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## Ghana School Aid's 25th anniversary!

This issue marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of Ghana School Aid by four former Education Officers in 1986. The setting up of the charity, its history and development is described in a fascinating account by one of the founders, Eric Cunningham (former longstanding Committee Member), with help from another, Eric Earle (Committee Member and former Chairman), who also provided the photos accompanying the article.



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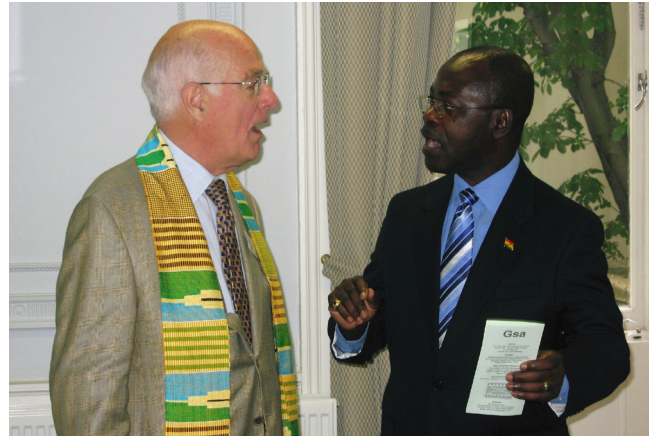


## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*AKWAABA! It has been quite an eventful year and as a charity there has been increased revenue leaving us with more funds than in the past, and we are continuing to embark on some ambitious projects. However, before I continue, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to John Whittingham who sadly died on 6 August. John was a founder member of Ghana School Aid and a further tribute to him is included in this Newsletter.*

*The Annual General Meeting at the John Adam's Hall in June could well have been a disaster with the caterers getting the incorrect day. However, after a last minute rush they managed to get the lunch prepared and apart from a slightly late start the meal was enjoyed by all the attendees. This occasion gave us the opportunity to meet the recently installed Ghana High Commissioner, Professor Kwaku Danso-Boafo. He gave us an illuminating address which was quite challenging. His Excellency was impressed with what we have achieved and he did acknowledge that it is difficult to get full time schooling to every Ghanaian under the age of sixteen. Now that the country is benefitting from the oil revenue, it is hoped that this will go some way to developing the education services in Ghana.*

*The meeting coincided with the World Cup, and what a performance Ghana produced! Rita De-Graft from the Ghana Nursing Association arrived sporting her football shirt and that evening we were all glued to our televisions as Ghana made further progress against Australia. The team was voted number five in the world and one wonders what would have happened had that penalty produced the goal which would*



**Ted Mayne & The High Commissioner**



**Mary Owusu & Rita De-Graft in her football shirt**



**Attendees of the 2010 AGM sharing a joke**



**Attendees of the 2010 AGM enjoying the lunch**

*have taken them to the semi finals.*

*I am pleased to report that we continue to support projects in the north of Ghana. The Sandema project is just one which we have helped to keep going, and we now have a link there who can identify needy schools. Plans are being made to assist two schools in the Tamale region, namely the Nawuni and Zaggyuri primary schools. Our coordinator in that region, Alhassan Salifu Baako, is doing useful work and we hope to get these projects off the ground before too long. We shall also continue to support the British Airways School at Kasoa which needs replacement computers and the Whitstone School in Shepton Mallett continues to receive our assistance for their linked school in the Volta Region. 2011 is our twenty fifth anniversary and I am open to suggestions for a celebratory project. Any ideas? (See Eric Cunningham's report and detailed history of Ghana School Aid).*

*The committee continues to work tirelessly and I must express my appreciation to everyone who has contributed so much. Kate Regan recently joined our committee and her experiences in Ghana will be of great use. We are still hoping that a visit to Ghana by members will be possible and there are now packages available with various travel companies. The next twelve months promise to be fruitful and I must thank all members for their enthusiastic support over the years. We all share that love for Ghana and this is being revealed in the way we have been blessed with extra funding for our ambitious projects. My final thank you goes to Jennifer and Anna MacDougall whose efforts have made this edition possible. Bless you all.*

*Ted Mayne*

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

No apologies for featuring the 25th anniversary of the founding of Ghana School Aid in this issue. GSA is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the founder members (some sadly no longer with us) and it will surely constitute a lasting legacy of their love for and commitment to education in Gold Coast/Ghana. Thanks in particular here to two of the founding members: to Eric Cunningham, whose fascinating account of the development of GSA is included in this issue, and to Eric Earle, former Chair and Editor, who also contributed to it.

Helen Niven writes about a visit to a school near Tamale which has recently received GSA funding. She and her family were shown round by the Headteacher Alhassan Salifu Baako (GSA representative) while they were on a return trip 44 years after Helen and her husband first met when working in Ghana.

Alhassan Salifu Baako contributes an article describing his role as our representative in Northern Ghana, and Judith Clucas of Oakfield Primary School Rugby, writes about the highs and lows of raising funds for their link school at Aburaso. Also in this issue are updates on projects from Jo Hallett, Penny Sewell, Patrick Heinecke and Rita De-Graft.

Bringing us right up to date the new GSA web site is up and running thanks to Philip Cunningham ([www.ghanaschoolaid.org](http://www.ghanaschoolaid.org)). Please look at it and let us know what you think.

Please contact me with any comments and/or contributions for the next issue at [jennifermacdougall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennifermacdougall@yahoo.co.uk) or on 0777 9933425



## GHANA SCHOOL AID

### Looking back and looking forward

*By Eric Cunningham*

The buzz of conversation at every annual Ghana School Aid lunch demonstrates how Ghana, and in its earlier manifestation the Gold Coast, can exercise upon those from other countries who work there an enduring influence. No matter wherever in the country they have worked or in whatever capacity, there are many who have both a lasting memory of a worthwhile and enjoyable experience and a clear regard and respect for Ghanaians, together with a wish to continue a positive and constructive relationship with them.

This accords with a long-standing tradition. Writers such as AB Ellis (*The Tshi-speaking peoples of the Gold Coast*, 1887), RS Rattray (*Ashanti*, 1923), and WEF Ward (*My Africa*, 1991) have recorded in various ways their deep interest in and respect for the country and the people.

Ghana School Aid has its origins in comparable interest and respect. In 1986 four former Education Officers organised a re-union in London of former colleagues and teachers who had worked in the Gold Coast or Ghana. They were Brice Bending, Eric Cunningham, Eric Earle and Tom Southern. The first three had met in 1951 as Cadet Education Officers in the Colonial Service, when starting the Post-Graduate Certificate in Education at the University of London Institute of Education. They were among the last six pensionable officers to be appointed to the Gold Coast; internal self-Government having been agreed in February 1952, they knew when they arrived at Takoradi in August 1952 that Independence lay ahead, and was what they would be working to achieve. Tom Southern



Founders Brice Bending & Tom Southern, 1986



Founder Eric Cunningham, 2008



Founder Eric Earle, 2007



was already at post in the Gold Coast. In fact all four worked not only up to Independence but continued afterwards, three staying until 1961 and one until 1962.

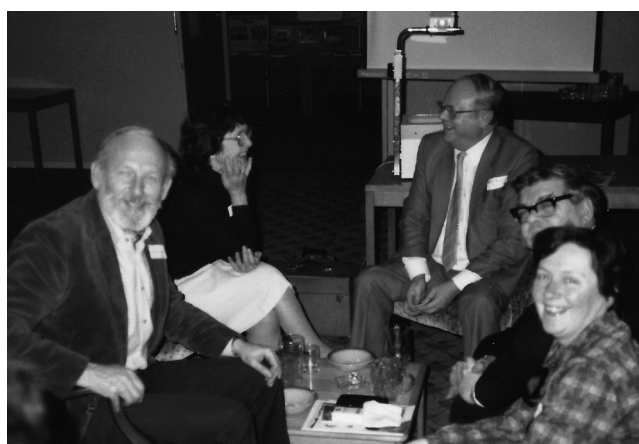
The 1986 re-union was a great success, and attendance well exceeded planning expectations. Some one hundred people met (including two from France and two from Switzerland), and fourteen others sent apologies and good wishes. Reminiscences were exchanged, friendships were renewed, and the Acting High Commissioner for Ghana, Mr Annan-Cato, spoke appreciatively of the work that had been done and of Ghana's progress since Independence. A Ghanaian band, courtesy of the University of London Student Union, played, cheering everyone with the Highlife. It was particularly gratifying to receive a letter of appreciation and good wishes from the Secretary for Education in the Ghana Government, Miss Joyce Aryee, who had been informed of the reunion by the Acting High Commissioner.

Such was the energy and good will that all agreed to build on it, not by further re-unions, for these inevitably result in increasingly reduced numbers because of deaths, but by creating an organisation to take further the work that everyone had contributed to in Ghana. Thus the idea of Ghana School Aid (GSA) was born. Brice Bending took the lead in making the idea a reality, and he was ably supported by several others, notably Warren Shaw (formerly of the British Council in Accra), who became Secretary and initiated and achieved UK charity status for Ghana School Aid.

