff room, a new addition since 2007 when I was there last. Note the basin of water (back, left), put in place every morning by a JH pupil. This pupil is new this academic year and is still wearing his name label back and front.



On Friday 23rd October the school held a mini-durbar in my honour! Village elders attended, and pupils from every class gave a short presentation in English. We had some nursery rhymes, some poems, a dialogue, some aphorisms and some great dancing. I really appreciated the efforts made.



In the photo above you can see the two big pictures of Joe Bedu that I brought, and which will be put up in the school. When we went to Ho I bought a “schoolband”, i.e. a set of three non-traditional drums (made locally and pictured here), a talking drum, the DCC tables (seen here stacked), a big bag of balls for KG, several syllabus reference books, a set of door handles with mortice lock for the Headteacher’s office, biro pens for every Primary and JH pupil and every staff member, 3 good quality balls, (2 foot

and 1 volley), pencils for KG children, 3 plastic chairs for DCC staff, a set of 10 handkerchiefs for each staff member, and I left a personal gift for the Headteacher, as a mark of appreciation for everything he has done. All that came to some £250.

I think the time has come to turn our attention to lavatories. Several people confirmed that the situation is extremely unhygienic and could turn nasty. It would seem that children needing the toilet for number 2 can do one of three things: venture into the surrounding vegetation, run home or just hold things in. None of these three is acceptable. The best solution (as we do not have the resources to provide plumbed-in toilets), would be to commission the construction of 10 cubicles of Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines, commonly known as KVIPs. We could have 2 little ones for the DCC, 4 normal-sized ones for the Joe Bedu School girls, and 4 for the boys. KVIPs are relatively cheap to erect and maintain. They use a system of 2 pits for each cubicle, and use chemicals to breakdown the waste which is then odourless and usable as fertiliser. My researches in Ghana indicate that the cost of a “10-seater” as they call them would be around £5500. Ghana School Aid will consider a request for help in raising this sum and for support in the construction. It will be a major achievement if sufficient funds can be raised to at last provide the school with a basic necessity. I hope to report on progress made in the school when we meet for the GSA AGM in June.

[The GSA Committee has since agreed a grant of £700 towards this project. Ed.]

GSA SCHOOL LINKS 2009

By Letitia Boateng [GSA Vice Chair]

Exchanges and visits

Aseseeso JHS and John O’Gaunt, Hungerford

Aseseeso JHS and John O’Gaunt, Hungerford, played host to each other in May and July 2009. The aim of the visit was to work on chosen topics for the joint curriculum projects. Bismark Debrah and Robert Ayete taught lessons on sustainability and cross-cultural poetry while Lynn Hart and Ceri Crannis constructed a moisture sensor at Aseseeso. They also showed students how to prepare chilli, jam and mango chutney from local products.

Kate Regan, former Link Coordinator for John O’Gaunt, now retired, and her friend Diana Barraclough spent four days in Aseseeso in September 2009. The School Library had been Kate’s great concern so she worked hard during the four days to bring the library to such a high standard that it now benefits students from the whole area. Diana is also a good friend of Aseseeso. She has helped the school in a number of ways including helping to re-roof the whole school – a Ghana School Aid project. During their stay they discussed setting up a

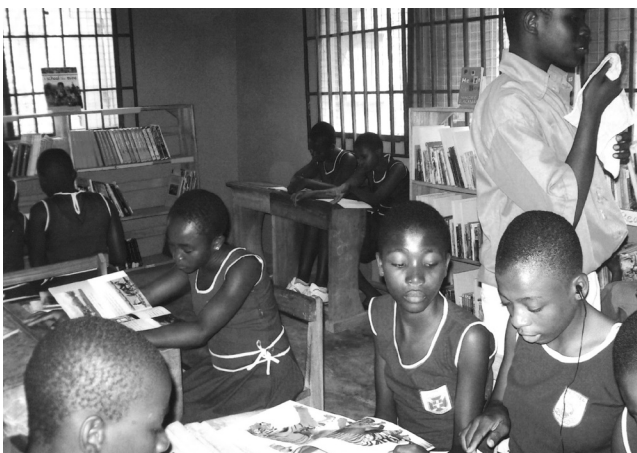
community link between themselves and the two communities of Aseseeso and Abonse.

Abonse Basic Schools and St Michael’s Primary, Figheldean.

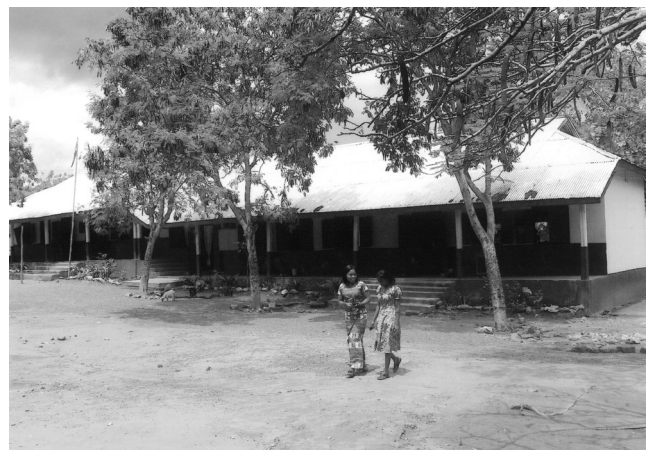
In February 2009 the Head of St Michael’s, Jill Adams, and a teacher, Helen Green, visited Abonse for two weeks. They observed and taught classes and signed a new partnership agreement. They also discussed the school garden which both schools had chosen for the joint curriculum project. St Michael’s started work in June, while Abonse decided to start theirs immediately because the climate was favourable. [Figeldean’s report is available at www.stmichaelsfigheldean.org.uk]

Earlier, in October 2008, George Chame and Catherine Teiko spent ten days in Figheldean. As usual, they watched and taught lessons. But the highlight of the visit was the preparation of Ghanaian dishes. Back home George and Catherine set up a school council, a concept that had impressed them at Figheldean.

