

Ghana School Aid



2016



Ghana School Aid

1986 - 2016

A message from Ted Mayne, Chairman

This most recent Newsletter comes as we celebrate thirty years since the founding of the charity Ghana School Aid. Back in 1986 just 29 years after Independence, a group of former Gold Coasters decided to set up this small charity. The idea at the time was to provide assistance in a small way to schools, particularly in rural areas, which received little support from the authorities and struggled to provide education to struggling families. The charity continues in the same way. We have no paid personnel and all our work is provided voluntarily with many of the administrative costs met in the same way. As a consequence almost all funds go directly to our work in Ghana. Today we have a lively and active committee and two of our founder members namely Stanley Anthony and Eric Earle remain on our executive committee as active and enthusiastic as they were thirty years ago. We continue to welcome new blood and support from individuals. To date we have provided support to over 300 schools with grants totalling over £200,000. Throughout the thirty years our projects have been well monitored by our invaluable local representatives and by committee members who regularly pay visits to Ghana.



Photos from the 1986 Reunion

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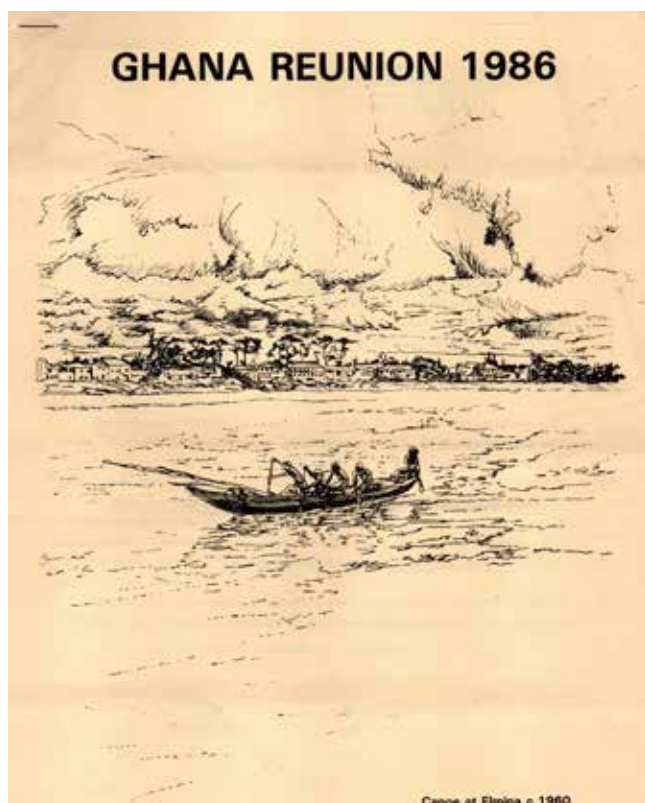
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Chairman's Report

Given to the AGM and Reunion Lunch
by Ted Mayne, 4 June 2015

At every AGM since I took over the chairmanship of Ghana School Aid I have said 'Where has the past year gone?' Time passes by so quickly, yet when we analyse the work of GSA we can see how far we have progressed. When we last met we were updated on the two schools in the Volta Region which are being closely monitored by Penny Sewell. We can see just how much progress both of them have made. From being little more than a couple of empty shells, the schools have taken shape and grown into centres of academic excellence. Our efforts have ensured a good education for so many and hopefully they will progress and take in even more pupils. The same can be said for the Hartley Trust Foundation School at Kasoa which we have supported for 15 years. We recently provided them with a new generator which means that lessons are guaranteed, even when the electricity supply fails.

One point on which I wish to put emphasis is the education of women in Ghana. We have always made an effort to channel our resources into projects where girls can benefit as well as boys. An ancient Ghanaian saying says 'A woman is the home and the home is the basis of society'. It is as we build our homes that we can build our country. If the home is inadequate – either inadequate in material goods and necessities or inadequate in the sort of friendly, loving atmosphere that every child needs to grow and develop – then that country cannot have harmony and no country which does not have harmony can grow in any direction at all. That is why women's education is as important as the education of males. Most, not all, countries



Top: Document from the 1986 Reunion
Above: Photos from the 2015 AGM

in the world have neglected women's education. Now there is a debate all over Africa whether the education we have is adequate for the needs of Ghanaian society and the young people's future. Ghana's system is not bad. It provides very fine men and women, especially scientists and experts in different fields who are in great demand all over the world and even in the most affluent countries. Many of Ghana's young people sadly leave and go abroad because they get better conditions of work. Take just one look at Germany which has more Ghanaian medical doctors that there are in the whole of Ghana. This needs to be changed. Now, for Ghana tomorrow to become what we want it to become with a modern, rational society and family based on what is good in their ancient traditions we have to have a thinking public, thinking young women who are not content to accept what comes from any part of the world, but are willing to listen to it, to analyse it and to decide whether it is to be thrown out, and this is the sort of education we want which enables our young people to adjust to this ever changing world and be able to contribute to it.

