

# Ghana School Aid



2012 / 2013



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## 25th Anniversary 2011

The 2011 AGM marked the 25th Anniversary of Ghana School Aid with a display of photographs and other memorabilia. In 1986 a reunion of people who had worked in the Gold Coast/Ghana in 1986 led directly to the founding of GSA. This was initially due to the inspiration and work of Eric Earle (still an active Committee Member), Eric Cunningham (recently retired Committee Member), and the late Brice Bending and Tom Southern. This is ably documented in an article in our last edition 2010/11 by Eric Cunningham.

Eric Earle addressed the AGM and expressed his delight, as an originator of GSA, to see so many people at the meeting, and that the work of the organisation was continuing under the able chairmanship of Ted Mayne. Over the years we have raised around £200,000, all from small donations. We have incurred minimal administrative costs, having no paid staff. Our recent involvement with the Ghanaian diaspora including the St Monica's Project and the Ghana Nurses Association are good developments, representing the ongoing work of GSA.



During the afternoon we were also addressed by a dozen or so members reporting on visits, a wide variety of projects and links, updates on progress and offers of assistance, all contributing to a lively and successful occasion.

Marion Mayne had baked a cake in Ghana colours especially for the anniversary. The cake cutting ceremony was performed by Wilhelmina Assamoyah, the representative of His Excellency the High Commissioner of Ghana [photos p. 27].

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*AKWAABA!*

*It is with enthusiasm and pleasure that I prepare this annual report on what has been a rewarding, busy and in many ways a successful year. However, before I go into greater detail, it is with regret that I report the deaths of two of our stalwart members. Their obituaries are included in this Newsletter. Pam Lewis, who was on the Committee for more than twenty years, died in November 2011 and her passing has left a huge gap which we shall find difficult to fill. Pam was always actively involved with our work and for a long time acted as Secretary and organised single handed our reunions. Even after she upped sticks and moved from Dulwich back to her native Wales, she would dutifully attend all our quarterly meetings. Her funeral was attended by several members of our Committee.*

*We also lost David Bradshaw, another regular attendee at these reunions and a staunch supporter of our work. David was involved at Winneba Training College and kept in touch with all that went on in that area. His funeral was a sad occasion and well attended. It was his wish that donations in lieu of floral tributes should go to Ghana School Aid and with the family's agreement an amount was donated in its entirety to the British Airways sponsored school. This enabled the classrooms extension project to be completed which has been named the David Bradshaw Memorial Block. This is a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated much of his life to education in the Winneba area. [His widow Ping Wang, attended the AGM and read a letter of thanks from David's son].*



Photos from the 2012 AGM (including, bottom, Paul Boateng giving his address)



*[Other long standing supporters of GSA who died recently are also remembered and their obituaries included in this Newsletter].*

*Our 25th Anniversary reunion luncheon and 2011 Annual General Meeting was a huge success with an attendance of over 60. The Ghana High Commissioner's representative kindly agreed to cut the cake and our members produced an exhibition of the work we have done since 1986. After the lunch eight of our supporters gave brief outlines of their current activities in Ghana.*

*Our major achievement since we last met has been the creation of our new website. This has been a huge effort – thanks to Philip Cunningham, Penny Sewell, Jo Hallett and Kate Regan. This now means we have at our fingertips all that needs to be known about GSA.. The building of the website is our excuse for not getting our Newsletter out in time for our AGM. Please take advantage of this facility.*

*In keeping with our policy of supporting projects in Northern Ghana, I am pleased to report that we are hugely active in the Upper Regions. Jo Hallett is busily involved in Bolgatanga and is a regular visitor. Likewise Patrick Heinecke is equally involved with the Sandema project; while our support for the activities of Wulugu ensures that the projects are well monitored. We continue to be apolitical and concentrate on direct contact with needy schools. This enables us to become very closely involved with first hand knowledge as to where the funds are going.*

*Penny Sewell, in the project she set up in memory of her late husband, and her frequent visits to the Volta Region, is able to monitor the*

*work closely. So much so that she has discovered an even needier school in the next village which is now benefitting from our assistance. The work Penny has carried out ensures a schooling for many youngsters in the rural setting of the Volta Region. The Alan Mayhew Memorial classroom block at the University of Cape Coast Primary School is an example of our efforts resulting in 120 extra pupils being admitted to the school. This would never have happened without our assistance. Our contributions are small but we are making a difference and we hope the work will continue. The Committee is dedicated, enthusiastic and hard working. I cannot thank them enough and they have made my job so much easier. Rarely is there a cross word between us and it is our commitment which unites us. Thank you all. In addition we have received great support of late from one of our Patrons, Paul Boateng, now in the House of Lords. Thank you, Paul, for your encouragement and for our desire to help us with our education projects in Ghana. [Lord Boateng attended the AGM and gave an inspiring address during lunch, which is reported in the minutes].*

*In conclusion I quote the late Martin Luther King who, in describing schooling said, "Education is more than ever the passport to decent economic positions". Let's build on that. Martin Luther King also said when addressing students in Alabama "We are prone to judge success by the index of our salaries or the size of our automobiles rather than by the quality of our service and relationship to humanity". GSA's policy is to continue in this way and build on the foundations we have laid.*

*Ted Mayne*

# EDUCATION IN GHANA: PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

*By Robert Palmer*

In the last decade, Ghana has made great progress in education and the sector has become a core priority for the government. Government expenditures on education have reached unprecedented levels; proportionally twice the average for Africa. However, it is clear that public funds cannot cover all minimum needs.