Clare Tunnicliffe, Chairperson of Governors of St Michael’s visited Abonse for two weeks in July 2009 with her daughter Helen and her friend Keeley. Both girls were pupils of the school who worked hard organising fund raising activities in



Aseseeso School library



Aseseeso JHS with its new roof

the early days of the link. They mixed well with the local children learning and playing all sorts of games. Most evenings were spent folk-story telling.

As a student sponsor Clare met all the students under the sponsorship scheme to hear their problems and aspirations. As a result the link has sent them calculators to help with their studies. A possible church link was also discussed with the Catechist of the Abonse Presbyterian Church, Nana Addo-Ashley.

Kate Regan, who was the first Britain to arrive in Abonse on a school link reciprocal visit, has since also been a good friend to the Abonse community. When she heard that the Chief of Abonse Nana Okro Kototo II would celebrate 35 years on the throne in September 2009, she came to Abonse with her friend Diana Barraclough to join in the festivities. During their stay Kate did some preliminary work with the teachers to start a library for the school. Back in Britain she has dispatched a consignment of books that will shortly arrive at Abonse. Diana, for her part, donated a table for the library.

Projects and grants

The whole JHS Abonse school building has new ceilings and flooring due to a grant of £2050 from Ghana School Aid. The sewing girls also had a generous donation from GSA which they have used to purchase badly needed materials for their batik class. In October 2009 the Aseeso-Abonse Association donated two computers to the Abonse school.

Through the undiminishing effort of Ann Wilkins, Link Coordinator, and her colleagues at St Michael's, backed by the local church, a grant



Abonse wood carvings



Abonse wood carving training



Girls learning batik techniques

of £2000 was acquired and used to help train the youth of Abonse in batik and woodcarving. The boys and girls and some elderly people who were interested in the programme worked hard with enthusiasm and determination. Within a short time they were able to produce some amazing crafts. Their dedicated teachers are Mr Samuel Nkum (batik) and Nana Asabue (wood carving) from the Aburi Crafts Village. Unfortunately the programme has now come to a halt due to lack of funds. Earlier they had produced some items which were sent to Figheldean for sale. The girls made aprons, shopping bags and cosmetic/toilet bags from their batik materials. The wood carvers made crosses and animals such as hippos, tortoises, elephants, antelopes and frogs. The proceeds will be reinvested in the programme.

Joint curriculum projects

Last year (2008) Figheldean and Abonse decided to focus on a Global School Garden and use it to compare the two climates, growing seasons and fair trade issues. Pupils at Figheldean grew tomatoes, maize, potatoes, chillies and peppers, and their friends at Abonse grew cassava, corn, carrots, peppers and tomatoes. At the end of the project both schools exchanged notes and photo diaries.



Abonse pupils working in their garden

The benefits of the project were many. They learnt that due to differences in climate and seasons certain crops that grow in Britain cannot grow in Ghana and vice versa; information about various tools for gardening; how to help look after the environment such as reducing waste by making compost from fruit and vegetable peelings, re-cycling newspapers into pots for growing seeds, and making greenhouses from old plastic drinks bottles; the organic control of pests by using beer traps, egg shells and sand, salt, stones, glass, and many more, instead of chemicals; and how to build a greenhouse from poles, trays and water-proof sheets, a practice that fascinated the Abonse pupils – “building a house to grow crops?? Wow!!” At the end of it all Figheldean wrote “We used our vegetables to make soup which the whole school tasted. Lots of us thought it was delicious.” Abonse also feasted on their harvest.

Abonse/Figheldean wins a Global School Award

Yorkshire and Humberside Global Schools Association [www.yhgsa.org.uk] has developed a global schools award. This is unique from other awards in the sense that the requirements are based on a whole school approach to global education, supported by a vision statement and a school policy. The association explains the award as follows: “The Global Schools Award is designed to recognise good practice in the delivery of the global dimension in schools.” The YHGSA also requires evidence of curriculum audit planning of classroom activities that use some of the key concepts of global education. The concepts include global citizenship, participation and democracy, education for human rights, education for sustainable development, peace and conflict resolution.

Figcheldean and Abonse had done extensive work on sustainable development (Global School Garden) and thought they stood a chance of winning, so they applied and won the award. Ann [Wilkins] broke the news to me as follows “Abonse School has been awarded the Global Schools Award for their work with us on global dimension in the curriculum! We believe that they are the first school outside Britain to have achieved this honour. I think it could be an important step in giving Abonse School a higher profile for you. Ann and Lucy could present the certificate in February perhaps at the Durbar with the MP, education officials etc there. Please send our congratulations to everyone. It will be something special to display on their noticeboard. Oh, we also gained the award for St Michael’s, so we too, are delighted!!” Oh yes, we at Ghana School Aid and the Aseseeso-Abonse Association are also delighted.

Two Britains enstooled!

Nana Okro Kotoko II, Chief of Abonse, decided that at his age (89 years) it was time to honour “oburoi” (white persons) in recognition and appreciation of the hard work the Link and GSA have done to improve the school and lives of the Abonse people. So, when Clare Tunnicliffe arrived at Abonse in July, Nana quickly ordered her enstoolment as “Dompiahemaa” (mover and motivator of crowds) with a stool name of Nana Yaa OfosuheneI. Nana Okro Kotoko did not end there. When Kate Regan came for the Odwina celebration he made her “Nkoso Hemaa” Queen of developments. Kate’s stool name is Nana Yaa Frepomaa I.