The Earl of Listowel, Ghana's first Governor-General, the Ghana High Commissioner in London, and WEF Ward all accepted invitations



**Tom Southern, Philip Tregidgo & Geoff Pitchford at the 1986 reunion (Vera Tregidgo seated left)**



**Warren Shaw, Dennis Trussler, John Whittingham & Elne Trussler at the 1986 reunion**



**Ghanaian drummers and dancers at the 1986 reunion**

to become Patrons. Mr Ward, who had given distinguished service to Ghana through his work in Achimota School, had attended the 1986 re-union and given his full support for Ghana School Aid's creation. Funds were sought, and a major initial contribution was donations made in memory of Tommy Southern, Tom's wife, who sadly had died very soon after the London re-union.

A working committee was established. Meetings were held initially in Warren Shaw's flat, then when committee numbers increased, in Eric Earle's room in the Institute of Education, and later at the Ghana Universities' London Office, where Kofi Ohene, the officer in charge, was both encouraging and supportive, as too have been his successors. More recently, the committee has met in committee members' homes.

In the course of time principles and policies evolved; for example, all work for Ghana School Aid would be voluntary, with no paid employees (thus maximising funds for charitable work), all who had an interest in Ghana would be welcome as supporters, and the focus of activity would wherever possible be on rural schools. Grants would be made to schools, not individuals, and ideally grants would support self-help initiatives. Initially much time was taken up with consideration of the many and varied applications for grants which schools and individuals in Ghana sent; procedures for refining these evolved.

An early initiative, following a suggestion made at the London re-union, was the planning of a visit to Ghana. The visit took place in March 1990, when some twenty people, led by Brice Bending, toured widely and received a great welcome. Many schools were visited, and



**Margaret Glover, E.D. ('Robbie') Roberts & Bernard Carman at the 1986 reunion**



**Founder member Lyn Skinner at the 1986 reunion**



**Ghanaian drummers and dancers with Eric & Auriol Earle at the 1986 reunion**



equipment delivered, principally to schools in Abokobi and Dodowa. This included surplus science equipment from the Institute of Education and textbooks from a variety of sources; in all, nine trailers of “special extra-baggage” were conveyed courtesy of Ghana Airways. Initial planning in London for the visit was helped by Jimmy Anang, and action in Ghana was organised by Robert Asiedu, both former Education Officers and colleagues of Eric Earle.

A second visit to Ghana, led by Eric Earle, was made in 1995, travelling east to Hohoe and north to Tamale. Again there was a great welcome from schools, teachers, government officers, and former colleagues.

Ghana School Aid moved to a pro-active policy with *Schools on the Line*, initiated in 2000 to commemorate the Millennium. This programme brought aid to some remote schools situated on or close to the Greenwich Meridian, which runs north to south through Ghana. Michael Asiedu, former Education Officer colleague of Brice Bending and Eric Cunningham, and retired after a distinguished career in Ghana Government service, who had willingly agreed to become GSA’s representative in Accra, was of great assistance in the delivery of this aid programme.

Two similar programmes followed, *Two Degrees West and Fishing Villages*. Both gave help to isolated communities, the former to those in north-west Ghana and the latter to those on the coast. For both, Michael Asiedu’s help was invaluable; *Fishing Villages* was entirely his idea, resulting from his concern for children in the villages needing help and encouragement to stay there and not migrate to urban communities.

A further policy development has been the promotion of links between schools in the United Kingdom and those in Ghana. At its best this has been very successful, with exchanges of teachers and pupils between schools in each country, to their mutual benefit. For such success initiative, conviction, sustained hard work, and good communications are essential. This last has led to Ghana School Aid helping to supply computers and mobile telephones to some of Ghana’s schools. A welcome consequence of the school links programme is that GSA is working in partnership mode, and is not merely a donor. The programme has been developed and aided by several supporters, among whom Letitia Boateng, Judith Gillespie Smith and Jo Hallett from the committee, and Heather Fielding, Helen Hiam (formerly Anthony), Sharon Leftwich, Miranda Liardet, and Anne Wilkins as teachers have made distinct contributions.

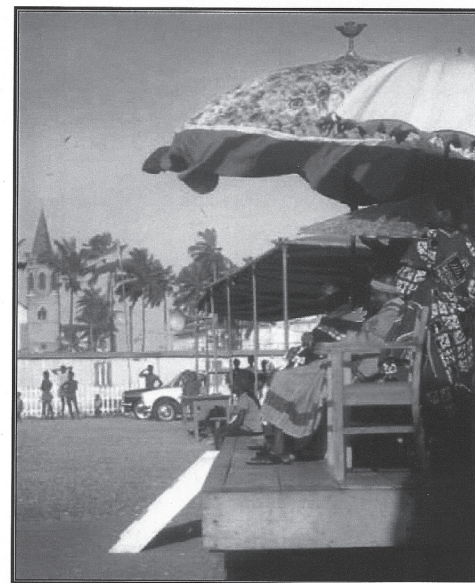
Information and publicity are important dimensions for Ghana School Aid’s work. Brice Bending initiated the Newsletter to report charity activities to members unable to attend the Annual General Meeting, and to share news of supporters. The Newsletter enlarged under Eric Earle’s editorship and with Roderic Earle’s help with desk-top publishing, to include colour photographs and the Stool logo. Under Jennifer MacDougall’s editorship the Newsletter has become an annual and much fuller publication, professionally printed and with layout and formatting initially by Michael Hammer, and latterly by Anna MacDougall. Costs have been kept to a minimum through the goodwill of all involved. It provides excellent publicity, and is distributed not only to supporters but also to the Ghana High Commission and other key contacts.

Michael Hammer was instrumental in setting

up the Ghana School Aid website, which has brought new supporters for the charity. Philip Cunningham now has responsibility for the website. In 2006 *Gold Coast and Ghana Memories*, initiated and edited by Eric Cunningham, was published. This circulated widely, so bringing in additional funds and donations, and increasing support for Ghana School Aid. Because it contributes to the historical record of Ghana copies are deposited in Rhodes House, Oxford University (the Colonial and Empire section of the Bodleian Library), and in the Ghana Archives in Accra.

Since its inception Ghana School Aid has been served by many hard-working officers. Brice Bending was the first Chairman, followed when illness caused his retirement by Eric Earle, and currently by Ted Mayne. Warren Shaw was the first Secretary, followed by Pam Lewis, on whom fell much work from correspondence relating to grants as applications flooded in. Her successor was Alan Mayhew, who sadly died before all his plans for development were completed, Elizabeth Mayhew and Michael Hammer replaced him, and currently Jo Hallett has taken on the office. Two Treasurers, first John Whittingham and then Stanley Anthony, have seen GSA's income grow steadily through donations, both one-off and regular, and legacies; Stanley Anthony had earlier taken on responsibility for Gift Aid, which Sue Hewlett now has, and which continues to be a significant source of income.

Many other people have given time, expertise, and energy in various ways, for example as committee members, organisers of the Annual Lunch, contributors to the Newsletter, compilers and revisers of membership lists, dispatchers of mailings, and promoters of school liaison work. Ghana School Aid has benefitted from the



## *GOLD COAST and GHANA MEMORIES*

*Edited by Eric Cunningham,  
assisted by Jennifer MacDougall, Alan Mayhew,  
and Michael Hammer*

### ***Gold Coast and Ghana Memories, 2006***

support of other charities, notably the Morel, Paragon, and Child-to-Child Trusts, which have contributed funds from their work. Ghana School Aid has also worked with other charities for mutual benefit, particularly the Sandema Educational Trust and the Wulugu Project to assist with school development in Northern Ghana. This continues to be a priority area for GSA's attention.

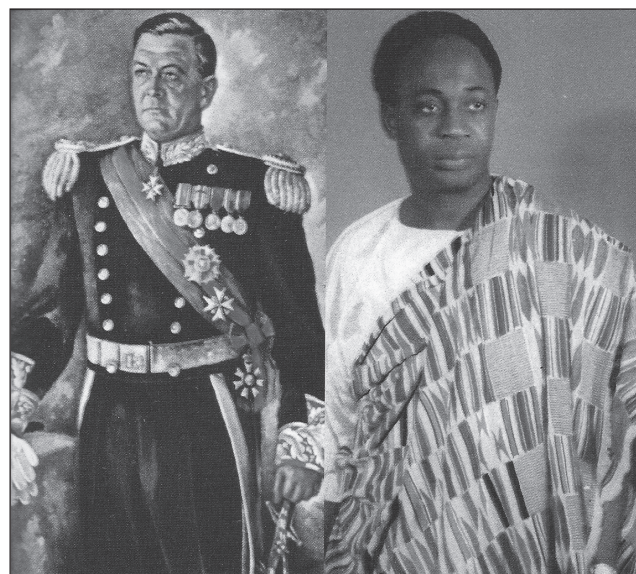
Successive Ghana High Commissioners in London have been very supportive of Ghana School Aid, frequently attending and speaking at the Annual General Meeting and Lunch, invariably most positively. On occasions they have offered the High Commission's premises for meetings. All High Commissioners have consented to continue as Patrons. One High Commissioner, Mr James Aggrey-Orleans,



endeared himself to all those at one Annual Lunch by addressing them with the respect Ghanaians traditionally accord their elders by beginning “Ladies and Gentlemen, or should I say ‘Aunties and Uncles’?” He knew everyone would be delighted by this.