During the last decade, access has radically improved; today there are over 1.2 million more children in primary school, and over 400,000 more in Junior High School (JHS), than there were in 2001/2. This expansion has outstripped the progress made by virtually all other countries, and is a testimony to Ghana's deep commitment to a policy aimed at achieving universal education.

At the same time, great challenges remain:

- socioeconomic disparities in access and quality - e.g. Ghana still has 1.1 million children and adolescents out of school;
- significant and stubborn regional differences - e.g. a child living in a rural area is 3 times more likely to have never gone to school compared to a child from an urban area; and, the three Northern regions have by far the worst results in terms of education access and quality.
- poor quality of learning - less than a third of primary school children reach proficiency levels in English or in Math;
- inefficient use of resources.
  - High teacher absenteeism is one of the key inefficiencies in the education sector; on average 1 in 4 teachers are absent from

school at any given time.

- Deprived districts in Ghana actually receive less funding per child from government than non-deprived districts.
- As enrolment and completion have increased at basic levels, demand for post-basic education and training has also increased but supply hasn't followed suit. About eight out of every ten youth 15-17 years of age are not enrolled in Senior High School. And, only 5-7% of JHS graduates can expect to find a place in either public or private technical/vocational institutes. Over 200,000 JHS leavers, therefore, are unable to pursue formal post-basic education or training. Many of these will go on to undertake some form of 'road-side' traditional apprenticeship.

Support that focuses on reducing disparities, improving quality (including initiatives aimed at improving the morale and effectiveness of teachers) and providing more post-JHS options (especially in rural areas nationwide, and in the three Northern regions) will be aligned to Ghana's current needs.

This piece draws on: World Bank (2011) *Education in Ghana. Improving Equity, Efficiency and Accountability of Education Service Delivery*, World Bank; and Darvas, P. And Palmer, R. (2012, forthcoming) *Skills Development in Ghana. Performance and Recommendations for the Technical and Vocational Education and Training System*, World Bank.

*Dr Robert Palmer is a secretariat member of the Network for Policy Review, Research and Advice on Education and Training ([www.norrag.org](http://www.norrag.org)). He is also a trustee of Onechild Ghana ([www.onechildghana.org](http://www.onechildghana.org)); a UK-registered charity that works with rural vocational schools in Ghana's Ashanti Region. Email: [rob.palmer@norrag.org](mailto:rob.palmer@norrag.org)*

## NEWS & PROJECTS

### The Ghana School Aid Website

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

*By Penny Sewell, GSA website administrator*

The new GSA website is now up and running! It looks extremely attractive, with a lovely picture of Ghanaian school children adorning its every page. The [Home](#) page is really welcoming, and the menu clearly displayed. The other pages are: News, Projects, Newsletters, Grants, Links, About, Contact and Support. Clicking on [News](#) will give you information about past and present projects, as well as items of general news, such as a short report, with pictures, of the 2012 AGM. Projects lists our main projects, and a click on any one of them will bring up the information we have on that project. There is also a map of Ghana showing where the projects are, though the map is still not quite fully flagged up!

[Newsletters](#) gives you a link to newsletters going back to 1989. [Grants](#) carries information about applying for a grant; [Links](#) is self-explanatory. In the [About](#) page you will find a list of members of the Executive Committee, and also scans of annual accounts going back to 1992-93. Finally, [Contact and Support](#) spells out our email address and explains how to become a supporter of Ghana School Aid.

We would like to acknowledge the expertise and generosity of Philip Cunningham who made our small budget stretch so that it covered the costs of setting up the new website. We know how much work is entailed in designing and developing a website, then training up someone else to actually administer it, so thank you Philip for giving us our public and international

internet face. We feel sure it will greatly help our fundraising efforts and thus benefit many more schools in Ghana.

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### Whitstone School sends Braille books to Ghanaian School

*By Miranda Liardet*

Whitstone School has had a link with Okuapemman School in Akropong, Ghana, since 2005. The link has involved teacher and student exchanges. Teachers have visited sharing best practice and developing joint curriculum projects in the areas of English, ICT and History. The student exchanges have resulted in: a joint production of A Midsummer Night's Dream; a new dance curriculum for Whitstone School, incorporating Ghanaian dance (after a visit by the Dance Troop from Okuapemman School); a very competitive Ghana v England Hockey match and a collection of poetry by school students.