Newly enstooled ‘Nkoso Hemaa’, Kate Reagan (right), and Diana Barraclough



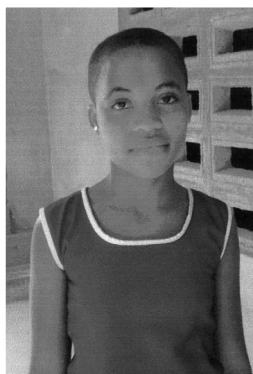
Letitia Boateng (left) and ‘Dompiahemaa’, Clare Tunnicliffe

Letters from the pupils

[The following are excerpts from letters sent by pupils at Abonse via Letitia Boateng]

Our school and the link

By Joyce Korkor Darko JHS 3



Our school is in partnership with St Michaels Primary School. It started in the year 2005 and has been very successful. The two schools agreed on embarking on global gardening project to help compare climates, foodstuff and growing conditions of

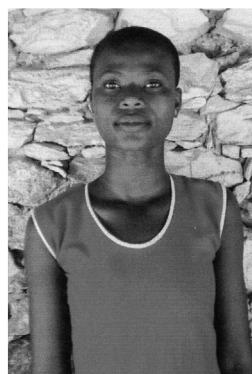
both countries. We started with crop production in the school farm. In the school garden we planted some crops like okra, tomatoes, Maize, sweet potatoes and other crop[s]. Looking at the pictures of our partner's school farm, I saw that there are some crops that they have been planting that we cannot plant here at Abonse. We have also planted some crops that they don't plant over there.

Our friends have been giving us money. The money they give us is used for buying exercise books and other things. Ghana School Aid has also been helping us with money. They gave us money for the roofing of our new JHS block, for provision of electricity and for screeding, ceilings and other things.

We have now started using our library. When you want to take [a] reading book home you can collect it from the library keeper and after you have finished reading it, you send it back to the teacher and tell him what you have read.

The school and the link

By Janet Ohenewa Kwakye, JHS 2

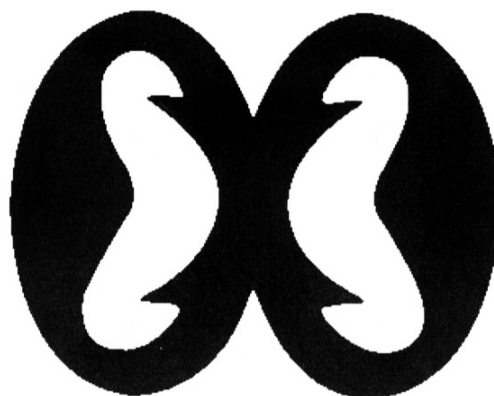


The school mean[s] a lot to me because the school has been helping me in many ways, such that I now have more knowledge and am now very intelligent because of the library we have in the school. There are many books which I read to gain more

knowledge and more information. The school also have [sic] some computers from the link which I always use to gain more knowledge.

Also the school activities such as sports have been helping me in so many ways, any time I take part in the sporting activities I do see some changes, that is, I become very active in class and very healthy.

Our link with St Michael Primary School started in 2005 and has been very successful. They also have some project like the global gardening. ... This farm has help me a lot that I can now plant such crops. A crop like okro is very difficult to plant because if you are not careful, worms will destroy the leaves and the food cannot grow.



MEMORIES

Joan Buchanan

[The following is from a letter sent by Joan Buchanan (nee Mellor) to GSA committee member Pamela Lewis in 2009, in which she remembers her early days in the Gold Coast]

The Education Department in 1948 had just begun on a great period of expansion under Tom Barton (Director). Phyllis Clark had just taken over what was called “lady (!) Education Officers” which, as far as I remember, consisted of Ruby Papafio, Phyllis Renner, Wilma Gladstone and Ida Travis, (later Ida Down). In the boat before me arrived Eelin Machie (later Page) and then Joan Mellor (me!). Eelin’s main luggage went off (lost!) to Nigeria for 5 months so I was sent north to Tamale and not Kumasi as originally intended. Tom Barton was Director and our all-seeing, all knowing wonderful messenger in HQ was the never-to-be forgotten ‘Morssa’. Lt Col. Maurice Wentworth was in charge of the Northern Territory and John C Ashanti – both of whom I was to meet within a week of arrival.

During the few days I spent in Accra Ruby Papafio, later to become a good friend, took me to inspect one of the Accra schools. On arrival, being greeted by the Headmaster, she announced “My colleagues, I wish to see the school lavatories”, and to me, quietly, she said, “See them and you can probably know what the school is like”! It was the beginning of a great adventure, definitely some of the most wonderful years of my life.

In 1951 I was sent from Eastern province in Koforidua, (where I had been relieving for Phyllis

Renner on leave), to Accra HQ to take over from Tom Buchanan who was sent to run Ashanti. I was not looking forward to life there at all and little knew that, during a week of ‘handing over’ Tom would ask me to marry him! General Orders – what a terribly massive tome that was – stated that, “Women Officers may be, and usually are, required to resign on marriage”. Despite the good efforts of our then Director, JS Hoghen, I had to resign, but I worked as hard for the department unpaid as I had paid!

Now so many of our old friends, African and European, are no longer around, but certainly not forgotten. I think too that we all left something of ourselves behind. (In our case we also brought with us two sons, one born in Accra, the other in Berekum.)

ODTAA

(Courtesy of John Masefield, ie. One Damned Thing After Another)

By Eric Cunningham

[First published in The Overseas Pensioner, April 2009, and reprinted by kind permission of the editor.]