Currently Ghana School Aid has some 140 active supporters and a mailing list of 200. There is an active committee (including representatives in Ghana) and a positive programme. What of the future? Supporters are the key; to continue to flourish Ghana School Aid needs both income for its work and people to run it effectively. In its twenty-five year existence to date there has been a marked and appropriate change in the range of supporters. Initially they were mainly either retired Colonial Civil Servants or former teachers, principally from mission schools. Today there are very few of the former category left. Since Independence expatriate employment in Ghana has been mainly on short term contract or posting, or through voluntary organisations. Happily Ghana School Aid’s supporter base has widened to include many such people, in addition to those who have been involved in various ways with schools and colleges in Ghana. A further group are those whose interest in Ghana is self-motivated, among whom, notably, are the teachers in British schools involved with the school links programme.

To secure the future a sustained programme for the recruitment of supporters is needed. Potential enlargement of the current supporter categories could include an extended school links programme, a possible pool from the developing tourist trade in Ghana, and the extensive and widespread communities of Ghanaians living in Britain and elsewhere. For these last, the traditional focus for their help has



# Ghana's long road to Freedom

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## *Ghana's Long Road to Freedom project*

always been the family and the home community in Ghana. Perhaps they can be encouraged to take a wider, national view of Ghana's needs? The Ghana High Commissioner may be able to advise on this. Ghana School Aid is seemingly not widely known among the Ghanaian expatriate community: when Eric Cunningham spoke (November 2008) by invitation on GSA at the public launch of the report on *Ghana's Long Road to Freedom* project, which had been initiated by the St Monica Mampong-Ashanti Old Girls' Association in Britain and funded by the UK Lottery Heritage fund, few of the Ghanaians present knew of Ghana School Aid.

Also needed are more fund-raising activities; these require ideas and action. Initiatives in the past have been *Schools on the Line*, which successfully sought to raise £2000 in the year

2000 for its implementation; *Gold Coast and Ghana Memories*, which to date has raised more than £2000; and Ruth Court's sponsored London Marathon run (April 2008) which raised almost £1400. Among supporters there must be ideas, initiatives, and talent to add to these endeavours.

Anything that will raise money legitimately is worth looking at closely, for only if Ghana School Aid has funds can it support schools in need. One possible source for fund-raising that to date has not been systematically investigated is the charitable and commercial organisations that make grants for educational activities. Pursuing this is likely to require an informed and dedicated approach, but success could be very helpful to GSA. Is there among our supporters someone – or more - to take on this challenge?

This account offers some ideas and challenges. The future of Ghana School Aid is a matter not for just the committee but for the whole body of supporters. It is hoped that reading of where GSA has come from, how it has evolved and worked, and what may lie ahead will stimulate the thinking of supporters and generate ideas and proposals for discussion and action. Such development will make this account worth writing.

The writing of this account has been greatly helped by the comments, suggestions and memories of Eric Earle, whose contributions are acknowledged with thanks.

## **RETURN TO GHANA**

### **Helen and Alastair Niven's visit to Ghana, December 2010**

*By Helen Niven*

*[Helen and Alastair Niven are GSA supporters who kindly offered to visit a GSA Project and write about it for the Newsletter after a family trip in December 2010. They were assisted by our representatives Salifu Baako and Kofi Ohene. Ed.]*

Alastair and I met at the University of Ghana in 1966. I was a volunteer with VSO and he was a Commonwealth Scholar. 44 years later we celebrated our Ruby Wedding and decided to return to Ghana and to introduce our son and daughter and our daughter's partner to the country that had played such a large part in our lives.

We planned a trip –which on the whole worked out surprisingly well – to travel from Accra to Cape Coast and Elmina and then to visit the North – Tamale, Mole National Park, Wa, Bolgatanga and Paga. There was so much more that we'd have loved to do, but we had only two weeks....

Having contacted Ghana School Aid we found there was an opportunity to visit Kanvilli Junior High School, just outside Tamale. The school had recently received funding for four computers and a printer, and it was a thrill to see the computers in situ. It was sobering to think about the practicalities such as the supply of electricity which we take so much for granted. The parents had paid for the installation of metal doors and windows on the computer room to increase the security. It was great to see that the machines are

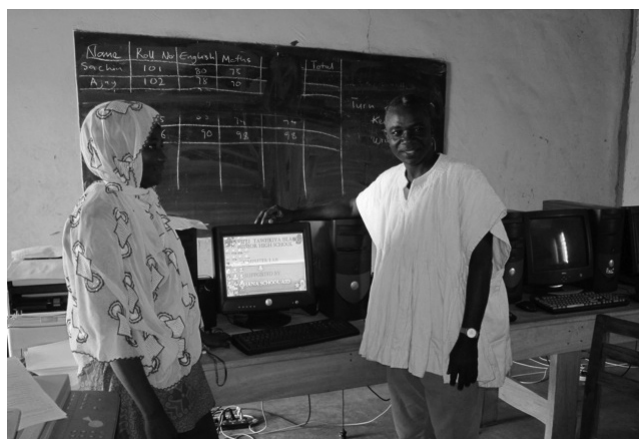


being well used both by students and by the staff who have been able to improve the presentation of their course work. There has even been an opportunity for some income generation for the school as they are able to do some work for other schools.

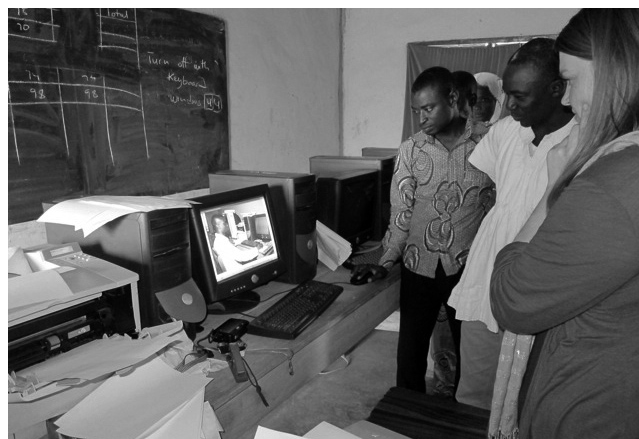
We spent a fascinating morning at the school, very warmly looked after by the go-ahead headmaster Alhassan Salifu Baako. He gave us an excellent presentation on his work for Ghana School Aid as the regional coordinator. We met all the staff and students and were impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment that everyone showed. It was salutary to learn that the capitation fee for books, materials and school maintenance is 5 cedis per pupil per year. The school has aspirations to increase its numbers and is currently amassing bricks as and when it can as the first step towards building some new classrooms.

When we returned to Accra we stayed again at the University at Legon where Kofi Ohene lives and fortunately we were able to meet with him and report back on our visit.

It was a magical trip for all of us – rich with remembrance for Alastair and me and full of new experiences for Isabella, Nic and Alex. The opportunity to spend time in a school was a real highlight and it was gratifying to see what a difference support from Ghana School Aid can make.



**Baako with the new computers**



**The new computers and printer**



**With Kofi Ohene**



**With some students**

## NEWS & PROJECTS

### Ghana Let's Read - Update October 2010

*By Jo Hallett*

Over the past two years, working with **Link Community Development**, we have focussed on a cohort of 18 primary schools spread across three districts – Bolgatanga, Kassena-Nankana (Navrongo) and Talensi-Nabdam.

- Every age group within each school has been provided with a Let's Read (LR) pack – A4 and A3 laminated coloured picture cards, plus letter and word cards – to support the teaching of phonics and encourage a more interactive approach.
- All the teachers – from KG to P6 - have attended two of our training workshops – an introductory session and then a revision workshop a few months later.
- We have a wonderful VSO volunteer living in Bolga - Rachel Campbell - who makes regular school visits advising and supporting teachers and running teacher workshops.
- In addition, all the Headteachers and Assistant Headteachers have been involved in two Leadership and Management workshops, looking at the issues within their own schools, and planning their own development plans.

Between the four of us, we have a great depth and breadth of educational skills and knowledge to add to our experience of many schools in Upper Eastern Region (UER).