During every visit to Okuapemman School, Whitstone's teachers and students have been aware of the Visually Impaired Education unit, situated on site. Okuapemman was given money recently, to upgrade their unit for the visually impaired, resulting in a large impressive building. On our visit to the School in 2010 we were made aware of the fact that they lacked resources. The unit only had one Perkins Braille and relied heavily on seeing students to read exams texts to the visually impaired as there were not enough Braille books available for the visually impaired students. In fact, there were approximately 15 Braille books available and all of them old and in a poor state of repair.

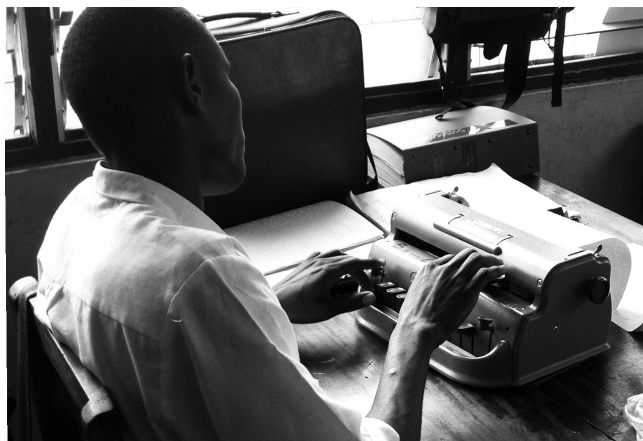
When GSA heard about Whitstone's project to help the visually impaired students of



Okuapemman School, they gave a generous donation to help with the purchase and the transport costs. In addition, the RNIB also put us in touch with the daughter of a visually impaired man who had passed away the previous year. She wanted to give all his Braille books to good cause. When she heard about Okuapemman School she sent everything we thought might be appropriate including a Perkins Braille (costing £500). The final result was half a container of Braille books, games and the all important Perkins Braille. Okuapemman School was delighted with the shipment and is looking forward to showing the improvements when Whitstone visits the school in February 2013.

## Hia community library project

Rita De-Graft and Mary Owusu of the Ghana Nurses Association UK, reported at the 2012 AGM on this ambitious project which was described in the last Newsletter. The library in Hia (Ashanti region) is being built to improve the literacy levels of the children in the area. The building is now well on its way to completion with the help of funding from GSA. They still need computers, desks and tables, but some books have already been sent out. Local language books will also be provided. They have the support of the Ghana Library Board and the help and advice of Kate Regan from our own committee. It is hoped to employ a professional librarian to maximise the value of this new resource.



Perkins Braille in use at Okuapemman School



Pupils with Rita De-Graft



Braille books are formally accepted by the Head of the Visually Impaired Department



The almost finished Hia building

## Update on Lets Read Ghana. Snippets from a visit to Ghana

*By Jo Hallett*

*“Let’s Read Ghana” provides materials and training for teachers in primary schools in northern Ghana. The focus is the teaching of phonics and the use of active teaching strategies for more effective learning. The four of us - all very experienced UK teachers – first visited the area as Millennium Volunteers in 2001.*

This is our third visit to work in the remote area of Sirigu, in the Upper East region of Ghana. From Bolgatanga, it takes about an hour by taxi bumping along on the incredibly rough roads and tracks, through tiny settlements, the fields on either side just sprouting with the green shoots of millet, now that the rains have come. Everywhere people are tilling the fields with hoes, bent double– backbreaking work!

“Toma, Toma!” we call. “Lanwani!” comes the reply. “Lannsum!” “Nabaa!” People are important - and leisurely greetings are an essential part of community cohesion in Ghana.

Our first destination is SWOPA – the Sirigu Women’s Organisation for Pottery and Arts. The round buildings are beautifully painted in the local tradition. They run a guest house, where we stay in fairly basic accommodation. We always have a warm welcome and are delighted to discover that running water AND mains electricity have been installed since our last visit in October. This is very much appreciated.

It is only 2 or 3 km further to the AfriKids Sirigu Centre. AfriKids is now our partner organisation, a child rights NGO, with great vision and energy – and a strong belief in making all their projects

locally sustainable. ([www.afrikids.org](http://www.afrikids.org)) At the Centre, Joe has a fantastic track-record, over 10years, working in this, his own community, to eradicate the “spirit child” phenomenon. (more on the website) But our focus is to work with the 10 primary schools in the Sirigu circuit – which is overseen by an able and effective Circuit Supervisor (LEA advisor), Gabriel.

Two or three of the schools operate in “cowsheds”; others have classes outside under the tree; some have acceptable buildings and desks for all the children. Ghana has made fantastic progress towards the Millennium Development goals for education, abolishing school fees at primary level and recruiting a large number of community volunteer teachers to deal with the extra children in school. We found that the best of these volunteer teachers are doing an excellent job – but some others are not so effective. The new school buildings being constructed to replace the “cowsheds” are coming along well.