It was late 1953. The Gold Coast, in the second year of internal self-government, was ablaze with political activity and endeavour. Education, my own concern, was a top priority, and the Cambridge School Certificate was the magic open sesame to higher education for its many aspirants. Examination scripts completed on Friday were due to go by air from Kumasi to Accra on Saturday morning, for onward transmission to the UK. Alas, the plane did not arrive.

The next plane would be on Monday, but my superordinate responsible for the scripts despatch, a New Zealander keen to impress with his efficiency everyone above him and below him in the hierarchy which seemed to dominate his life, directed me to take the papers to Accra by road. I welcomed this: it would give me a weekend in Accra, the opportunity to meet convivially with friends and an interesting drive in the car that was still something of a novelty.

The first twenty miles of road from Kumasi had been newly re-aligned and resurfaced, and one could drive on it at 60 mph, a welcome change from the norm on Ashanti roads. I did so, and saw ahead something on the road. It did not move, and slowing down I passed it, noting as I did so that it was a body. I stopped. With hindsight this was unwise, but I was in only the second year of service, and still had much to learn.

I walked back to look at the body. It was not a pretty sight; the skull was cracked, and blood and grey matter had oozed onto the hot tarmac and were congealing there. I returned to my car knowing I needed to report the matter to the police. As I started to drive away I realised the front tyre was punctured. I jacked up the car, put on the spare wheel, hoping I would not have another puncture, and went to jack the car down. The jack would not move; the ratchet on it had jammed. So there was I, on a blazingly hot afternoon, with the car marooned on a broken jack, and a body not far away. A challenging situation, to put it mildly.

Thinking it over, I realised that my car, a Ford Zephyr Mark 1, had on each side two jacking points, one for the front wheel and one for the rear. What I needed was a second jack to raise

the rear of the car higher than the front, so that the broken jack could be freed. Several cars passed by but none would stop to my very frantic signalling. Eventually one did, and incredibly it was another Zephyr with a jack that would fit the rear socket. The driver, an African civil servant, helped me release the broken jack and before long my own car was ready to drive away.

Parting, I thanked him and asked him to report the body to the police in Kumasi when he got there. He looked somewhat surprised and asked “What do you want me to tell them?” It suddenly occurred to me that my own account of finding the body in the road was uncorroborated, and there was the possibility that I might be thought to have struck the man and killed him. The grim prospect of endless palaver with the police arose, I responded “Just tell them the body was in the road”. We parted, and as I drove away I saw a milestone. On it was the number 13. Truly.

I arrived in Accra somewhat later than intended, handed over the examination scripts, and enjoyed the weekend. It was good to see my friends and after the exertions of the afternoon I had a thirst to assuage.

On return to Kumasi, I went on Monday morning to the police to report the incident. “Oh, yes”, the expatriate officer said, “we know about it. He’d fallen off the back of a mammy wagon. The body was left, waiting for the photographers”.

If only I’d known....

Earlier Returns to West Africa

By James Gibbs

The Ashanti Pioneer for 3 September 1954 carried an item by Grace Young headlined 'Return to Achimota with MRA.' Young had taught at Achimota School during the 1920s, and recorded how impressed she was by the developments that had taken place in the 25 years since she had left. She wrote: 'What a magnificent growth. The founders would have rejoiced.' She then asked rhetorically, 'Is there a comparable flowering of the spiritual and moral qualities planted in the early soil?'

Acutely aware of the political upheaval the country was going through at the time of her visit, she added: 'At this historic time in the life of the country, I am especially grateful to return with an international MRA team.' For younger readers, it may be necessary to explain that 'MRA' stands for 'Moral Re-Armament'. For older readers, this will hardly be necessary since the movement founded by Frank Buchman that preached the necessity of a 'change of heart' and of embracing absolute moral standards, was adept at publicity and self-promotion.

The 'team' Young referred to was large and varied: it was sixty-strong and included representatives of eleven nationalities. It was in the country to put on two plays, *The Real News* and *The Boss*, and to arrange screenings of another play that had been made into a film, *The Forgotten Factor*. Members of the team also attended meetings at which they spoke about Frank Buchman's gospel.

From press reports carried in *The Ashanti Pioneer*, it seems the group spent time in Accra and a week and a half in Kumasi. There they

stayed 'in African, Lebanese and European homes', and were ferried around by locals. They put on the plays in Prempeh Hall on five nights. No gate fees were charged and the event was, it seems, well supported. Reports suggest that a cross-section of the community attended and that contending politicians were impressed by the message of reconciliation through transformation carried by the plays.

The encounter was part of a longer history of contact between MRA and the Gold Coast. The links between the movement – spokesmen quaintly insisted it was an 'organism not an organisation' – and Achimota can be traced back to the very early days of the school. Founding principal, A G Fraser, was attracted to MRA – as were many idealists of his generation. Though he never quite put his name to Buchman's simplistic world view, Fraser attended MRA conferences and spent part of his retirement at MRA addresses.

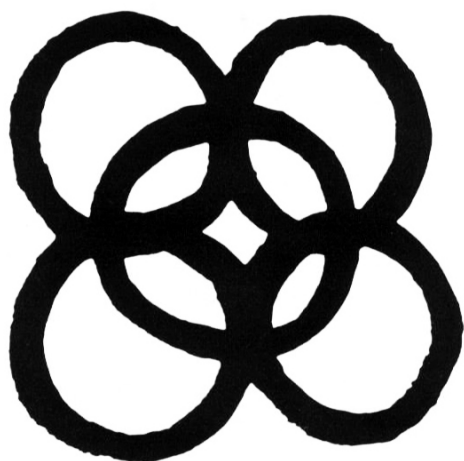
During July- September 1954, MRA targeted leaders of thought in the Gold Coast, the impact of the plays and of the meetings with the 'international team' being reinforced by an intense press campaign. This included publication of 'Return to Achimota with MRA' in *The Ashanti Pioneer*.