#### ***Future Plans***

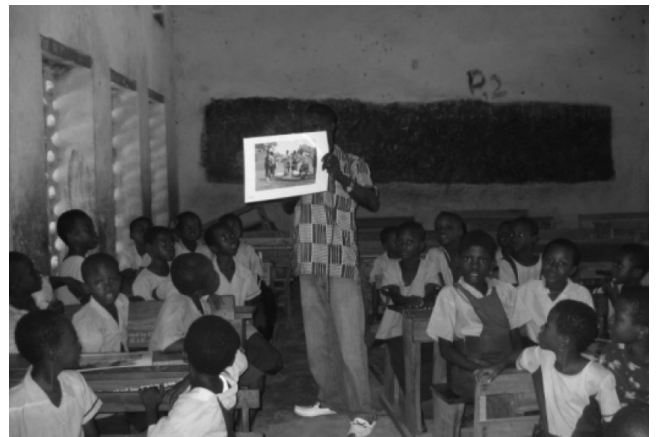
We have seen considerable improvements in the LR schools – and teachers are always



Headteacher workshops



P3 teacher workshop - drama



As below



A3 colour picture cards in a Bolgatanga primary school



enthusiastic about the LR packs. It is clear that to make Ghana Let's Read a sustainable project we need firstly to involve more Ghanaians in training and supporting teachers and secondly to get all the materials made in Ghana. Rachel has identified some excellent teachers in the LR schools who could become Lead Teachers and support other teachers with Lets Read.

#### Aims:

1. To develop our present phonics scheme and then run workshops on phonics for the Bolga District Teacher Support team and the Circuit Supervisors
2. To provide packs for each class – rather than just each year group – in the existing 18 LR schools (about 30 packs needed)
3. To work with a small number of experienced teachers so that they become Lets Read Lead Teachers (Rachel)
4. To extend our work with Afrikids, possibly working intensively with a group of schools in a very deprived rural area such as around Sirigu. **Afrikids** are very enthusiastic about Lets Read. They work in the areas of health, education and children's rights with the most deprived communities in UER. Discussions about this work will be held with the Director of Afrikids when he returns to UK later this month.

#### ***Request for Funding***

The work with Afrikids is likely to cost around £3000 in terms of materials, but we cannot confirm that work just yet.

Rachel is working with the present 18 LR schools and will be producing packs of cards at the Link Community Development office in Bolga. The packs she needs to produce for them cost about £50 per pack – so we need to raise about £1500

for that work. We would be very grateful for any contribution that Ghana School Aid can give towards these costs.

[The GSA Committee has awarded £1000 towards this project. Ed.]

#### ***Examples of the A3 picture cards in Let's Read***



**'Look at the market'**



**'Skipping'**

## **HIA community library project, Ashanti region, Ghana – an update**

*By Rita De-Graft, Ghana Nurses*

*Association UK.*

### **2008**

The Hia Community library building works commenced in earnest in December 2008 with initial funds of 600 GH cedis raised by the community and £1000 donated by GSA.

The Chairperson of GNA UK, Mrs Mary Owusu [see photograph with Rita De-Graft on page 2. Ed.], visited Hia in December 2008 accompanied by two GNA UK members - Mrs. Mina Bofo and Mrs. Agnes Nartey. Her visit coincided with the laying of the foundation of the library building where she met the Chief of Hia and members of the library project committee and participated in laying a brick.

In November 2008, the Ghana International Bank Foundation Trustees approved a donation of GhC10, 500 for roofing materials, electrical installation, finishing, doors, windows and furniture pending the Hia community financing and undertaking the construction satisfactorily to the lintel level.

### **2009**

In May 2009, I made a follow-up visit to Hia, Ghana. On a 'communal labour' day, I met the community members who were working on the building site and had a discussion with them on the progress and challenges of the project. The community members were encouraged to keep their focus on the end result where children will be benefitting from using the library to enhance their learning and development.

I also conducted a base line study on access

to books and the reading habits of primary and Junior High School children in the only government school at Hia.

A sample of 35 pupils was selected at random from primary 4, 5, 6, Junior High 1, 2 and 3.

Key findings of the small study were:

- About 60% of the children have no access to reading books.
- The 40% who had access to any reading material had access only to school textbooks.
- The identified textbooks are Science, English, Religious and Moral Studies, Citizenship Education and Twi.
- Other reading material was handwritten notes taken by the children at school.
- About 75% read at home and at school.
- About 20% read only at school.
- About 75% read because of school work.
- About 18% read for school work and leisure
- About 6.5% read for leisure.
- The average duration of reading for a pupil, apart from school hours, was less than one hour a week.
- Only one pupil has ever used a library in their life time.
- All liked the idea of having a library in their community and look forward to using it to enhance their learning.
- Resources preferred are subject specific textbooks. Dictionaries, computers, fan. TV, pens, story books and notebooks.

In line with the objectives of the library project, a similar study will be conducted six months after the library has been operational to assess any impact made.

### **2010**

In February 2010, Ghana Nurses' Association



UK, donated £1000 to support the building works to reach the lintel level.

My last visit to Hia was in June 2010. The library project committee have worked very hard in keeping up the motivation level of volunteer builders from the community. There have been countless phone calls to discuss challenges prior to my visit. The library building is at its roofing stage as depicted in the adjacent photos. The roofing works require expert input in terms of quality and durability. The next challenge is raising £1000 for the cost of roofing works (roofing materials have been provided by GIB Foundation). [The GSA committee has now awarded £1000 for the roofing project. Ed.]

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to GSA for your continued support and to St. Cecilia's Catholic school in Sutton who have and continue

to donate books to equip the library when it opens and also for expressing keen interest to develop and maintain a school link with Hia Primary school.

It is our hope that in the next edition, you will be reading about testimonies from children who are benefiting from the library.



St. Cecilia's School donating books for the library



The library building in development

## Update on the J. Bedu LA Primary School in Daffor-Awudome

*By Penny Sewell*

Readers of the last newsletter showed great interest in this project. As a reminder, in memory of my late husband, Joe Bedu, I do my best to support the school in his village in the Volta Region. Our project was to provide funds for the construction of some Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pit toilets (KVIPs) for this school of some 400 students who had NO TOILETS.

Thanks to the generosity of many friends and the great help of Ghana School Aid, I was able to send £3300 to the team in Daffor, and they have had a set of six paired cubicles built, 3 for the girls and 3 for the boys. They are due to be in active service in December 2010. The KVIPs may seem expensive, but one has to remember

that the cost of cement has gone through the roof in Ghana. The project did employ a professional builder, but he was supported by a lot of voluntary work given by the local community.

Prior to that, with funding from the J. Bedu Memorial Fund, a Day Care Centre was started up. The original plan was for an intake of some 12 toddlers. The reality is very different. 63 children are now enrolled in the Day Care Centre. 20 of those were to be promoted to Kindergarten 1, leaving 43, still a large number. The staff have decided to divide them into a morning group and an afternoon group. Demand is very high, as you see, but the premises consist of a shell of a building with major features still to be completed: proper roof, window frames, a door, a proper floor. There is no storage space and no hygiene facilities either.



The KVIPs



Such was the generosity of friends who got to know about the J. Bedu School, and thanks to GSA for enabling us to reclaim the tax at 28p in the pound, there is some money still available for the school. The team on the ground, consisting of Grace who is general overseer and treasurer, Salomey who is the deputy head teacher, and the committee made up of Mr. Kunu, the head teacher and several village elders, has met and decided that we should now turn our attention to the Day Care Centre. There is a little over £1500 available for them at present, and I have asked for a precise estimate of costs for at least completing the Day Care Centre. Once that comes, and with GSA help, I will send the money to them. We can thus see the numbers of young children coming up to school age. As a result, the Local Authority is building a block with six new classrooms in the school. Our little village school seems to be expanding very fast.

With Jo Hallett's help, I was able to send a set of laminated picture cards to Salomey, for use as teaching aids. She says she is making good use of them, and, come January, I'll get to work and print and laminate some more for her.

I've also purchased 3 really nice children's CDs from [www.kidslyrics.co.uk](http://www.kidslyrics.co.uk). I'll laminate the nursery rhyme lyrics for them, and one of the CDs has an accompanying book. The problem is how to play the CDs in premises with no electricity. Is there such a thing as a wind-up CD player? I must find out.

## **Visit to Aburaso Methodist Primary School May 2010**

***By Judith Clucas [A teacher at Oakfield Primary School, Rugby]***

This was my second visit to Aburaso, with a colleague who was there for the first time. The aims of the visit were:

- to share our culture's poetry,
- exchange our cultural ideas on Respect,
- the use & importance of water
- keeping fit, healthy and having fun.

As usual, we were made to feel so very welcome and straight away were taken for a site visit. It was frustrating to see how the new classrooms were still incomplete, mainly due to inflated prices for materials and labour and consequently lack of funding. We had taken some gifted money and after lots of negotiating with builders by one of the staff, secured several deliveries of materials plus two tankers of water. We witnessed the completion of the final classroom having the floor laid, plus two verandas on either side of the new classroom block being laid. The doors and windows were measured up and we hoped this would happen soon so that the building would be secure.