On our last visit, we provided the Let’s Read materials for every class in all these schools, and ran training courses for all the teachers, plus Leadership and Management training for the Heads. Rachel, our VSO volunteer, regularly visited the schools to encourage and support the teachers. Sadly, her placement ended in March (after 2 and a half years), and we are still looking for a replacement. This time, we are visiting to see for ourselves how Let’s Read is impacting on teaching and learning, and to run more workshops.

Next day, Joe and his assistant arrive on motos, to take Jane and me off to Anerigu Primary School. We jog along as pillion riders, somewhat phased by the drivers frequently turning to one



side or the other to greet people working in the fields. We cling on tight! The “roads” are narrow footpaths at times, but we travel slowly.

Anerigu has two classrooms, one at each end of a mud-brick building. On this occasion, Emmanuel (a volunteer) has the P3/4 class in one room and Johnson (the Head, a Youth Employment scheme volunteer) has P1/2 in the other end. About 35 children in each room are sharing some rather old desks, and the only other feature is a blackboard, with a supply of chalk. The LR laminated alphabet cards are well used and the lessons are thorough and engaging. A random test shows that the children are well versed in letter sounds, which is excellent news for us. Despite very challenging conditions, this school is making good progress.

The two other adults present – young women, one with a baby – are not much involved in the lessons. But one of them – Martha – has good spoken English and seems to us to be “on the ball”. We talk to her about being a volunteer, and why she comes to the school to help every day if she is not paid. “But these are my brothers and sisters” she says.

An amazing sense of belonging and of commitment – and an enthusiasm for education - is slowly pulling Ghana up towards basic education for all – and the aim of eradicating poverty and disease.



SWOPA



Emmanuel teaching class P3/4



Children at Anerigu School



Children at Nyangolingo



## **News and Updates from our representative in Northern Ghana - Alhassan Salifu Baako**

*Baako has been working on our behalf visiting schools in the Tamale area which need support. He has suggested and monitors a number of projects for GSA*

### **Nawuni Roman Catholic Primary School**

This school applied for funds for a computer and printer (555 Ghana cedis) in 2010. However they did not have an electricity supply at this time. IT is now on the Ghana National Curriculum, but many rural schools teach it on the blackboard. Sue Hewlett and Baako kept in touch with and monitored progress at this school and in 2011 reported that the school now had an electricity supply and good security. A grant of £300 was made towards the purchase of computers. A new computer and printer are working well and the link with Stutton Primary School is also thriving.

### **Zagyuri Anglican Primary**

*Zagyuri Anglican Primary School asked for a grant of 7,600 cedis (c £3300) to build a classroom. We agreed an initial grant of £1000 in 2011 with possible future payments to a maximum of £3000, subject to a positive report from a visit by Baako. The following report is taken from Baako's email to Sue Hewlett, Committee Member in March 2012.*

In my previous e-mail to you I told you that Zagyuri Anglican Primary would be holding a general PTA meeting today to discuss the GSA project there and the way forward. I was glad to be part of the meeting. It started at 9.35am with a prayer and a previous minutes was read. In attendance were the school headteacher, Mr Issah Haruna, the PTA chairman, Mr Abukari

Tia, the SMC chairman, Mr Andreaws Salifu, some teachers, myself (Baako) the coordinator, the chief's representative and parents both men and women. There were 65 parents in all. All the executives including me had the chance to share our thoughts to the house. The agenda centered on what has been done so far and the next action to be taken to accelerate work. Blocks have been moulded it is now left with raising the building. I asked to know the assurance of the community contribution in the project. They agreed to support in offering labour to support the technical men. They also agreed to support with a contribution of two Ghana Cedis each to feed the workers. In a nutshell the meeting was successful and came to an end at approximately 11am with a closing prayer. It was unanimously agreed that work would continue very soon and I would follow it up with feedback to you and GSA.



**Zagyuri School block under construction**



**SMC Chairman lifting blocks, Zagyuri School**

*In July 2012 Baako reported that:*

The classroom project in Zagyuri Anglican primary which GSA is supporting now is still under construction. I monitor the progress of work from time to time. The community offers communal labour in support of the project. I attach some pictures of people offering labour to the project in one of the pictures you will see the SMC chairman lifting blocks for workers. You can also see me with the executives during one of my monitoring visits to see to the judicious use of funds. The expenditure breakdown will soon be ready for GSA as I have told the executives to tabulate everything for me. LONG LIVE GSA.