The links between Achimota, the Gold Coast and the 'organism' continued after Grace Young and the team had left the country. On 27 August 1954, *The Ashanti Pioneer* reported that Arthur Ankrah, 'an assistant bursar from Achimota', was one of a party of eighteen from the Gold Coast on a flight chartered by MRA that flew from Accra to Switzerland. On landing, Ankrah found himself part of a West African contingent that, when officials learnt that the visitors were

guests of MRA , was simply waved through!

In addition to Ankrah, the group included political leaders, such as the Tolon Ba, trades unionists, such as Adolphus Mbah, General Secretary of the Medical Health Department Workers' Union, men of the cloth, such as the Moderator the Presbyterian Church of the Gold Coast, the Rev'd V E Asihene, and educationists such as William Awum, a head-master, and V E Dako, who had responsibility for some 400 Presbyterian schools. After spending time imbibing the atmosphere at Caux, the contingent flew on to London.

Though the fifties saw it peak as an interventionist, anti-Communist organisation, MRA continued to be active in West Africa. It now operates as Initiatives of Change, and uses the web, rather than the stage or the press, to get its message across. The curious may want to visit www.caux.iofc.org



NEWS & PROJECTS

Chairman's Visit To Ghana 18 – 25 February 2009

By Ted Mayne

My visit to Ghana was a complete success. This was the first time I have been there when I have been able to devote my entire time to Ghana School Aid affairs. I had an easy flight out and Kofi and Floria Ohene were at the airport to meet me along with Mrs Precious Agyare whom I had earlier recruited to help me out. She had liaised well with Kofi and planned my programme to the full. The primary purpose of my visit was to look closely at the University of Cape Coast Primary School classroom which is being built as a memorial to Alan Mayhew [former supporter and Secretary of GSA]. There was concern expressed at our last meeting because we had already advanced £4000 for this project and we were not sure whether building had commenced. Well, all our doubts disappeared as soon as I arrived. The builders were going full tilt and the foundations had already been laid. I was given a warm welcome and a fantastic reception followed. I had an interesting meeting with the Vice Chancellor [Nana Jane Opoku-Agyeman, Ghana's first woman VC] and the Headmistress of the school. In addition I met the contractors and George Intsiful, Head of the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Kumasi. One of his students had designed the new classroom block. I then went on a tour of the school led by the junior school brass band and inspected the guard of honour as well as being presented with a bouquet of flowers. After further speeches at the site I was shown round the university and became fully aware of the progress it has made in recent years. It now has a medical school. My visit ended with a celebration lunch at the Elmina Beach hotel,

a modern complex with superb cuisine. It was a near perfect day and the gentle breeze from the sea meant we could enjoy our meal without air-conditioning.

The Alan Mayhew Memorial Project is thoroughly worthwhile and the classroom block will be put to good use after completion. There are currently 930 students at the primary school and the project will allow the school to increase its intake. There is a large catchment area from where the children come and the standards are high. Numerous children come from poor areas and the fees are not too high. Now that primary education is mandatory in Ghana, no children should slip through the net. I made enquiries about making schooling free for more children and it was explained that the only youngsters who get it totally free are those children of university staff. These make up a very small portion of the total intake.

It is expected that the bulk of the building project will be completed by mid-April and it will be fully operational by September 2009. The authorities hope that some of us will be there to attend the official opening. It would be lovely if some of us could make it.

[Update – since this was written Kofi Ohene has reported that the building is almost complete despite earlier delays due to the late arrival of materials. The remaining £4000 in funding has been sent out. Ed.]

I also made visits to the British Airways School at Kasoa. Members may remember that we donated a generator to the school because it was experiencing problems with unreliable electricity supplies. I spent a morning there and it is a first class school which is benefiting enormously from our contribution. The generator has made a huge

difference and classes are no longer interrupted because of power cuts. The school has no further immediate needs but the Headmistress will keep me advised should there be any emergencies in future.

When in Accra I visited the Accra Girls Secondary School where Catherine Mercer taught back in 1960. At her request I called at the school to discuss their immediate needs because Catherine wishes to make a donation. It transpires that the school desperately needs its own water supply and they will seek guidance locally about sinking a borehole. I was able to instruct a local company to look into this and I now await details and estimates. I am in regular contact with Catherine Mercer.

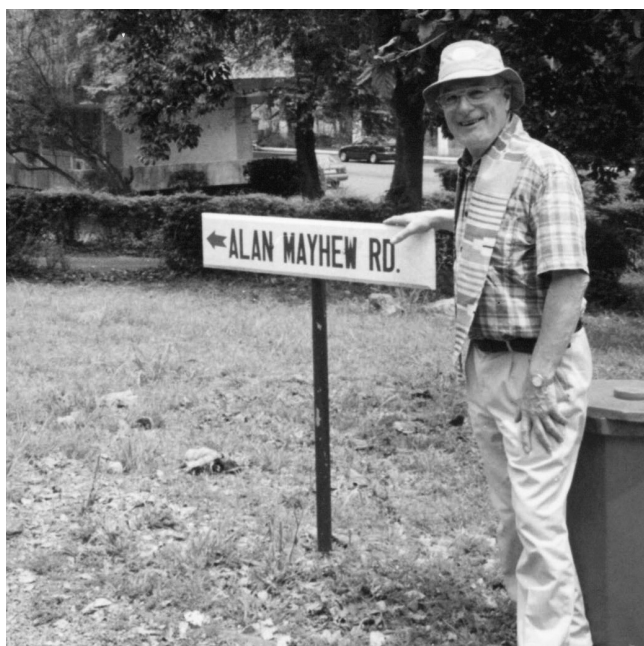
Finally I made a trip to Abokobi to visit the Presbyterian primary school which we had supported in the past. This is a desperately poor school and in great need. Matters have improved recently with increased funding from the government, but they desperately need their kitchen to be refurbished. There is the Schools Feeding Project which was recently introduced into primary schools in Ghana. This is to ensure that all day children are sufficiently well fed during their time at school. However, the government will only assist schools with adequate cooking facilities and storage space for provisions. I now await an estimate for the refurbishment of the kitchen which we may well support.