Rugby Rotary clubs had raised funds to enable the school to have clean drinking water by having a well sunk. This was only possible due to Rotary International in Chicago matching the monies already raised. However, half an hour before the deadline, they withdrew the offer and so the signatures and contacts we had made on our visit were all to no avail. This left us with a shortfall of £6,000.

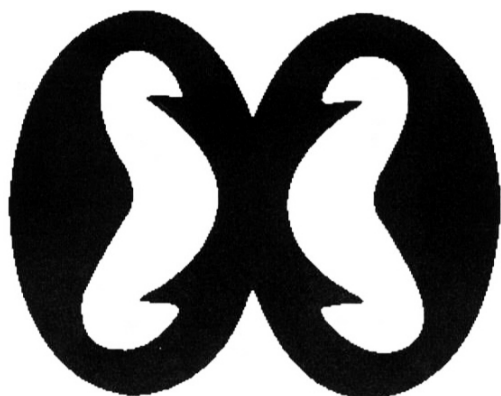
This has been so disappointing for Aburaso School, Rugby Rotary Club, Oakfield Primary

School, as well as for Rotarian Eric in Ghana as he is a geologist and a past pupil of the previous head teacher of Aburaso school and was going to oversee the project.

In the light of this unfortunate situation, Rugby Rotary Clubs are searching for other opportunities to make up the difference. Oakfield Primary School pupils have pledged to raise £1000 by Christmas and have already raised £750. It is imperative it is raised as soon as possible, due to the prices being forever on the increase. [Over £1000 was in fact successfully raised by the school. Ed.]

Putting all the above aside, it did not prevent us having an amazingly busy week, full of fun and celebrations e.g. John Wesley Day and Ghana International day. We worked with all eight hundred pupils having lots of fun introducing and sharing with them skipping techniques, rhymes, hoola- hooping, poetry reading, environmental art, but mostly a sense of community and shared pride that our respective schools have for one another.

My hope is that on my third visit, their classroom block will be completely finished and the well installed, enabling them to have one of the most precious commodities of all CLEAN WATER!



## **Community radio: Sandema's latest educational project**

***By Patrick Heinecke, trustee, Sandema Educational Resource Centre***

I began living and working in Sandema in 1994. It was a sleepy, obscure village where people knew very little about the world outside. All that has changed. 31st March 2008 saw the inauguration of Radio Builsa 106.5 FM, Voice to the Voiceless. It has gone from strength to strength and confounded those sceptics who saw it as some castle in the air.

From 5.00am to 10.00pm every day, twenty volunteers operate the radio station which has become the region's most powerful change-agent, transmitting to over a million listeners. Essentially interactive, it gives ordinary people, 90% of whom are rural, the chance to express views, discuss public affairs and be part of public decision-making, thus strengthening accountability and good governance by playing a watchdog role and promoting human rights.

Every aspect of culture and community is openly explored:- agriculture, environment, public health, sanitation, funeral rites, personal hygiene, local government, school drop-outs, forced marriages, sexual and reproductive behaviour. By means of discussions, debates and phone-ins, the public are not passive listeners. They are active participants in social change. A critical and enquiring awareness has evolved particularly in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria, maternal/child mortality and illiteracy. Light relief and entertainment are provided by a huge range of local and international music presented by lively and humorous D.J's.

For three hours daily Radio Builsa is linked via



satellite to BBC Focus on Africa and City FM, a lively, highly professional radio station in Accra, providing up to date news on current affairs, nationally and globally.

However, the project is expensive: monthly running costs exceed 800 cedis while income from adverts and announcements is a mere 200 cedis. So we still rely heavily on the generosity of donors.

The people of Builsa are no longer “fish in a well.” Their radio station has transformed lives by creating a more knowledgeable, critical and socially aware population. And that’s what education is all about.

***The following is a contribution from Dominic, one of the DJs on Radio Builsa.***

My name is Dominic Achinkok, I am currently a Community Nutrition student at the University for Development Studies in Tamale. Most prefer to call me Websy because that is my nick-name when I’m on air. I have worked as a pioneer for Radio Builsa since 2008 in the areas of Disc Jockeying, News Writing and Reading as well as Community Programming. Reggae, Hip Hop, Hiplife and Jazz are the types of music that I listen to. My dream is to be an urologist. I’m proud of Radio Builsa 106.5 FM because it is the voice of the poor and deprived.



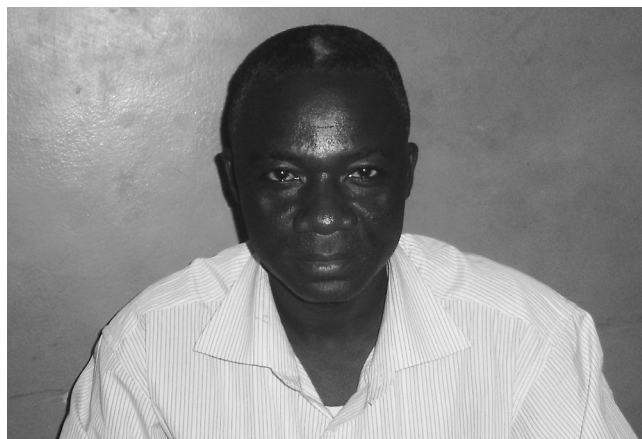
**Dominic Achinkok**

**A letter from our representative in Northern Ghana**

***By Alhassan Salifu Baako***

I am Alhassan Salifu Baako, a headteacher of a Junior High School. I live and work in Tamale, the capital town of the Northern Region of Ghana. I am also the GSA coordinator in the region. Some of the roles I play here for GSA are that; I visit schools in Tamale and also under-privileged schools in the remote parts of the region to identify the problems of the school. After discussing it with the headteacher and other stakeholders I find out where GSA can be of help and send a proposal and recommendation with details of the school, usually through Sue Hewlett for support.

I have visited many schools but schools whose proposals have reached GSA are Kanvilli Tawfikiya JHS - my school. We were assisted with a gift of 500 pounds with which we bought a printer and four computers to enhance teaching and learning of ICT. [See Helen Niven’s account above.] Nawuni RC Primary, a remote school, was linked to Stutton Primary in UK and correspondence between the two schools has started well by the role I play; also the school would soon get support from GSA to also buy computers to teach and learn ICT for the



**Alhassan Salifu Baako**

first time in the school. Plans for that are far advanced as GSA has approved the support and the community too have now finished with the electricity issues which was the main problem there. [GSA has awarded £300 to Nawuni school. Ed.] Another school called Zagyuri Anglican Primary is also facing additional classroom problems for the primary six class and GSA have approved the support of that one too. [£1000 has been agreed. Ed.] Ganvuliga Primary, another remote school had their building collapsed for three years now and a proposal was sent to GSA but with that one no approval yet, These are a few of the schools I have dealt with on behalf of GSA in the North.

Generally the Northern region is considered under privileged in terms of natural resources; it is also a place where the illiteracy rate is very high in the country. The main occupation here is farming, about 70% of the people are peasant farmers who farm once in a year for lack of irrigation. They depend solely on rain - as a result they earn low incomes and most of them cannot properly care for their children in school.

Major problems confronting basic schools especially in the remote villages are classrooms, portable drinking water and how to retain teachers in the schools for lack of conducive accommodation for teachers who are posted there to teach, and in the town schools too, practicalising the teaching and learning of ICT is a big problem due to lack of the facility in the schools. Sending and retaining of the girl-child in school is another problem especially in the peri-urban schools. Many children walk between 3-8km to school as they have no bicycles. This causes some girls to drop out since they cannot combine it with their daily chores without getting to school late.

These are a few of the challenges confronting our schools in Northern Ghana. Thank you.

## **GSA's website is relaunched**

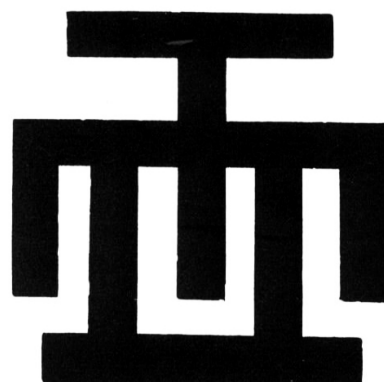
***By Anna M. MacDougall***

The updated GSA website is now ready. Many thanks to Philip Cunningham who has designed the site. It is set up to allow everyone who's interested to contribute or edit it directly without any technical skills.

This means news and developments can be posted online and made accessible to everyone quickly - there's no need to wait for the annual newsletter to be delivered to find out about events etc.

Please have a look at the site and add your comments.