Our projects are few, but looking at a map of Ghana they are situated all over the country. From the Greater Accra Region across the areas close to the sea, to the Volta, Eastern Ghana and the Northern Districts, throughout we concentrate on providing the best education our limited funds can provide. But considering the restraints we face, we manage to do a good job. Having the likes of Patrick Heinecke, Jo Hallett, Kate Regan, Penny Sewell, Sue Hewlett, Mary Owusu and Letitia Boateng regularly visiting Ghana, these projects can be well monitored. We get up to date reports on all of them and full details are included on our website. In every project we see progress and I want to use

this opportunity to put emphasis on the work of Patrick Heinecke who is dedicated to the Sandema Project. This project is in the hot, dry region of Northern Ghana. Conditions there are not easy, but Patrick has persevered over the years to bring about a better life for so many. Here we have seen how he is trying to put women first and he has sown seeds in to what is fertile ground and we are beginning to see the results.

The next 12 months will be challenging, but we are all up for it, and our efforts will continue. There is no job that is too small. There is no person too small. What we want to do is to make a better world by putting into perspective Ghana's problems and the need of education for its people. In conclusion, I must thank you for all your help and support.

MESSAGE FROM MISS JOYCE AYREE, PNDC
SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION, TO FORMER TEACHERS
AND EDUCATION OFFICERS WHO SERVED IN THE
GOLD COAST/GHANA

I was touched when the Ghana High Commission informed me of the desire of past Education Officers to organise what I consider to be a unique reunion in the history of Ghana. Certainly I cannot recollect any sector of government whose past officials have exhibited such a moving spectacle of affection and genuine interest in so deep a manner and yet so far away. This to me is a reflection of the selflessness which characterised the service you rendered so many years ago but whose fruits we still enjoy.

While I have been in charge of the Ministry of Education, I have had the opportunity to appreciate even more, your individual and collective contributions to education in Ghana. In your days you did not only fill the gap of the shortfall in the full strength of the personnel we needed to man our educational institution and ensure formulation of the requisite policies, but also helped in the training of teachers whom you nurtured to take over from you, thus ensuring the continuity of the work you had started.

**Message from the Ghanaian Secretary for
Education on the occasion of the 1986 Reunion**

ANNIVERSARY APPEAL

by Penny Sewell

In this thirtieth anniversary year we will be supporting a special appeal for two schools in the Volta Region: the Cambridge-Bethel School is in dire need of building a 4-cubicle toilet block next to its new Junior High School block (estimated cost £2500). The LA Primary School in Daffor-Awudome, which now bears the name the Joe Bedu School after one of its sons who died in 2004, is appealing for funds to repair the badly damaged flooring in most of its classrooms and if possible connect some staff bungalows to the national grid (estimated cost £2500).

[Both these schools have recently been officially inspected and awarded grade A]

PAST ENDEAVOURS

by Eric Cunningham

[former GSA Committee Member]

The Pensioners' Association of the Overseas (formerly Colonial) Service, in conjunction with the University of London's Institute of Commonwealth Studies, has been running a series of conferences on the colonial legacy. The conferences have focused, for example, on the Parliamentary system, indirect rule, economic development, localisation of the civil service, and the part played by women. The programme's aim is documentation of the colonial legacy, to aid assessment of it now and in the future. Ghana School Aid supporters have been active in this endeavour, contributing conference papers that have been or will be published. In October 2012 Eric Cunningham gave a paper on Africanisation in the Gold Coast/Ghana civil service. Significantly, Africanisation was not the

product of preparing for independence, but was Government policy with a long history, initiated more than 40 years before independence came in 1957. Governor Clifford (1912-1919) wanted to make use of professional expertise, principally in medicine and law that had been acquired privately, and appointed several African medical officers and the first African Crown Counsel. His successor, Governor Guggisberg, best known as the founder of Achimota school, took Africanisation further, and it grew slowly but steadily until the post-war period, when it increased exponentially. At Independence Ghana had a civil service capable of supporting a Government understandably ambitious to develop the country in many ways. It is clear from conference papers given on localisation in other African colonies that the Gold Coast led in Africanisation by a very long way. One important factor in this was that its secondary schools, many long established, had provided people able to serve in the civil service. This contrasts greatly with some of the other colonies, where at the time of Ghana's independence in 1957 there were some where secondary education opportunities were extremely limited. What a contrast with the Gold Coast, where Achimota was founded in 1927! Lord Boateng spoke at the May 2013 conference on the Legacy of Empire. After papers offering perspectives from India, Africa, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean, his paper contributed to perspectives from the United Kingdom. He noted much in the legacy that was positive. The opening speaker at this conference also had a link with Ghana; he was Dr Kwesi Kwarteng, MP, born in London of Ghanaian parents.

At the most recent conference (October 2015) Lalage Bown and Auriol Earle spoke on the contributions that women have made in the



Auriol Earle, University of London, October 2015

colonies. Newsletter readers will recall that Lalage spoke of her work in Legon University's Extra-mural Department at the GSA lunch in 2013 (Newsletter 2013/14). Her career in university extra-mural education has been extensive, for she worked also in Uganda, Zambia and Nigeria. Though in some territories relations with British administrators were uneven, she was positive about those who worked in the Gold Coast, and positive too about the relationship between academics and the local communities. Wherever she worked she advocated women's education, and she remains particularly proud that no less than 80 of the 104 members of the Gold Coast Legislative Assembly were former extra-mural students.

Auriol spoke very entertainingly about her role as wife and mother in the years preceding and following Ghana's independence, times of tremendous change and challenge. Auriol was no stay-at-home, however, for she was soon asked to teach English at St Augustine's, Cape

Coast, and later at Adisadel. Moving to Ho, she found there was no school for her own children, so with the wife of a Dutch medic working with the World Health Organisation started to teach their children at home. This informal school quickly snowballed to include the children of teachers in the American College and of Ghanaian civil servants, and soon needed bigger premises. A two-classroom block was built for what had become the International School from funds provided by a small grant from the Regional Officer and from money raised through local community efforts. One of these was a production of *Macbeth*, in which Auriol played Lady Macbeth and a Ghanaian administrative officer played Macbeth. It was a memorable and hugely enjoyable event that did much to further community relations.