This is a brief resume of what was a thoroughly worthwhile visit. Our work in Ghana is in safe hands and Kofi Ohene and Precious Agyare are perfectly capable of monitoring our projects. Kofi is on the point of opening a GSA bank account in Accra and will advise Stanley of the details.

Ghana is doing much better these days now they are getting a more realistic price for cocoa and gold is a useful commodity now there is a world wide recession. The oil recently discovered off Takoradi will soon be pumped ashore and the bauxite from the Volta Region mines is also proving to be a useful commodity. Long may it last.



Headmistress UCC Primary School, Ted Mayne, Kofi Ohene (in hat) on site of the new classroom in February 2009



Ted Mayne on University of Cape Coast's campus

GSA Anniversaries

2011 will mark 25 years since the first GSA Reunion in April 1986 when about 120 mainly education people assembled at Commonwealth Hall, Tavistock Square in London for a weekend. Also, this year (2010) marks 20 years since the first GSA visit to Ghana (25th March – 7th April 1990). A film of the visit was shot by Stanley Anthony and Auriol Earle which we hope to show and/or convert to DVDs for the next reunion. While many participants have now 'gone to their villages' we were hoping that some of you will have memories, photos and other records of these events which you would like to share with us for a feature in the next Newsletter. All original photos and documents can be scanned on to computer and returned to you. If you have any of these and/or memories we will be delighted to include them. Please contact Eric Earle, 1 Western Down, Guildown Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 4EW; tel. 01483 562690; auriol.earle@ntlworld.com

Representatives in Ghana

In addition to Kofi Ohene, our GSA representative in Accra, who has been doing such good work overseeing the new classroom in Cape Coast, we are delighted to have two new representatives, Salifu Baako and Rita Ayeebo. Mr Baako (Tamale) and Ms Ayeebo (Bolgatanga) are both based in the north of Ghana where there is great need of our help, and where we have found it quite difficult to operate in the past due to communication and accessibility problems.

Date for the diary

The Ghana School Aid Annual General Meeting and Lunch will be held on June 15th 2010. See back page.

ACCOUNTS 01/04/2009 - 31/12/2009

Treasurer's Report 19th January 2010

Stanley E. G. Anthony, Treasurer. Tel: 01926 424702 Email: anthonys@talktalk.net

	£ (2010)		£ (1987-2010)
	Subtotals	Totals	Totals
INCOME:			
1. Donations/Grants:			
General Donations (Gift Aid, CAF, etc):	£3,859.00		
Inland Revenue Refund (2008-09):	£892.55	£4,751.55	£137,190.57
2. Nett Surplus on Lunches:			
Costs: Venue: -£1,119.32			
Post & printing: -£85.96	-£1,205.28		
Income: Bookings: £1,112.00			
Donations: £345.00	£1,457.00	£251.72	£3,687.07
(+£58.81 Gift Aid to be claimed from donations in 2010)			
3. Deposit Interest:			
01/04/09 – 31/12/09 (average 1.3%)		£144.83	£11,858.46
4. "Memories of the Gold Coast and Ghana":			
Donations 01/04/2009 – 20/07/2009:	£40.00		
Costs: postage:	Nil	£40.00	£2,082.74
TOTAL INCOME (01/03 – 31/12/2009):		£5,188.10	£154,818.84

EXPENDITURE:			
5. Items supplied to Ghana School Projects:			
FOYS Abiriw Road Safety Project:	-£3,000.00		
Aburaso Meth. Prim. School:	-£1,000.00		
Cape Coast Classroom:	-£8,000.00		
Aboabo Pre-school Building:	-£1,000.00		
Abonse Presb. Basic School	-£2,170.00		
Bechem Sch. for the Deaf:	-£3,393.00		
Cape Coast Classroom Prize:	-£100.00		
A.S. Baako (Yendi Rep.):	-£500.00		
Ghana School Project (BA Staff):	-£500.00		
Buipe Girls' School (via Wulugu):	-£1,000.00	-£20,663.00	-£128,938.17
6. Operating Costs:			
Newsletter: Printing: -£783.00			
Envelopes & postage: -£147.62	-£930.62		
Ghana Int. Bank transfer charges:	-£220.00	-£1,150.62	-£8,984.12
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:		-£21,813.62	-£137,922.29

BALANCE OF FUNDS at 31/12/2009:			
COIF Deposit Fund:	£12,951.60		
NatWest Current Account	£3,944.95	£16,896.55	

Total accumulated expenditure from 1987 plus balance of funds at 31/12/2009: **£154,818.84**

Expenditure greater than Income (01/04/09 – 31/12/09): **£16,625.52**

BOOKS

Reviews by Jennifer MacDougall

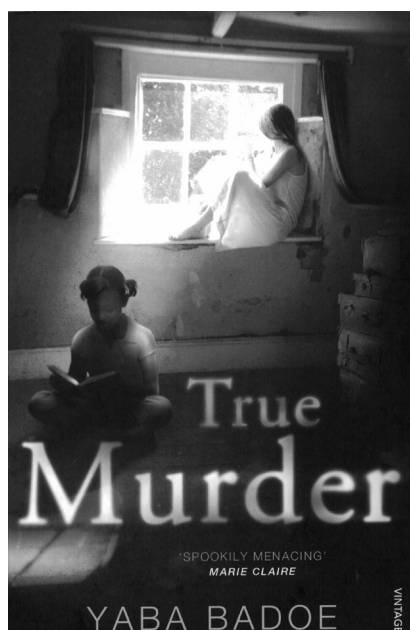
True Murder

by Yaba Badoe

2009, Vintage, £7.99

Badoe is a Ghanaian-British film-maker and journalist, a graduate of Cambridge University, who has worked in Ghana and the UK. She is Visiting Scholar at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana. She has published a number of short stories.