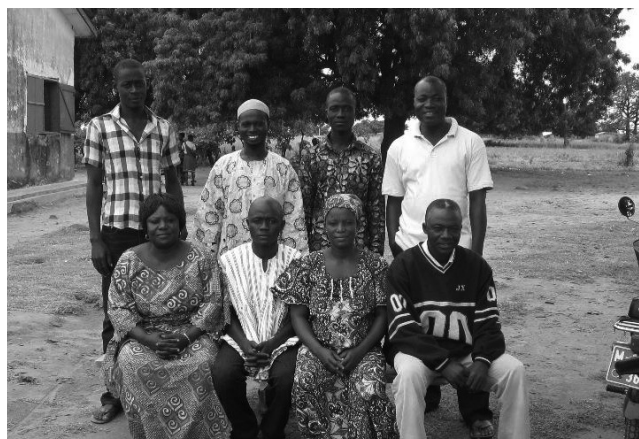
### **Yendi Girls Junior High School**

*The Committee received an application for funding from this school in 2011, requesting help with electrification, connecting the school to the National Grid. Sue Hewlett has contacts at the school. A grant of £1200 was allocated for this project. The following reports have been received by the committee via Sue Hewlett from Baako.*

I visited Yendi Girls Junior High School on Friday 21st July 2011 to inspect the school and interact with the authority of the school in connection with their school project whose proposal and budgeting were earlier on sent to you (GSA) and I also promised to snap and send to you pictures of the school. The headteacher and staff were happy to see me. I inspected round the school with them, stood at the school and zoomed my camera to snap the nearest electricity pole located around the school. I also inquired about the security of the project and no record of stealing of electrical wires were noted in the surrounding schools who already have it.



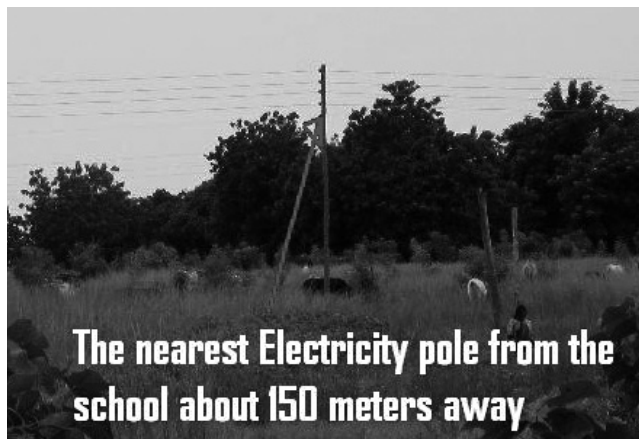
**Yendi Girls JHS**



**Baako and Yendi teachers**



**Yendi's Head Ziblim Abuyama with new computer**



**Electricity pole - within 250m of Yendi JHS**

*Final report 25 March 2012:*

I am glad to forward to you the report on the final work of Yendi Girls Junior High School electrification project. Details of the information is already stated in the head teacher's letter. Both teachers and students were very happy for the project. I deduced this from my interaction with them and the messages they carry on cards for GSA. All the classrooms, the staff common room, the head teacher's office and the outside walls were connected with electricity. The school has a great potential to grow. The Municipal Assembly has added a new block to the school which is still under construction. I have added the picture for you to see. The PTA has appointed a watchman to take care of it. He was called for me to see him.

I took pictures both inside and outside the school showing points of electricity connections. At the time of my visit the candidates were in class

writing their mock exams and the juniors were on break. In one of the pictures you will see me with them, you can also see the headteacher standing by the only computer of the school.

Indeed they were very glad and send their gratitude to GSA. I also send my greetings to GSA for a good job sponsored.



Children and staff from Yendi Girls JHS say thank you to GSA



## Sandema Project

Patrick Heinecke has spent three months in Sandema (near Navrongo and the border with Burkina Faso) at the end of 2010 and another two months at the end of 2011. The radio station is an important educational tool, with programmes on health education covering all aspects of a sexual health and reproduction with community involvement. These subjects are generally taboo but handled very sensitively by the project director, with discussions between professionals and the community, not without controversy, but it has proved a very positive experience. The radio station is staffed by 20 volunteers who receive a small allowance. It has been running for four years now and reaches one million listeners in the UER and Northern Region. The costs of electricity have risen considerably and the danger of closure is constant. Community radio stations are not supported by the government. GSA has awarded a grant of £300 towards this work.

The project runs two workshops for weaving skills and tailoring. The tailoring workshop had 50 apprentices, mostly girls, very overcrowded and lacking sewing machines and furniture. The weaving workshop needed thread. In 2011 GSA allocated £1200 to support the workshops. Since then the tailoring and dressmaking workshop has been expanded and now caters for 60 apprentices. The library has been modernised and houses 5000 books with a computerised catalogue and new windows. The annual passing out celebrations for the apprentices was a moving occasion with lots of dancing and drumming, and much pride in their achievements.

GSA continues to support the Sandema project which has now been running for 19 years. The

health project to educate the community on the issue of female genital mutilation (illegal in Ghana but widely practiced) has been given a grant of £1500. The rising costs of energy and fuel are causing considerable difficulties and much of the equipment is now quite old. Recently an eminent Portuguese scientist, Dr Cardoso, has been a volunteer at the project, and has proved a real inspiration running film making workshops and teaching in the school.

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## Aburasso Methodist Primary School, Kumasi

A donation from GSA has helped to provide clean water for the children at this school!



Aburasso children with their new water supply

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## Professor Lalage Bown

One of our members, Professor Lalage Bown, a long-time staunch supporter of GSA, has been awarded the Distinguished Africanist Award by the African Studies Association of the UK. This is a very prestigious award given in recognition of a lifetime of distinguished contributions to African Studies. We extend our warmest congratulations to Lalage.