It may be noted that GSA is itself, in a way, a legacy from colonial endeavours. Its origin is the suggestion made at a re-union in 1986 of Colonial Service Education Officers, together with others involved in education in the Gold Coast/Ghana, that the positive energy and goodwill demonstrated at the re-union should be carried forward by an organisation to further the work that all at the re-union had contributed to (see Newsletter 2010-2011). Many of GSA's early supporters were retired Colonial Service officers, many of whom made generous donations. What matters, however, is not so much how GSA originated but how it is going forward. 2016 sees its thirtieth anniversary, and the evidence is that it is in good health, with a keen body of supporters and plenty of room for more, a positive balance sheet with funds continuing to provide support for Ghana schools in a variety of ways (evidenced by reports in this and previous Newsletters), and an active committee, firmly committed to pursuing GSA's aims.

MEMORIES OF GHANA – THEN AND NOW

by Keith Fisher

In 1960 I travelled to Ghana with my wife, Audrey, to take up a teaching post in Cape Coast on a three year contract and returned there as part of a group on a package tour in 2001. Had life in the country changed much in the intervening years?

Having taught for two years in the RAF doing my National Service followed by three years at Shakespeare's old school (KES Stratford-on-Avon), we decided we would like to see something of the world before settling down and having a family. In those days there was no such thing as a gap year, one had to earn to enable one to travel! We scoured the job vacancies in the Times Educational Supplement and Ghana was the only one of three countries to which we applied which was prepared to pay the fare out for both my wife and myself. After a briefing at

Farnham Castle in Surrey, by the organisation which appointed me, on life to be experienced in a tropical country, so it was in August 1960, with a new car in the hold, exported free of tax, that we embarked with some trepidation from Tilbury Docks in an Elder Dempster Line ship bound for Ghana.

The ship docked for a day in Madeira and then at Freetown, Sierra Leone before docking at Takoradi, in those days the main port. We were taken to Mfantshipim School, Cape Coast, where I was to be employed as a Biology teacher, working with John Hall under Sheila Haggis and assistant Housemaster of Freeman House under Ian Roddick. We were to live in a brand new two-storey house on the aptly-named "Matchbox Hill". We quickly settled down into the daily teaching routine, sports afternoons, the climate, the beach and the ex-pats club. Adjusting to the shopping, unusual foods and the local meat market took a little longer! In our first year we managed one long trek up through Kumasi and



Keith Fisher and Ian Roddick with Freeman House, Mfantshipim, 1961

Tamale as far as Ouagadougou, in what was the Upper Volta region, experiencing something of the varying climate, vegetation, wildlife, farming practices and way of life of the population.

Whether it was something to do with the climate or the food I cannot be sure, but our first child was born within a year of our arrival and the second one 18 months later! Another change in our life came when I was invited by John Drury to head up the Science Department at nearby Adisadel College. This was a fantastic experience for me, working with staff of different nationalities in laboratories well-funded by the Ghana Government. Another experience gained was in working with the newly-formed West African Educational Council to develop a Biology syllabus relevant to the experiences of local school children. When I arrived in Ghana we were expected to teach the Cambridge Local syllabus which included the buttercup as the standard specimen to study, together with the frog and dogfish as dissection specimens! This entailed going up to the local Wesley Girls High School at night, using torches to search for toads on their lush lawns, also trekking all the way across to Tema for dogfish!

We enjoyed our time in Ghana and made some life-long friends whilst there but, having had health problems with one of our children, decided not to renew our contract at the end of the three years. We settled back to life in England.....

In 2001, in the company of two of the friends we had made at Adisadel, Tony & Dinah Cooper, we decided to undertake a two-week package tour back to Ghana to see how the country had changed 40 years on. The tour, which began in Accra, consisted of 10 people with a guide



Three christenings, including the Cooper and Fisher babies, Adisadel College Chapel, 1963

and driver in a minibus. After a night there we explored the city with our guide, initially cashing in our travellers' cheques for wads of low-denomination cedis, visiting firstly Independence Square and the National Museum then through the bustling market area. We were impressed by the modern buildings which had sprung up into this now thriving city and its new road system which still retained its original character of transport chaos with the colourful buses, lorries and Mammy wagons, not to mention the traders! The next day we set off west heading for the Volta where we boarded a pirogue for a trip up the river to Sogakope. As we travelled up the Volta we were reminded of our visit to the Akosombo Dam which, in the early 1960's, was still under construction.

National Parks had not been established in our days in Ghana, although we knew that parts of the country were habitats for a variety of mammals in addition to monkeys. Now there are a number of such parks. At Mole the government has provided very attractive accommodation with tours guided by range wardens. This together, with other developments, has contributed to Ghana now being an established tourist venue. We enjoyed going out on foot tracking elephants and antelope in the early morning and seeing

and hearing something of the colourful bird life there.