This is an intriguing atmospheric mystery set in an English boarding school where a young Ghanaian girl has been left by her father. Ajuba is haunted by the fate of her mother and falls under the spell of her new English friend Polly and her glamorous family. They discover some bones in the attic of Polly's home and set out to investigate their origins leading eventually to tragic consequences. This is a chilling evocation of adolescent loss and passion, with a troubled past in Ghana adding to the gathering menace.



Tail of the blue bird

by Nii Ayikwei Parkes

2009, Jonathan Cape, £12.99

Parkes is a Ghanaian writer of poetry, prose and articles. He has published three volumes of poetry and has been Writer-in-Residence at BBC Radio 3. He is an advocate and fund-raiser for Ghanaian writers and contributes to several magazines and literary journals.

This is so much more than a basic who-done-it set in Ghana. It is a delightful literary novel about a young forensic pathologist, Kayo, just returned to Ghana from studying in the UK. When called upon to investigate some sinister remains in a remote forest village he is convinced that his scientific logic and training can solve the most incomprehensible of mysteries. The scene is set for a conflict between modern western investigative methods and traditional beliefs and cultural values. The novel is rich in local colour and geographical description with the use of poetic prose and vernacular dialogue. The story evokes the importance of the myths of the oral tradition and the wisdom of the ancestors.



OBITUARIES

Dr David Kimble 1921 - 2009

by William Tordoff, Emeritus Professor of Government, University of Manchester

David Kimble, who played a significant role in the political history of Ghana, has died at the age of eighty-seven at his retirement home in Chagford, Devon. After graduating at the University of Reading in 1943, David served for three years as a RNVR lieutenant and then became an Oxford University staff tutor first in Berkshire and then in the Gold Coast. In 1949 he was appointed Director of the Department of Extramural Studies in the newly established University College of the Gold Coast. He held this post until 1962, when his distinguished service was recognised by the award of the OBE. From Ghana he moved to a succession of senior academic posts in Morocco, Lesotho and Malawi, where he served as vice-chancellor from 1977 to 1986.

David's years in Ghana coincided with important events – the arrest and subsequent release of Kwame Nkrumah and other Convention People's Party (CPP) leaders, the establishment of semi-responsible government in 1951, internal self-government in 1954, independence in 1957 and the inauguration of the republic in 1961. These were often turbulent years, with the rise of significant opposition to the CPP's increasingly heavy-handed rule, first on the part of Dr JB Danquah's United Gold Coast Convention (UGCC) and then of the Ashanti-based National Liberation Movement (NLM) and the Northern People's Party (NPP).

David Kimble did not shape these events, but together with the team of resident tutors and

organisers which he created, he established a countrywide network of adult centres underpinned by a new voluntary association called the People's Educational Association. These classes, and annual and other conferences, attracted young men and women drawn from all walks of life most of whom, through no fault of their own, had limited formal education but were anxious to understand and discuss current political, economic and social issues. Though the Department (subsequently Institute) of Extramural Studies did not itself award diplomas or other qualifications, many students were stimulated to extend their education by means of overseas correspondence courses.

David, a dynamic person of immense energy, was the driving force behind these accomplishments. Often an exacting taskmaster impatient to achieve results, he could also be kind and considerate. Throughout his time in Ghana, he benefited immensely from the help and advice of his first wife Helen, by whom he had four daughters. While in Ghana he wrote *A Political History of Ghana*, a major work submitted initially as a thesis for a University of London doctorate and published by Oxford in 1963. Together with Helen, he planned the launch in 1963 of the highly regarded *Journal of Modern African Studies* (JMAS). They were joint editors of the first eleven volumes, after which David continued as sole editor until 1997. During this latter period, he received valuable assistance from Margareta Westin whom he married in 1977 and with whom he shared many happy and fulfilling years in Malawi and at Chagford. She survives him, as does Helen and three of their four daughters.

Rodney Bennett 1920 – 2008

By Eric Earle

Rodney Bennett's 15 years of service in the Gold Coast / Ghana started with his appointment as an Administrative Officer in 1946. He was one of a group of very able officers appointed after the war which included Bill Peters, Allen Howe, John Hooper, Mike Ensor (and many more) in the Administration and ED (Robbie) Roberts, Jack Bannochie, Gordon Rodger and Wilma Gladstone in Education. They all became committed to the early advance of the Gold Coast to self-government, a process which became much more rapid than anyone had forecast in 1946! Officers like Rodney rapidly gained the confidence of Kwame Nkrumah and his ministers in the CPP government (which is not to say there were no stresses and strains as the advance to "SG NOW" accelerated).