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## **Abonse/Aseseeso Update**

***By Letitia Boateng, Committee Member  
based in Ghana***

My previous Newsletter reports mentioned various GSA grants Abonse and Aseseeso have benefitted from. The schools have been provided with classroom furniture, electrification, plastering, flooring, roofing and ceilings. There are no words to express the gratitude of the children, teachers and the communities. GSA support has helped to improve the image of both schools. There are no more classroom eyesores looking like sheds, particularly in the Abonse school. Learning in a nice environment has obviously boosted the morale of the children and improved academic performance significantly.

The primary school pupils of Abonse used to have classes in a church building because there



**Primary 1 & 2 - front view**



**Primary 1 & 2 - rear view**

were only a handful. But now enrolment has gone up from below 100 to over 200 and the Church can no longer accommodate them all – a desperate situation for the school authorities and the community. We were so much looking forward to the completion of a primary school complex to be built by the previous government, but to our disappointment it was suspended by the present one. Unexpectedly some friends from Kentucky University donated \$400 to help any project in the village, so we used that money for foundation work for a building to accommodate Primary 1 and 2. With a lot of effort from the Headteacher at that time, Janet Lartey, help from the MP of Akuapem-north, Hon. Dan Botwe, other donations from well wishers and communal labour, the building is now roofed.

Ghana School Aid has again come to our aid. A grant of £1500 has been given to paint the JHS block and to provide doors, windows and a ceiling for the new Primary 1 and 2 building. The people of Abonse and Aseseeso are very grateful to GSA for their work which is helping to change the lives of many people especially children.

### **Success story**

The Link Dressmaking Programme for girl drop-outs and teenage mothers, which GSA also supports, has produced some good results. Three girls have successfully obtained certificates from the Ghana Dressmakers Association and are now earning a living from dressmaking. There are six more girls in the apprenticeship. The dressmaking school in Aseseeso has 10 apprentices.

Also three students in the Link Sponsorship Programme have passed the West African Secondary School Certificate Examination, some achieving distinction and credit marks. One

student wants to do nursing and the rest who are interested in teaching have been assured places at the Presbyterian Teacher Training College at Akropong. The Principal of the College has a special interest in the Abonse school because of the Link and the obvious progress and improvement in the Basic Education Certificate Examination results. As an incentive to the students, he promised a place for anyone who not only passes the examination, but gets the required aggregate. If I may remind readers, until the Link was set up in 2005, Abonse school had sadly not produced any student to enter secondary education since 1994. There were no teaching resources or sufficient teachers, and the school was earmarked for closure. Then came the Link and changes began as mentioned above. A Sponsorship Programme started in 2007 when, for the first time, 7 students forming 56% of the entire class passed the Basic Education Certificate Examination to enter secondary schools. Unfortunately one girl could not finish due to ill health and three boys stopped going to school for no reason.

May I mention here that before and during the 13 year period (1994-2007) many Abonse children who had their Junior High School education elsewhere in Ghana entered secondary schools, technical colleges, training colleges and universities.

### **Batik and woodcarving**

There seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel for the batik and woodcarving projects at Abonse that have been suspended due to lack of funds. Recently representatives from the Child Research and Resources Centre in Accra visited Abonse and sent their recommendation to the Plan Ghana Initiative/Plan Holland Initiative for support. The projects will start again if the

recommendation is accepted. Fingers are firmly crossed.

### **Aseseeso school links**

The link between John O'Gaunt School and Aseseeso JHS has slowed, but the experience and good will is there to reactivate shared work as soon as possible. John O'Gaunt recently helped one of their feeder primaries, Kintbury St Mary's and Aseseeso's Primary School to make a Global Schools link. Their first teacher exchange took place in 2011 and they are now planning activities for future years.

Aseseeso JHS which benefitted from GSA funds has both good building facilities and a pleasant environment for students and staff and has recently gained a new Headteacher, who is determined to improve results and senior school take-up. Kate Regan is keeping in touch with schools both ends and helping communication where possible. She is working to bring the school libraries up to a standard that supports wider reading to improve literacy. Plans are also afoot to form a link between Hungerford and Aseseeso.



**Cambridge-Bethel School, Volta Region**



## **Cambridge-Bethel School, Bethel-Awudome, Volta Region**

***By Penny Sewell***

*I first met Patience Agbeti when she was in London in 2003. We, including my late husband, Joe Bedu, immediately “clicked”, and she and I have remained friends ever since. Patience has agreed that the GSA Newsletter should carry [part] of the text of her application for funds, the report and photo of the GSA-supported project, and the text of her thank-you letter.*

### **Application to GHANA SCHOOL AID from Cambridge-Bethel School, Bethel-Awudome, for funds to complete and furnish a classroom block. March 2011.**

While [staying] in Bethel [in 2003] I found out that the children had no school, the closest one being in Tsibu-Awudome, 2 km away. I found that children often hid in the bushes instead of going to school and I reflected how lucky I had been to have a scholarship to attend secondary school. In 2003 I was again invited to London, this time by the charity WorldWrite, to speak on multiculturalism. I spoke to the director, Ceri Dingle, about the plight of the children in Bethel and she encouraged me to raise funds to build a school. I came back with £700 to build a three classroom block, an office and a storeroom. I started teaching 6 children on 14th September 2004.