Kumasi has developed considerably since we visited it in 1961 and was most impressive, but one thing which is still as vibrant and chaotic as ever was the vast market either side of the rail track and the mass of honking horns of the traders' vehicles: Jesus Still Reigns and God is Good! Travelling on from there we were impressed to see that many of the roadside villages now had piped water to a village pump and, whilst most of the huts still had corrugated iron roofs, the electronic age had reached out across the countryside as evidenced by the radio aerials and television dishes attached to them. Bicycles were much more in evidence too.

Elsewhere, we were shown other local industries such as weaving kente cloth, tapping rubber trees, production of fufu and distillation of alcohol – all of which were familiar to those of us in the party who were former residents. Similarly, the history of the castles, Elmina in particular. One final eye-opener for us was the visit to Nzulezu stilt village to which we travelled through the marshes in damp dug-out canoes – certainly the most scary of our adventures – to see how this small community of farmers eke out an existence and lived on the lagoon in stilted houses connected by precarious walkways made of reeds.

So it was, on our 14th day we made for Cape Coast, the town now with a thriving university and still with the prestigious secondary schools. Free to roam the town again we visited both Mfantshipim School and Adisadel College to see where we had lived and worked in the early 1960's. The pupils at Adisadel were on holiday, but we thought we should explain to the Head,

if he was in, why we were prowling around. A knock on the door, the incumbent opened and immediately he said to me "I know you, you taught me Biology in the First Form!" Time flies!

Returning to Accra, then on to the plane home we had time to reflect on so many memories of our brief life in Ghana. Of journeys made, situations experienced, children born and christened, friends we had made, both European and Ghanaian, the cheerful Ghanaian people. Having met one former pupil who had obviously done well, I began to wonder what might have happened to others whom I had taught. How many of them might now, 40 years on, be in responsible positions contributing to the country's progress? We were impressed by the modernisation which had happened, the way the country had thrived since the days of oppression following on from becoming a republic. Ghana is a colourful and happy country which makes visitors welcome and is now an established tourist destination.



Keith (left) with the Coopers in Ghana, 2001

NEWS AND PROJECTS

Ghana Report

by Chloe Earle

[Chloe is the granddaughter of two of our founders, Eric and Auriol Earle]

During my stay in Ghana in the summer of 2014 I was lucky enough to be given contacts through my grandparents and Ghana School Aid which meant that not only could my parents sleep slightly more soundly at night knowing I was being looked after but also that I got to become truly immersed in Ghanaian life; from dancing in church to eating fufu for breakfast! I stayed in a village called Abonse, courtesy of Letitia Boetang and her family, who cooked me some wonderful Ghanaian dishes and showed me life around the village. I taught in the local school and met the teachers who told me all about teaching in Ghana. My grand-parents' good friends the Ohenes housed me during my stay in Accra where I spent time in their beautiful newly built nursery. I was able to visit the University Kofi Ohene attended and we spent time in the botanical gardens where we saw cocoa plants and more dancing locals.

I am eternally grateful to all those who took care of me in Ghana and I still feel inspired and in awe of many elements of their fascinating culture. The country was so full of happiness, warmth, music and energy and I learnt so much from my stay. I strongly hope that one day I can return.

The crowning of the new chief - my first morning in Abonse was an interesting one. I was woken at 6am to a crowd of singing and cheering Ghanaians parading their new chief up and

down the hill on their shoulders. This rare sight would have been the first in thirty years and was a truly spectacular welcome to the village and to Ghanaian life. They carried on the singing late into the morning and even sacrificed a goat to show respect to the new chief.



Crowning the new chief

During religious education the students sing, pray and dance in their classrooms - a very different experience from my own religious education in an English classroom! The energy, passion and happiness of the students was infectious and despite not being brave enough to do a solo I was persuaded to take part in the chorus (and some very amateur dancing).



Religious education class

The warmth, kindness and generosity that I experienced from every single person I met in Ghana was overwhelming and I left with the certainty that I would one day go back. The country is full of sunshine and I want to thank

each and every Ghanaian that I met and that looked after me; it meant so much and is a trip I will never forget.



Chloe and friends in Ghana

Hia Community Library Project Update

by Rita De-Graft

The Hia Community Library Project is located at Hia in the Ashanti region of Ghana. The project, which commenced in earnest in December 2007 with initial funds of 600 GH cedis raised by the Hia community, and £1000 donated by Ghana School Aid UK, has taken longer than expected to complete. Since its initial inception from an International Organisation for Migration (IOM) funded Needs Assessment visit to the village in 2007, many exciting partnerships have been formed, all in a bid to secure funds and resources to complete the project which is expected to impact on the learning achievement of underprivileged school children at Hia and its surrounding villages. It has been eight years of advocacy and collaboration championed by Rita De-Graft and Mrs Mary Owusu on a voluntary basis; making frequent visits to Hia and engaging all funding partners and the local library committee and the community to see the project to its fruition. The project has progressed albeit

slowly. Some members of the funding partners have had the opportunity to visit the project and have been impressed with the progress made so far. A heartfelt appreciation goes to all the partners who have made this vision a reality.

In May and October 2015, Rita De-Graft made a follow up visit to the project. As shown in the photos, the project is almost complete. The local Library project Committee, led by two Teachers; Mr Nimako and Mr. Awuah, are working on the furnishings, namely shelves, tables, chairs and minor finishes to the building. The estimated cost for the remaining works stands at £1,850.00. The first step in meeting the overall aim of the library will be the opening of the library for use by the school children from Hia and its surrounding villages. The next challenge will be running and monitoring its operation and sustaining it in the long term. Thank you GSA for your continued support. Together we are making an impact on the development of the Hia Community.