<http://www.ghanaschoolaid.org/>



# ACCOUNTS 01/04/2010 - 31/12/2010

## Treasurer's Report 19th January 2011

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

	£ (2010)		£ (1987-2010)
	Subtotals	Totals	Totals
<b>INCOME:</b>			
Regular Donations (mainly standing orders):		£2,191.40	
Donations additional to regular gifts			
Following the appeal with the Newsletter & Lunch notice, most of which are Gift Aided	£2,145.00		
Donation in memory of R.Bennett	£5,500.00	£7,645.00	
"Memories" donation		£20.00	£2,102.74
Donations to J. Bedu Memorial Fund		£760.00	£3,355.00
Donation from the Morel Trust		£500.00	
In memory of Robert G. Mares		£82.50	
In memory of John Whittingham		£140.00	
COIF Interest (for 3 quarters at 0.52%)		£59.86	
Lunch (2010) bookings	£837.00		
& accompanying donations:	£120.00		
Less cost of venue & food	£714.20	£242.80	
<b>TOTAL INCOME (01/03 – 31/12/2009):</b>		<b>£11,641.56</b>	<b>£169,511.37</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>			
J. Bedu Memorial Fund (School toilets 1 <sup>st</sup> stage)		-£3,000.00	
Let's Read (N. Ghana Prim Sch Support)		-£1,000.00	
Sawla Vocational School (N. Ghana)		-£1,000.00	
Okwapemman School (Whitstone School)		-£400.00	
Sandema Educational Resource Centre		-£1,000.00	
Salifu Baako (GSA Rep. In Tamale) expenses		-£50.00	
Newsletter      Printing (including discount)	-£225.00		
Envelopes	-£17.95		
Postage	-£112.34	-£355.29	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE:</b>		<b>-£6,805.29</b>	<b>-£146,262.58</b>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>£4,836.27</b>	<b>£23,248.79</b>
<b>BALANCE OF FUNDS at 31/12/2010:</b>			
COIF Deposit Fund:	£17,027.43		
NatWest Current Account	£6,221.36	<b>£23,248.79</b>	



## OBITUARIES

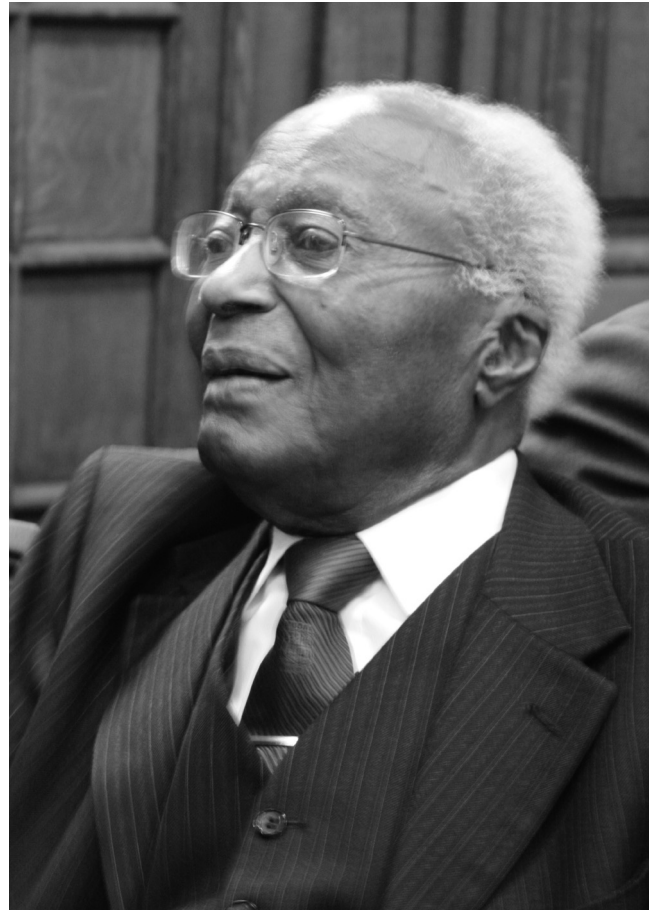
### Francis L Bartels 1910-2010

*By Jennifer MacDougall*

Dr FL Bartels, affectionately known as FLB, was the inspirational Headmaster of Mfantsipim School, Cape Coast, from 1949 to 1961. He was born in Cape Coast to Agnes Mensah and Charles Henry Bartels who was a law clerk and later a Methodist Minister. After attending Mfantsipim Secondary School and Wesley College, FLB won a scholarship to take up undergraduate studies at Westminster College and King's College University of London in 1931.

In 1935 Dr Bartels joined the staff of Mfantsipim, overlapping briefly with Headmaster RA Lockhart who inspired him to identify a mission and follow it. In 1940 he married Ellen Phillips with whom he had five children. After a period as acting Headmaster, FLB again left for London in 1946 to take the Teachers' Diploma Course at London University Institute of Education followed by a Masters Degree. In 1948/9 he was fellow and lecturer at the Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham. In October 1949 Dr Bartels returned to Mfantsipim as Headmaster.

During his tenure as Headmaster Mfantsipim grew both academically and physically to become one of the premier secondary schools in Ghana. Many additional facilities were added to the school and the Sixth Form was started. Apart from improvements in academic success, other areas were expanded including drama which Dr Bartels encouraged as an integral part of the education process. By 1961 the school had a multiracial multid denominational staff of men and women. FLB had the admiration and respect of both pupils and staff and inspired



**Dr FL Bartels 1910 - 2010**

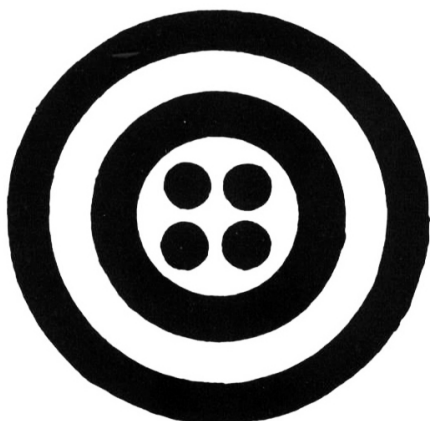
all with his leadership and personality. Indeed such was the strength of their feelings, that the Old Mfantsipimfo of 1958/60 erected a bust to Dr Bartels in the school grounds in 1998 as a permanent memorial to his great influence on their lives.

As a member of the Methodist Synod FLB worked hard for the Church and played a critical role in the establishment of an autonomous Ghana Methodist Conference in 1961. Also in that year FLB took up an appointment with the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), becoming Head of the Africa Division in 1964. He became Advisor on Education in Africa and then Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the University College of Nairobi.

In 1970 his friend Dr KA Busia, then Prime Minister of Ghana, invited him to become Ghana's Ambassador to Germany. This was cut short in 1972 by the coup led by Colonel Acheampong. Dr Bartels retired to concentrate on research and writing from his home in Paris where he lived with his second wife, Monika, whom he married in 1976. Among his published works is his volume of memoirs *The Persistence of Paradox*, (www.lulu.com, 2009 revised edition). Among many honours, FLB was awarded the OBE in 1956 for his contribution to education in Ghana, and the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Ghana in 1998. The FL Bartels Education Foundation was established to honour his memory and continue his aspirations for the pursuit of excellence in education.

We extend our sincere condolences to his widow, Monika Bartels and his daughters and son – Mrs Agnes Aggrey-Orleans, Mrs Carlien Bartels-Melamu, Mrs Wilhelmina Cummings-Palmer, Dr Francis L Bartels Jr, and Mrs Margaret-Reid Laryea, and all the family. As the past pupils of Mfantsipim inscribed on their memorial bust to Dr Bartels:

***He sought to make us greater than himself.***



## **Tribute**

***by Barbara Roddick***

### **FLB**

(From the expatriate tribe of the '50s)

Brave man, committed, resolute,  
Unprejudiced, wise, just,  
How shall we speak of you?

You had a vision  
We were privileged to share.  
Knowledge for all. From each  
What he could give, to each  
What was his need.

We came, young, strange and callow,  
Yet you trusted us  
And we kept faith,  
For there was that in you  
Which nurtured faith.  
So the vision became reality.

And would you overpay us  
With your gratitude?  
Friend, we were proud  
To play our little part  
In your great venture.

We will not presume  
To praise you,  
Only to give thanks  
For thanks are infinite.