Some friends from the Valley Christian Church in the US came to see my project and subsequently invited me to Westfield, Pennsylvania, where I continued to raise funds for the school and for teachers' salaries. The VCC continues to send monthly remittances which I use to pay my 11 student teachers (C30-£12.30) a month. As this

is a private initiative I receive no funding at all from the Ghana Education Service.

At the moment, and thanks to both UK and US funding, we have a 6-classroom block, an un-walled day-care centre and a half completed Junior High School Block. I am resident in Bethel and my work consists in running the school. It is not easy to collect from parents the fees I am obliged to charge.

My application is for a grant of £1000 to enable me to proceed with the completion of the JHS block. Two classrooms reached roof level in 2008 and await a roof. I need now to: construct one more classroom; cement the floor; roof the 3 classrooms; install doors and windows; provide furniture. I can guarantee that any funding provided will be made full use of.

Thank you very much in advance for any funding you feel able to provide. Patience Agbeti.

### **Report drafted by Penny Sewell, information provided by Patience. April 2012.**

Patience [Agbeti] reports that thanks to the generous grants she received from Ghana School Aid and the J. Bedu Memorial fund, she was able to purchase good quality roofing sheets to complete her Junior High School block. Carpentry work started in February 2012. The grants will not quite cover labour costs, so Patience is redoubling her efforts on the farm in order to meet the shortfall. Patience founded the Cambridge-Bethel School as a private venture, in a gesture of goodwill to the village where her late sister was cared for. She has some funding from a church in the USA, but just keeping afloat is a real struggle. She employs 11 student teachers. They teach 141 children whose parents

must struggle to pay the fees. Although there are only 9 JHS students at present, that number will grow. The children sit the normal school leaving examinations. Patience chose the name "Cambridge-Bethel" in order that people should associate the excellence of Cambridge with her school. She is deeply grateful for the grants she has received.

### **A letter of appreciation**

Dear Edward Mayne

We wish to express our extra sincerest thanks to you and Ghana School Aid for donating £800 to help us roof our Junior High School. We also thank the Joe Bedu Memorial Fund very much for supporting us with a further £800. This has enabled us to complete the roofing of the two-classroom block, and it's beautiful.

The picture shows how the whole school is so excited by the roofing. The other picture shows the headmaster, the teachers, the pupils and myself, all posing for the camera in front of our main classroom block.

Once again, we say THANK YOU VERY MUCH.  
Yours sincerely, Patience Agbeti.



Cambridge-Bethel School

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

*By Penny Sewell*

*Thank you to GSA for allowing me to include an update in the Newsletter. 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. I last visited in March 2011.*

In the last few years the school has been utterly transformed. From a rather sleepy establishment with no loos, no water or electricity, no doors or windows, and using some makeshift classrooms made of bamboo and palm leaves, it has blossomed into a real compound with a thriving Day Care Centre and a Junior High School section. The school population has burgeoned, a fact recognized by the Local Authority which ordered and funded the construction of a major new classroom and office block. Thanks to grants from Ghana School Aid, the J.Bedu Memorial Fund, and the Alma Jean Henry Trust, and since my last visit, electricity and standpipes are now installed. Many many congratulations to the team on the ground who have worked extremely hard, planning everything, negotiating prices, supervising workmen, handling the finances. They have even managed to get cables installed which do not contain copper, thus making them very much less attractive to cable



J. Bedu Primary School - Kindergarten 1

thieves. The KVIP (Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pit) lavatories in part funded by GSA are being well looked-after, all the more so now because of the adjacent water supply.

Pupils are now making earrings using the materials supplied in March 2011. In December 2011 sales had brought in 50 Ghana cedis (£20) for the school. The laminated pictures originally from the Let's Read programme are in use in the classroom, and the CD player is the centre of music and dance periods. The Day Care Centre has moved into larger classrooms, but still needs basic equipment. The little building funded from scratch by the J.Bedu Memorial fund for the DCC is being turned into a much-needed staffroom.

So much has been achieved in a short space of time. Now efforts have to go into sustainability – it's all very well having electricity and water, but using them involves paying the bills! The wish now is for firstly making a computer room really secure (including reinforcing the ceiling...), and then, of course, obtaining some computers, even though there is no internet access as yet in Daffor-Awudome. Contributions have come from friends the world over, including Ghanaian supporters, and more recently generous registration gifts from a 5 kilometre run, twice round Highgate Wood in North London. The total raised from that was a whopping £695. A very big THANK YOU to the school's many well-wishers, and of course, the more we get the more we can do for education in Ghana, so please don't stop!