Hia Community Library - almost complete

New Desks for Kanvilli Tawfikiya

by Jo Hallett

In June [2015], a lovely surprise! – an email from Kate Vause, a teacher in Lincoln, telling us that she and her partner, Martin Barrow, were about to undertake a major physical challenge, collecting sponsor money for Ghana School Aid. They were taking part in the Great North Swim in Lake Windermere, and then climbing Helvellyn the very next day! After a British Council visit to Cape Coast in 2014, they wanted to help schools in Ghana - and they found GSA on Just Giving! They raised £500. At our last meeting, we agreed to use the money to help Baako to get desks made for Kanvilli Tawfikiya Junior High School.

In November 2015 I went to Lincoln to talk to the pupils in the Duke of Edinburgh's award group at Lincoln UTC [University Training College], to tell them about Ghana and about the donation to Kanvilli Tawfikiya school. I was able to show them Baako's pictures of the process of making, transporting and marking the desks for the school. He has been brilliant at providing photos and the information I needed to talk to this group.



L-R: Martin Barrow, Kate Vause and Jo Hallett

In his thank you letter, Martin wrote: "I'm confident that between the four of us we have managed to sow the seeds of both compassion and competition amongst the students and no doubt there will be many hours spent devising imaginative ways of fund raising."



Students wait for their sorely needed new desks



The desks being transported



The desks are marked with school name and GSA

Wechiau Community Library

by Jo Hallett

[GSA has been supporting this innovative project near Wa in the Upper West Region since 2012 – see Newsletters 2013-14 and 2015]

This is the introduction from their recent application to GSA:

“Wechiau Community Library is the first ever Fixed and Mobile Library Service provider in Ghana. It was started by Frank Akowuge Dugasseh as a means of reducing illiteracy in the Upper West Region because less than 9% of children in primary schools can read and understand while 73.4 % of the population aged 15 years or older is not literate in any language. Frank started the Mobile Library Service (MLS) in Ghana with 5 old story books on a bicycle in 2007 with funding coming from his National Service allowance.

Currently, the library serves over 800 children including the visually impaired through its fixed and Mobile Library Service. Reading materials are sent to individuals and schools in deprived communities to use and later replaced. Wechiau Community Library has also started distributing limited solar lamps to deprived children in rural communities to aid their studies at night.”

GSA agreed a grant of £1000 towards canopies and furniture for the library to cope with expanding usage.

Frank Dugasseh replied - “It is my prayer that all is well with you and the good people at Ghana School’ Aid. We have bought the canopy, 5 tables and 20 chairs. Currently the library has been closed down for renovations but I thought it

necessary to update you on how far we have gone with the funds you provided. The Library will be reopened on the 2nd of January, 2016. During the closure, the librarian will also undergo refresher training. The environment is quite dusty so we try to keep the vegetation around the library to reduce rate at which the books get dirty. Thank you.”



The Library before the renovation



The renovated Library and new canopy (left)



New Library chairs and tables

Visit to Abonse

by Kate Regan

I was warmly welcomed at the home of Kofi and Floria Ohene one afternoon during my visit to Ghana in October 2015. [Kofi Ohene is a GSA representative]. Current projects supported by GSA were discussed and news exchanged. In addition, Patrick Nyanteh, former head-teacher of Abonse schools, and I enjoyed a tour of the exemplary nursery owned by the Ohenes and run by Floria. Patrick has generously offered to help GSA by visiting schools on our behalf.

I spent most of my time in Abonse, promoting use of the library to the school community as well as to the students. The library is part of the JHS school compound in Abonse that has benefited from GSA support.



L-R: Kofi and Floria Ohene with Patrick Nyanteh



Kate Regan and students in Abonse

Other Projects

by Jo Hallett and Jennifer MacDougall

Let's Read [www.letsreadghana.com]

In partnership with Afrikids, this charity is working with schools in the Upper East Region, training teachers to improve the teaching and learning of English. Members of the team (retired and practicing teachers) usually visit the schools each term. Let's Read has been working with teachers and the 11 primary schools from Sirigu circuit for 3 years and has now expanded into two more areas. It now covers 31 schools and the methods have proved to be very successful in raising levels of early literacy, and Ghanaian teachers and Headteachers are increasingly taking on the training role. Let's Read has also produced some very attractive reading books to help improve reading levels in English.

The laptop library has been received with enthusiasm! There is a dedicated van, which takes 30 second-hand donated laptops round to schools in turn. The driver/technician sets them up and the pupils work on simple literacy and numeracy programmes that are loaded on to the computers. £4000 was donated via GSA from two Quaker supporters in the West Midlands, specifically to pay the driver/technician for the two-year pilot period.

Takpo Senior High School

A well-presented and detailed application was presented at the 2015 AGM and received a positive response. This school falls into several of GSA's priority categories, being located in the Upper West Region, a remote rural area with a majority of its pupils being female. The school was raising funds for the mechanisation of the water system to ensure a regular safe water

supply, in particular to enable the provision of a girls' hostel, and also for the use of Junior High, Primary and Kindergarten schools nearby. This would also enable the school to apply for boarding status and further government grants and put an end to the hours spent by pupils and staff collecting water daily. GSA has awarded a grant of £1500 towards this project.