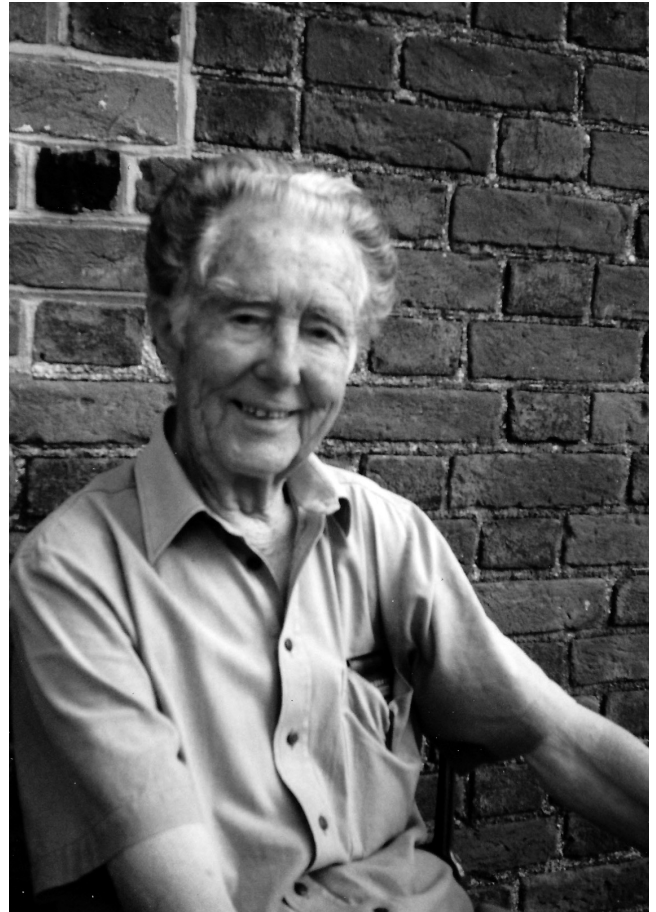
## ROBERT MARES 1918 - 2010

*By Eric Earle*

Robert Mares, who died on 20 April 2010, was a distinguished Veterinary Officer who served in the Gold Coast / Ghana between 1952 and 1961 and then went on to do important work in Malawi. He was Veterinary Officer in Navrongo at first and then Principal V O in Accra, Kumasi and Pong Tamale. In these posts he was responsible, inter alia, for rinderpest eradication, planning and implementing the development of Pong Tamale Field Station, organising the regional devolution of veterinary services and establishment of the first field services for the Ashanti Region, clinical and racehorse work in Accra and Kumasi based on the Turf Clubs. He published a number of papers on his work, eg “The Doping of Racehorses”, “The Colonial Veterinary Service”, “Nomadism and Livestock Development in Africa South of the Sahara”.

A varied scene indeed, aspects of which he vividly described in his chapter in “Gold Coast and Ghana Memories” including his account of meeting the then Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah and treating his Alsatian. Other entertaining accounts, outside his professional / official work are of being electoral returning officer in the Bolgatanga district in the 1956 Elections before Independence; and taking part as Cassius in the British Council Players production of Julius Caesar (was this “type-casting”? Robert was certainly lean but I doubt if he was hungry!) Pam Lewis recalls this production and also remembers Robert’s care for their cats when the Lewises went on leave, including treating and curing one that got badly injured.

Robert’s and my paths did not cross in Ghana



**Robert Mares 1918 - 2010**

though we were there at the same time and both in Accra during Independence. Robert refers to the Independence celebrations where Stanley Anthony, Denis Trussler and I were involved in organising school-children parades. He also refers to the beautiful South African Genoveva Marais in the context of the British Council Players, where she caught Kwame Nkrumah’s eye.

Robert continued his distinguished career in Malawi and Botswana. He had a wide range of interests and gained his private pilot’s license at the age of 53 becoming an experienced pilot in several African countries, the UK and Australia. He also completed a BA in African History at SOAS in 1995.

Robert and his wife Mavis attended some of the

early Reunion Lunches in the late 1980s and Robert became a regular attender and supporter of GSA. The original 1986 Reunion was attended mainly by Education people, but GSA soon included other groups - I think Robert was our only Vet! He may have been recruited by Madge Claxton as they owned flats in the same block in North London for some years. We shall miss his company at annual reunions and value his support over the years.

## **John Whittingham 1929-2010**

*By Eric Earle*

John, who died on 6 August after a short illness, was the first Treasurer of the GSA Trust and served for over 17 years before handing over to Stanley Anthony on 1 April 1994; he then continued as Trustee and Committee member, continuing to attend meetings until the last year or two when travel into London became difficult for him. He attended the first Reunion in 1986 and then became involved with the small group which planned the setting up of the Trust: Brice Bending, Warren Shaw, John and myself, soon joined by Madge Claxton and Pam Lewis. As a former member of the Colonial / Overseas Audit Service and the Finance Officer of the Association of Commonwealth Universities he was the ideal person to set up and handle the finances, arranging our account at the Tavistock Square branch of the NatWest Bank, conveniently close to his office.

John was born in Leicestershire but grew up in Yorkshire and (according to his daughter) became in later life “a professional Yorkshireman”, perhaps regretting that he was not qualified by birth to play cricket for Yorkshire. Maybe this was why he took up golf



**John Whittingham 1929 - 2010**

enthusiastically; and it was part of JW's contrary character that he cheered on Wales, or whoever else was playing England at rugby and was a member of the Glamorgan Welsh Society in Kenya!

He was educated at Bradford Grammar School and Selwyn College Cambridge where he rowed for the college and graduated with a degree in American History - thence to Africa and the Audit Service. Truly an all-round man.

John and I first met in August 1952 when we shared a cabin on the Elder Dempster Line's m.v. Accra, bound for Takoradi and Lagos via Freetown; John to take up office as an Assistant Auditor and I as one of six new Education Officers, all appointed by the then Colonial Office to work for the Gold Coast Government until

retirement on pension at age 50 (until Kwame Nkrumah and the course of history stepped in!). One of my memories of that voyage was going ashore at Freetown escorted by John's Cambridge friend Arthur Porter, who showed us round (later Professor and Vice-Chancellor of both Nairobi and Fourah Bay universities - he was John's guest at one of the Annual Lunches). John was posted to Accra and I to Cape Coast; we met occasionally during that first tour and the subsequent one.

However, after 3 years John accepted a transfer to the Gambia and subsequently to Kenya, where he and Barbara were married and their daughter Kathryn was born. We lost touch but met again some 20 years later when we were both working close to the Senate House in Bloomsbury. John kept up his lifetime enthusiasm for Africa (in her address at John's funeral, Kathryn referred to her father often saying that his time in Africa had been the happiest of his life); and although only the first three years had been in Ghana (still then, the Gold Coast) he retained the affection which led him into supporting the formation of GSA.

At committee meetings (and John rarely missed one) he could be relied on for the voice of commonsense when various proposals were under discussion and he was very concerned that the main purpose of the Trust (to assist schools in Ghana especially in rural areas) should be adhered to. At the same time, he could always be relied upon for an entertaining anecdote about aspects of his time in Ghana (and Kenya) which added greatly to the enjoyment of our meetings. We miss his valuable contributions both as Treasurer and in general support of the work of GSA.

Eric Cunningham and Anne and Stanley Anthony were able to attend John's funeral on behalf of all his friends in GSA. The tribute delivered by his daughter Kathryn (of whose career as a university administrator, now at the University of New South Wales, he was very proud) gave the full flavour of John Whittingham the family man, the lover of Africa, the provider of anecdotes for all occasions - we shall miss him.

## **Vera Tregidgo**

Vera Tregidgo, widow of Philip, died on January 30th 2011. GSA members Eric and Auriol Earle and Eric Cunningham attended her funeral in Portsmouth on 18 February, at which her elder son Stephen gave a moving address about Vera's life. Philip and Vera attended the first Ghana reunion in 1986.

A tribute to Vera will appear in the next issue.

[Stephen Tredidgo wrote a fascinating article for the 2007/08 Newsletter about four generations of the family working in Ghana].

## **Lyn Skinner**

Lyn Skinner, another founder member of GSA, died peacefully at home on March 20 2011. He will also be sadly missed.

A tribute to Lyn will be included in the next issue.



## LETTER OF THANKS

**Jemima Ohenewa Essien,  
Abonse Presby Basic School,  
Adukrom-Akuapem**

[Abonse Presby Basic School is linked with St Michael's Primary School in Figheldean. GSA awarded Abonse a grant of £2050 in 2009 towards the construction of new classrooms as described in Letitia Boateng's article in the 2009/2010 newsletter.]

Our link with St Micheal Primary School started about 4 years ago and has been very successful.

Some of the benefits from the school link is the successful Sponership of the successful student from our school.

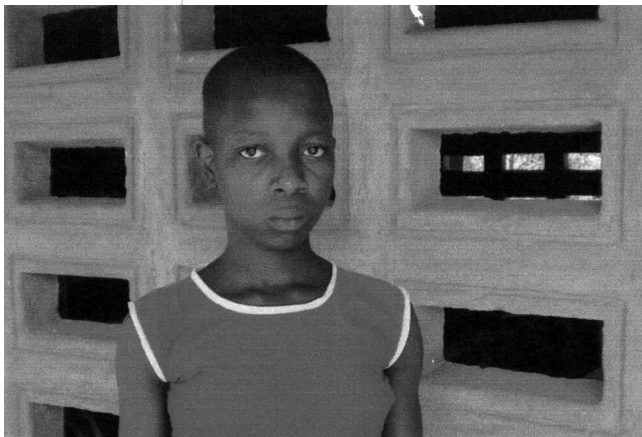
We also undertook a global gardening project I learnt that some of the crops takes different time to mature. Cassawa is cultivated using the stem cutting and before you plant you have to dig a hole.