Rodney served in the army in India from 1941 to 1946, mainly on the NW Frontier in the 2nd Punjab Regiment. He had great rapport with his Indian troops and became imbued with a desire to serve in the Empire. Arriving in the Gold Coast in October 1946, he served mainly in the Western Region, with periods as District Commissioner (Government Agent) in Anomabu, Winneba and Cape Coast (where he was President of the Town Council); he was clearly very popular because when he was moved to another District the local people sent a telegram asking that "energetic and peacable Bennett be restored forthwith". He was posted to Accra to take charge as DC following the 1948 Riots and his diplomatic skills did much to restore calm. From 1951 he worked in the Secretariat. He had met Elizabeth (at the Three Choirs Festival) when on leave in 1950 and they were married in Accra in 1955. The following year, "he managed

to escape" to become the Government Agent in Bekwai, Ashanti followed by a posting to a senior role in Kumasi. Elizabeth remembers this as a very happy time, travelling round the District and learning about the history and culture of Ashanti; "the Bekwaihene showed us the tattered remains of the Union Flag which Baden Powell's troops had with them when they marched through Bekwai in the final Ashanti War, kept in a metal trunk". These were turbulent years in Ashanti in the period leading up to Independence and Rodney's negotiating skills would have had much practice.

Rodney was one of those officers invited to stay on and help run the government of newly-independent Ghana after 6 March 1957. He held senior posts in the Ministries of Local Government and Education, acting as Permanent Secretary of the latter during the absences on other duties of Casely Mate, the new Ghanaian PS. The Bennetts left Ghana in 1961, Rodney joining the many thousands of former Colonial / Overseas Service officers who as a result of the "wind of change" were seeking new careers in their late 30s / early 40s.



Elizabeth and Rodney Bennett

Rodney was not long in finding a new career: in September 1961 he was appointed to the Herefordshire Community Council. He later became Director of both the Herefordshire and Worcester Community Councils when they became amalgamated. In his new role, Rodney was also responsible for the secretariats of other connected bodies such as the CPRE, the Parish Councils Association, the Three Choirs Festival Association and many others. He was Chairman of the Three Choirs Festival Association and Master of the Guild of Craftsmen. He retired as Director of the Community Council in 1981 and was awarded the OBE in 1982. Following his second retirement he remained active in many of the local organisations which he had served, especially the Three Choirs Festival Association (he continued as Chairman of the Hereford Festival Committee until 1990).

Rodney and Elizabeth attended the first Ghana Reunion in 1986 (for lengthy periods of that weekend, Rodney and Robbie were to be found in corners catching up on their GC / Ghana memories!). They took part in the Visit to Ghana in 1990 which made the first delivery of aid to Abokobi, Dodowa and other schools and have been staunch supporters of GSA since the start. We all recall Rodney Bennett with great affection and admiration - a truly dedicated and generous public servant in two countries and a friend whom we shall long remember.

Alan Rudwick 1927 – 2009

By Jennifer MacDougall

Alan Rudwick, former Headmaster of Achimota School, died on 18 December 2009. He worked at Achimota from 1951 to 1977, the last 12 years as Headmaster. From Cambridge University he

went to Achimota as a history teacher, becoming assistant headmaster and then, at just 38 years old he was appointed Headmaster in 1965. Two years later he was honoured to be enstooled as “Nana of Achimota” by the school and its community, a gesture denoting full acceptance into Ghanaian culture.

Alan Rudwick was determined to make his pupils confident and proud of their school, culture and country. He concentrated on raising academic standards, modernising facilities and expanding the campus during the difficult decades of the 1960s and 70s. He encouraged a very wide range of extramural activities from the Boy Scouts to the school orchestra, art, gardening and sport. The importance of cultural traditions, the spirit of service and manual labour was emphasised as part of life. He was always keen to support and promote individuals with special talents and frequently helped to secure bursaries and scholarships for pupils in need. For his service to Ghanaian education he received the Grand Medal of Ghana and, in the UK, the OBE.

Following retirement he and his wife Ann lived in Spain and then moved to the Isle of Wight in 1994. He worked as membership secretary of the Royal Commonwealth Society and recently as Honorary Co-Chairman of the Old Achimotans campaign AC2010, maintaining his support for and interest in the school to the end. Alan was held in high esteem, much respected and admired by the entire community of Achimota who will miss him greatly.

[A much longer tribute is available at <http://news.myjoyonline.com/features/201001/41054.asp>]

Ghana School Aid



PATRONS

HE Prof. Kwaku
Danso-Boafo, High
Commissioner for
Ghana

The Rt Hon The
Baroness Chalker of
Wallasey PC, CH

The Rt Hon Paul
Boateng, D.L.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Edward Mayne

Vice Chairs: Letitia Boateng & Anna Corbett

Secretary: Michael Hammer

Treasurer: Stanley Anthony

Minutes: Elizabeth Mayhew

AGM organisation: Penny Sewell

Newsletter: Dr Jennifer MacDougall

Representatives in Ghana: Kofi Ohene,
Salifu Baoko, Rita Ayeebo

Other Committee Members:

Eric Earle, Jo Hallett, Sue Hewlett, Pamela
Lewis, Dr Susannah Mayhew, Dr Judith
Gillespie Smith, Margaret Turner, John
Whittingham

ENQUIRIES

Ghana School Aid

Edward Mayne
1 Gatley Drive, Burpham
Guildford, GU4 7JJ

Tel:

+44 (0)1483 565296

Email:

EPMayne@globalnet.co.uk

Website:

www.ghanaschoolaid.org
(to be re-launched soon)

Ghana School Aid is a registered UK Charity No. 299178
Editor: Dr. Jennifer MacDougall, Layout: Anna M. MacDougall
Printing: ABC Imaging, 33 Britton St, London, EC1M 5UG

Date For The Diary!

The Ghana School Aid Annual General Meeting and Lunch will be held on June 15th 2010, at John Adams Hall, 15-23 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DP. Coffee will start at 11am, followed by lunch at 1pm. Further details and an application form are included with this Newsletter.