Mother of Mercy Primary School

This school in the Upper Eastern Region applied for funds to repair the roof of a classroom block and paint the walls. A donation of £300 to GSA was made from year 9 pupils of Barnard Castle School, County Durham who were sponsored to learn the names of countries in Africa. Well done everyone! GSA has added a further £200 to this amount.

Krakrom

This primary school in the Ashanti Region is supported by Osofo Bonzie whose son and the other pupils now have to walk a long way to another school because these buildings have deteriorated so much. Photographs of the buildings were provided and GSA agreed an initial grant of £500 towards roofing materials. Recently a further £750 has been agreed to help complete necessary roofing work.



Krakrom School, ready for a new roof

Sorugu

An application was received via our representative Baako, for funds towards a much needed renovation of a 3-classroom block at this JHS in Tamale. A detailed estimate for materials and photos were submitted by the Head teacher Mohammed Seini. Labour would be provided by the community. A grant of £800 was agreed by the GSA committee.



Sorugu JHS awaiting renovation

Cambridge Bethel School and the Pamela and Graham Lewis Fund

[See also the Anniversary Appeal, page 4]

The founder of this non-state school in a fairly inaccessible village in the Awudome valley, Volta Region, is Patience Agbeti. In 2012 the school was awarded a grant from the Pamela Lewis Memorial Fund administered by GSA (Pamela was a founder member and long standing secretary of the GSA committee.) Patience was able to almost complete a third classroom for her Junior High School pupils. This classroom has been named The Pamela Lewis Classroom and is now fully functional having been equipped with desks through another donation to GSA. However, there is still some plastering and painting to be done so that a portrait and biography of Pamela can be placed on the wall. Patience feels that this will give the pupils

inspiration and motivation to succeed in their studies. Funds from the Graham Lewis funeral donation and a further grant from GSA have been awarded to complete this work (£250). Part of this grant will go towards the appeal for funds to build essential KVIP toilets near the school.

The Headteacher has used part of the Margaret Menderson donation to buy 34 desks, 15 stools, and mosquito nets for the kindergarten.

Sandema

Patrick Heinecke (GSA committee member) visits this project, now 20 years old, for several weeks each year. The main problem continues to be the intermittent electricity supply. In 2014 alone the cost of electricity rose by 90% and continues to rise. The radio station, Radio Builsa, which provides invaluable community education and plays an active role in promoting the rights of the young, women and the disabled, has had to cut its broadcasting by 6 hours a day. Efforts to find an affordable and reliable supply from solar energy continue but have been unsuccessful so far. However, there is now some hope that a German charity may be able to supply some of the required equipment.

Good progress has been made with a grant from the Canadian government to provide 5000 mango tree seedlings for women in the community to develop into a sustainable business. 90% of the plants are growing and are now around 6 feet tall in spite of the challenges posed by insects, livestock and a lack of water! Also a grant from US AID was awarded to encourage democratisation in local government. District assemblies and Chiefs are working to include women and the disabled in committees to advise local government. Examples include a young man with cerebral palsy who is now

a member of a District Assembly, and one Chief has banned the punishment of widows (a common cultural tradition). Other achievements include 15 weaving and sewing apprentices who have recently received their certificates.

A grant of £750 was awarded by the GSA committee to repair the 'Staff house' which is used to store valuable radio equipment after a recent burglary when it was badly damaged. This will also be used for essential repairs to the roofs of the workshops.

Two Updates From the Website

posted by Penny Sewell in July 2015

Ashanti Development

This charity is working with isolated villages in the Ashanti region, providing support. They asked Dave Banks, a retired teacher-trainer, to develop a method, replicable at low cost, to improve the quality of teaching in local schools. Dave produced and piloted a written programme which is proving remarkably effective. GSA supported the project with a grant of £750 towards training packs and other workshop expenses.

Elikem Welfare Association

£250 was sent for books and other learning materials. EWA was founded as a voluntary youth and cultural group in Accra in 1998 for young people, some of whom had been displaced by the building of the Volta dam in the 1960s. EWA now runs a successful farmers' cooperative based in Bodumase, near Kumasi.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 01/04/2014 - 31/03/2015

INCOME	£
Regular Donations	3,245.00
HMRC Gift Aid	650.25
COIF Deposit Fund Interest	6.03
Donations via Just Giving	502.86
Lord Boateng	781.21
St. Alban's Church, North Harrow; Africa Day	268.75
Barnard Castle School, County Durham for Mother of Mercy Primary School	300.00
Sylvia Lyn-Meaden for Firm Foundations, Bolgatanga	700.00
Two supporters in the West Midlands for Let's Read setting up a laptop library	4,000.00
Annual Lunch 2014 Bookings & Donations	1,901.00
Annual Lunch 2015 Bookings & Donations	<u>930.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>13,285.10</u>

EXPENDITURE	£
UKOWLA Annual Subscription	35.00
Just Giving Fees	216.00
Ghana Bank Transfer Fees	75.00
Let's Read; Driver/technician for the two year pilot period	4,000.00
Kasoa Educational Foundation, formerly British Airways School; Replacement generator	650.00
Elikem Welfare Association; Purchase of books and other learning materials	250.00
The Sabre Trust; Training of three Kindergarten teachers in the Cape Coast area	1,000.00
Firm Foundation Academy, Bolgatanga; Construction of new classroom block	1,400.00
Abonse Basic School; First Phase; Making veranda safe with storage area beneath it	1,000.00
Mother of Mercy Primary School; Repairing roof and painting walls of classroom block	500.00
Dazongo Primary School; Desks for an empty classroom for school in remote location	500.00
Gbedema Junior High School; Digital projector for their computer room	500.00
Ashanti Development in small isolated villages; Training packs to improve teaching	750.00
Newsletter	593.47
Lunch and Annual Meeting 2014	1,142.60
Lunch and Annual Meeting 2015	<u>168.47</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>12,780.54</u>