In fact I like how the people of St. Micheal <sup>Primary</sup> ~~Community~~ School do their school garden.

Through this link we had gotten some sewing machines for the Vocational Centre to learn sewing.

We were not having enough class rooms but through the link we have gotten enough classrooms for us to learn.

I love my school and I love the link.



Essien Jemima Ohenewa  
Abonse Presby Basic School  
J.H.S one

## BOOKS & EXHIBITIONS

### Taking it with you!

An interesting recent exhibition in London highlighted the work of Ghanaian artist Paa Joe who makes sculpted coffins. The coffins take many different forms from a golden eagle to a Mercedes Benz, a Ghana Airways jet and a cocoa pod. Paa Joe, from the Akwapim hills north-east of Accra, was apprenticed to Kane Kwei who is credited with beginning the 20th century tradition of figurative coffins. Each coffin reflects the interests or trade of the person for whom it was made and are considered a manifestation and indeed an affirmation of life.

The coffins hark back to traditional burial rituals and pre-colonial West African sculpture. Whole communities come together to pay for the

coffins which also act as a status symbol for the deceased. Paa Joe's coffins are held in museums all over the world (including the British Museum).

The exhibition was held at the Jack Bell Gallery between November 2010 and January 2011. Further information and images are available at <http://www.jackbellgallery.com/paajo.html>

***Review by Jennifer MacDougall***



The artist Paa Joe (photo credit - Guy Lowndes)



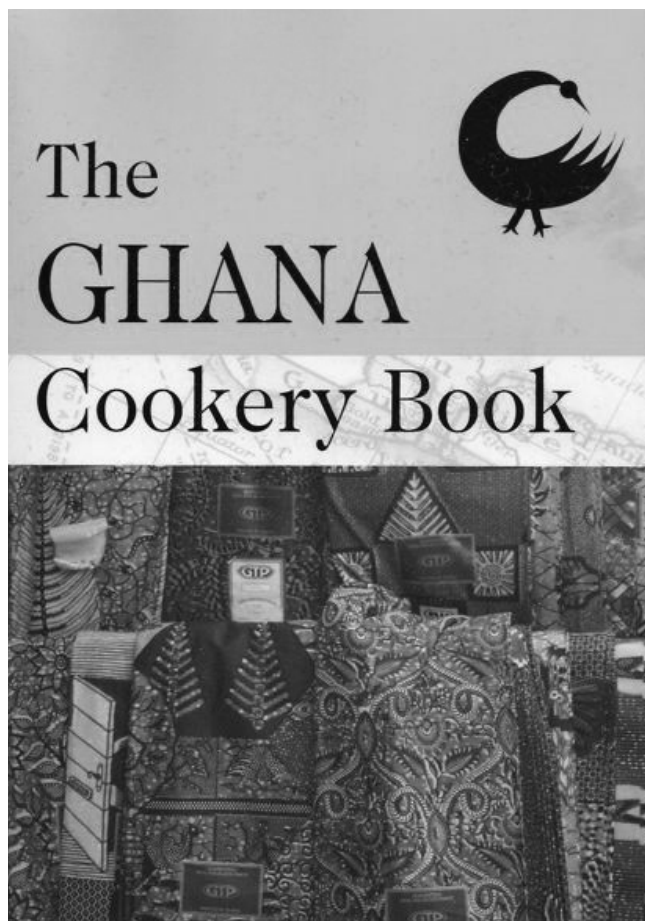
Taking it with you exhibition (photo credit - Guy Lowndes)

## **The Ghana Cookery Book**

***Edited by David Saffery. 2007,  
Jeppestown, £10.50***

The title of this book is misleading; it should properly be called *The Gold Coast Cookery Book*, for it is a reprint of a collection of recipes compiled in 1933 by the Gold Coast Branch of the British Red Cross, printed in Accra and originally sold for two shillings.

All the contributors are expatriate women, responding to the challenge of offering a recipe using only local ingredients. The result is a wide-ranging and memory-provoking recipe book, its period flavour enhanced by a compendium of household hints and some contemporary advertisements, like that for a Morris Ten car on sale by CFAO in Accra.



There are some 90 contributions, all from expatriate wives, missionaries, or teachers, whose schools are Mfantshipim, Achimota, Krobo Girls' School and the Methodist Girls' High School. What is surprising are the number and locations of these expatriates, for example Salaga, Dunkwa, Yendi and Wenchi. This challenges the generally accepted view that pre-1945 there were in the Gold Coast relatively few expatriate wives, either of Government Officers or of those engaged in commerce and mining.

Nostalgia is well catered for in this book, and appetites will be stimulated, not least by the advice of Sister Antonia, of Keta, on how to improve her Currant Cakes “..after they are cold pour a little rum or brandy over the top”.

***Review by Eric Cunningham***

## **To Ghana with love**

***by Barbara Baddoo  
2008, [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)***

This memoir ranges from a childhood in pre-war London to life in the Gold Coast/Ghana over 50 years. Barbara Baddoo describes the initial emotional turmoil of falling in love with Michael while students at Cambridge, and the decision to marry when mixed marriages were very rare. The author describes the ups and downs of early married life in Ghana as a doctor's wife and the frequent moves this entailed. From dealing with her new in-laws to snakes in the garden, having five children and pursuing her own teaching career, she describes managing on a limited budget during difficult times and living in many parts of Ghana including Accra, Sekondi, Tamale, Yendi, Tarkwa, Saltpond, Ankaful and Ho. They retired to England for ten years, but then returned to Ghana in 1994 where Michael died



in 1996. Barbara finally came back to England in 2001 to live near family in Reading.

The book is a personal account which contains many references which will resonate with those who have lived in Gold Coast/Ghana during the last half of the twentieth century. Descriptions of domestic life are set against periods of political upheaval, cultural differences, and the challenges of bringing up children to be proud of both their British and Ghanaian heritage.

**Review by Jennifer MacDougall**

## **I remember it well: fifty years of Colonial Service personal reminiscences**

**edited by David Le Breton**

**2010, [www.librario.com](http://www.librario.com)**

This volume marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Overseas Service Pensioners' Association and comprises over 70 contributions from members edited by the Secretary of the Association. The articles cover a period from the 1920s relating to nineteen territories from Malaya to the Leeward Islands, and are grouped by subject ranging from administration to domestic life, sport and wildlife.

The greatest part of the book is concerned with touring, travel and transport "as members seem to have found their journeys among their most vivid and memorable experiences". Over 25 different occupations are represented but the editor makes the point that the collection is not a balanced representation of colonial service as a whole.

The majority of contributions come from those who worked in East Africa, not surprising as

the largest area of colonial government was located here. Nigeria is also well represented but 'Old Coasters' will be sorry to see only four articles dealing with the Gold Coast. However, Eric Cunningham's piece entitled *A learning experience* makes up in quality for what material about Ghana lacks in quantity. *Africa past and present* is by a former colonial officer in Northern Rhodesia, who writes an interesting article about aspects of colonialism. For a system so often vilified to be defended in this way makes for stimulating reading.

Overall the book provides a fascinating insight into the rich experience of those who worked in the Colonial Service.

**Review by Barbara Roddick and Jennifer MacDougall**

On the Fiftieth Anniversary of  
the Overseas Service Pensioners Association  
**The Colonial Service Remembers**

**I REMEMBER IT WELL**  
Fifty Years of Colonial Service Personal Reminiscences

Overseas Service  
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1960-2010  
Pensioners' Association

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## 1986 REUNION

1. Brice Bending & Tom Southern
2. Lyn Skinner
3. Warren Shaw, Dennis Trussler, John Whittingham & Elne Trussler
4. Ghanaian drummers and dancers with Eric & Auriol Earle
5. Margaret Glover, E.D. ('Robbie') Roberts & Bernard Carman
6. Tom Southern, Philip Tregidgo & Geoff Pitchford (Vera Tregidgo seated left)
7. Ghanaian drummers and dancers



# Ghana School Aid



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### **Newly relaunched website:**

[www.ghanaschoolaid.org](http://www.ghanaschoolaid.org)

## **Date For The Diary!**

The Ghana School Aid Annual General Meeting and lunch will be held on June 16th 2011 at John Adams Hall, 15 - 23 Endsleigh Street, London, WC1H 0DP. Coffee will start at 11am followed by the AGM at 11.30am and lunch at 1pm. Further details are available from Penny Sewell on 020 8444 5758.

Ghana School Aid is a registered UK Charity No. 299178  
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