FUNDS at 31st March 2015	£	£
NatWest Current Account Balance 1st April 2014	3,156.26	
Add Inc Less Exp £13,285.10 - £12,780.54 =	<u>504.56</u>	3,660.82
COIF Deposit Fund Balance 1st April 2014 + interest = £5,300.97 + £11.20 =		<u>5,312.17</u>
TOTAL		<u>8,972.99</u>

NatWest Current Account Balance 31st March 2015	3,660.82
COIF Deposit Account Balance 31st March 2015	<u>5,312.17</u>
TOTAL	<u>8,972.99</u>

LUNCH 2014 ANALYSIS	£	£
Income in 2013 – 2014 accounts	599.00	
Income in 2014 – 2015 accounts	<u>1,901.00</u>	2,500.00
Expenditure in 2013 – 2014 accounts	188.49	
Expenditure in 2014 – 2015 accounts	<u>1,142.60</u>	<u>1,331.09</u>
SURPLUS		<u>1,168.91</u>

GRAND TOTALS 1986 – 31st March 2015	INCOME (£)	EXPENDITURE (£)
1986 – 31st March 2014	202,895.35	194,438.12
Nat West Current Account 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015	13,285.10	12,780.54
COIF Deposit Account Interest 1st April 2104 – 31st March 2015	<u>11.20</u>	
TOTAL	<u>216,191.65</u>	<u>207,218.66</u>

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 01/04/2015 - 13/01/2016

INCOME	£
Regular Donations	3,005.00
Mrs Margaret Menderson for Cambridge Bethel School and Joe Bedu School	2,000.00
The Morel Trust	500.00
Michael Ensor Funeral and Will	5,125.00
The Chapter of the Order of the Holy Paraclete, Whitby	50.00
For Pamela Lewis Fund	200.00
Donations via Just Giving	763.63
COIF Deposit Fund Interest	28.18
HMRC Gift Aid	892.25
Annual Lunch Bookings and Donations 2015	1,013.00
Raffle at Annual Lunch	92.75
Ghanaian Cloth Sale at Annual Lunch	50.00
Wine Sales at Annual Lunch	31.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>13,750.81</u>

EXPENDITURE	£
Sorugu School; Materials for the renovation of three classroom blocks	550.00
Cambridge Bethel School, Bethel-Awudome; 34 Desks, 15 Stools & Mosquito Netting	650.00
Takpo JHS, Upper West Region; Mechanisation of the water system	1,500.00
Wechiau Community Library, Upper West Region; Canopies & Furniture	1,000.00
Krakrom Primary School, Ashanti Region; Roofing Materials	500.00
Kanvilli Tawfikiya JHS; 69 Desks (80 were intended but the exchange rate changed)	800.00
Joe Bedu School; Corridor along the front of 3 classrooms	1,350.00
Just Giving Fees (9 Months)	162.00
Ghana Bank Transfer Fees	125.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>6,637.00</u>

FUNDS at 13th January 2016	£	£
NatWest Current Account Balance 1st April 2015	3,660.82	
Add Inc Less Exp £13,750.81 - £6,637.00 =	7,113.81	10,774.63
COIF Deposit Account Balance 1st April 2015		<u>5,312.17</u>
TOTAL		<u>16,086.80</u>

NatWest Current Account Balance 13th January 2016	5,961.80
COIF Deposit Account Balance 13th January 2016	<u>10,125.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>16,086.80</u>

LUNCH 2015 ANALYSIS	£	£
Income in 2014 – 2015 accounts	930.00	
Income in 2015 – 2016 accounts	<u>1,186.75</u>	2,116.75
Expenditure in 2014 – 2015 accounts	168.47	
Expenditure in 2015 – 2016 accounts	<u>0.00</u>	<u>168.47</u>
Institute of Education not yet paid (2014 = £1,142.60)		
SURPLUS		<u>1,948.28</u>

Nigel Dennis, Treasurer, 13th January 2016

nigehwdennis@btinternet.com

Boundary House, 230 Greys Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 1QY

OBITUARIES

by Jennifer MacDougall

Alan Welch MBE 1928-2016

Alan and his wife Margaret taught science at Mfantshipim School, Cape Coast, between 1955 and 1961. Kofi Annan (later UN Secretary General and a Nobel Peace Prize winner) was one of his pupils. He then taught chemistry and physics at Chesham Technical High School (now Chesham Grammar School) until 1985. He also set up a science department in a school in Kenya.

On retirement Alan set up the charity LabAid in 1990 to provide science equipment for schools in Africa. While many schools have a science laboratory and teach chemistry, physics and biology they frequently cannot get funding to buy the necessary equipment. LabAid aims to improve science teaching by supplying schools with equipment at no charge by recycling apparatus discarded by schools in the UK. Alan and a fellow Trustee organised and coordinated the collection and delivery of this equipment with the help of volunteers from his home in Amersham. In 2001 Alan's work was recognised with the award of the MBE.

Alan and Margaret were also founder members of Ghana School Aid and often attended the AGM. Alan also worked for the Samaritans for many years and was involved with several other charity projects as well as being an active member of the St John's Methodist Church in Amersham.

A former pupil at Chesham paid tribute to Alan saying "He was possibly the single most generous man I have ever met. He was a GOOD man who



always taught us that being nice to people was important."

Margaret died some years ago but Alan leaves two sons Chris and Martin and a grandson, Ben. His son Chris said "Charity work was his life..... He was meticulous in checking details and was always thinking about what other people would need. Everything he did was very low key. He was modest in the extreme, he didn't like the limelight. He used quiet influence for positive good. We shall all miss you Dad – your giving has blessed thousands" All of us who knew Alan will heartily agree.

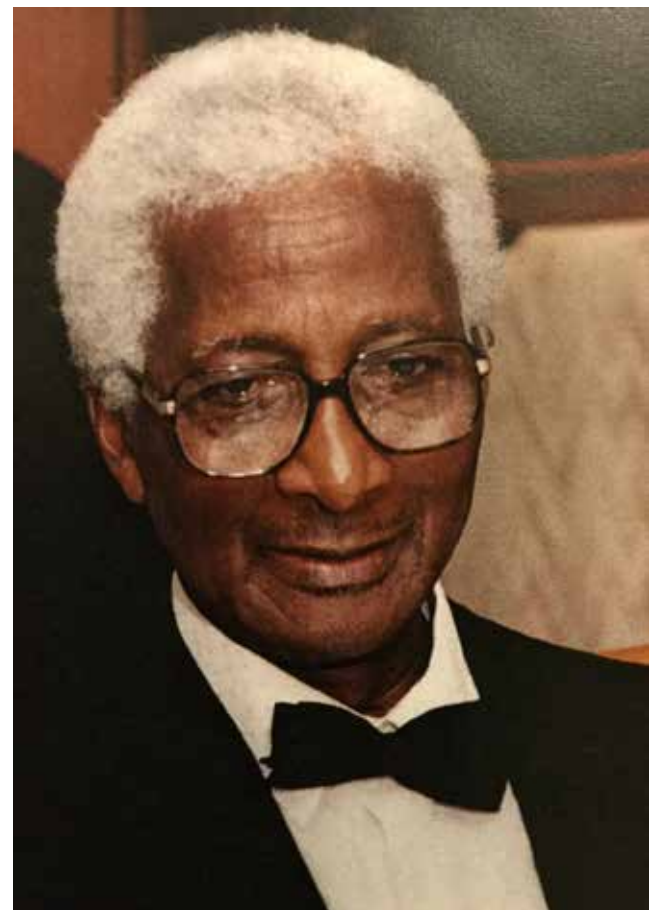


Richard Graves (Yeokodwo) **1920-2016**

Richard was born in Cape Coast and attended St Augustine's and Achimota. He studied Music, Latin and English at Durham University, and subsequently at the Institute of Education, London, where he met his lifelong friend Dr Lyn Skinner (founder member of GSA). He taught at St Augustine's College, Cape Coast, between 1950 and 1956. His marriage to Mabel Coke in 1952 was attended by two of GSA's founders Eric and Auriol Earle.

Richard worked as a diplomat in London following independence and then as Assistant Registrar at Legon University, based in London and then Accra. Later he became Executive Secretary of the University of Ghana Medical School. In 1976 he took early retirement to rejoin his family in England where they have lived since his appointment to the newly established High Commission just before Ghana Independence.

A passionate music lover, Richard played the organ at Accra Catholic Cathedral and at his church in Bromley and then Beckenham for many years. Richard leaves his wife Mabel and children Celia, Tony and Michael and seven grandchildren.



Ghana School Aid



March 2016



PATRONS

HE Victor Emmanuel
Smith, High
Commissioner for Ghana

The Rt Hon The Baroness
Chalker of Wallasey PC,
CH

The Rt Hon Lord Boateng
of Akyem Ghana and
Wembley, London, DL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Edward Mayne

Secretary: Jo Hallett

Treasurer: Nigel Dennis

AGM organisation & website

administrator: Penny Sewell

Newsletter: Jennifer MacDougall

Representatives in Ghana: Kofi Ohene,
Alhassan Salifu Baako, Rita Ayeebo

Other Committee Members:

Stanley Anthony, Letitia Boateng, Eric Earle,
Patrick Heinecke, Sue Hewlett, Susannah
Mayhew, Mary Owusu, Kate Regan, William
Spooner, Margaret Turner

ENQUIRIES

Ghana School Aid

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

Tel:

+44 (0)1483 565296

Email:

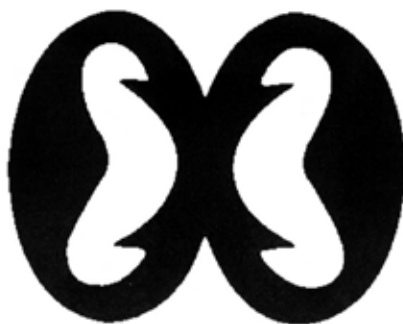
epmayne@globalnet.co.uk

Website:

www.ghanaschoolaid.org

NB. NEW VENUE

**The next GSA Annual General Meeting and lunch will be on Thursday June 9th 2016 at
RedR, The Happold Trust Room, 250a Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, London SE11 5RD
[redr.org.uk Tel. 020 7840 6000]**



Ghana School Aid is a registered UK Charity No. 299178
Editor: Jennifer MacDougall, Layout: Anna M. MacDougall