The picture shows Kindergarten 1 learning numbers and letters. Note the neon light adorning the ceiling, the light switch and socket, and the TV!

## **The British Empire and Commonwealth Museum**

Sadly, due to economic circumstances, the BECM at Old Temple Meads Station in Bristol has been forced to close. A few years ago GSA held an AGM and lunch in the Museum and members enjoyed a tour of the collections which include much of interest on Ghana. The collections have been kept together and passed into the custody of the Bristol City Council's Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG), to be held in a specially created Trust. The Museum and Art Gallery plans to develop opportunities for public access and display of the materials. The Trustees of BECM are delighted that the many of their aims and hopes for the collections will be met by BMAG.

The related issue of a suitable depository for Gold Coast/Ghana archives, memorabilia, books, works of art and photograph collections was briefly discussed at the GSA AGM in June 2012. A number of members have collections which they may wish to donate for the benefit of future scholars. Apart from the BECM, other major collections of African literature include St Anthony's College Centre for African Studies Oxford University, the Centre for West African Studies at Birmingham University, Centre of African Studies SOAS University of London, Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies at Rhodes House University of Oxford, the Royal Commonwealth Society Collection at Cambridge University Library, the University of Cambridge Centre of African Studies and the British Library African Collection.

Has anyone experience of donating such material in recent years? We would be delighted to hear of any experiences and/or knowledge you could share with us.



## REVIEW

### **PHILIPS, Tom. African goldweights; miniature sculptures from Ghana 1400-1900.**

**London: Hansjorg Mayer 2010. ISBN 978 0 500 976968**

***Review by Eric Cunningham***

For anyone with an interest in Ashanti goldweights – mine began in 1953, when an itinerant Hausa trader called on me in Kumasi and produced the first I had ever seen, an enchanting little figure that became the start of a modest collection – this book will both illuminate and inform. It is especially good for illustrations, having no less than 359 of them, in colour, and all but a few showing actual size. Many show multiple examples of goldweights in their great variety of forms: abstract, geometric, human, animal, vegetable, aphoristic, stylised, representational of household articles.

The text, clear and readable, acknowledges the work of the master English interpreter of goldweights Timothy Garrard, but has the courage to dissent from some of his views and offer an alternative. It is particularly good on the creation of goldweights from natural objects such as groundnuts, seeds, grasshoppers, beetles and the like, noting pertinently the conceit whereby a humble seed, itself of little worth, can acquire as a goldweight a greatly enhanced value. The bibliography is uneven; some titles lack publishers and dates, so making it difficult to assess and pursue them.

A note on where Ashanti goldweights may be seen would have been helpful. Unsurprisingly, museums in Britain have many examples:

the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Wallace Collection, and the Pitt-Rivers Museum in Oxford have good collections, but by far the best is probably Berlin's Ethnographic Museum. In 1981 the British Museum mounted a splendid exhibition **Asante: kingdom of gold** that included many fine examples; given that date, another exhibition to alert another generation to the craftsmanship, imagination, and cultural significance that goldweights can contain is perhaps overdue.

A word of warning for those to whom Ashanti goldweights are not well known. They are not the often crude brass figures displaying aspects of African life that are for sale in many 'ethnic' gift shops and popularly referred to as Airport Art, but as the book's subtitle makes plain they are miniature sculptures; they are produced in bronze or similar amalgams by the lost-wax process. They have a long history and display an extensive range of Ashanti cultural associations. Remarkably, the intended utilitarian function of goldweights, to weigh gold dust that was once the standard form of currency, has been transcended through the production of artefacts that have both cultural and aesthetic significance. This book opens up these dimensions lucidly and well.



# ACCOUNTS 01/04/2011 - 31/03/2012

## Treasurer's Report 18th April 2012

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

	£ (2011-12)		£ (1987-2012)
	Subtotals	Totals	Grand Totals
<b>INCOME:</b>			
Regular donations (mainly standing orders)		£3,687.52	
"Memories" donation		£50.00	£2,152.74
Donations to J. Bedu Memorial Fund		£10.00	£3,365.00
Donations by and in memory of David MacBean		£1,090.82	
Donations in memory of David Bradshaw		£742.00	
Donations in memory of Denis Trussler		£169.50	
Donations in memory of Pamela Lewis		£193.00	
Donations through JustGiving not included above		£1,062.42	
COIF Interest (for 4 quarters at av. 0.73%)		£109.27	
Lunch (2011) bookings & donations from April 2011	£1,616.00		
Less cost of venue & food	£1,242.84	£373.16	
(NB plus income in March 2011: £771.00			
less postage £64.82 = ££706.18			
giving a lunch profit of £1079.34 in 2011)			
Lunch (2012) bookings & donations in March 2012	£642.00		
Less venue booking fee	£62.50	£579.50	
HMRC Gift Aid refunds (09/10 £926.80, 10/11 £3039.30)		£3,966.10	
<b>TOTAL INCOME (01/04/2011 – 31/03/2012):</b>		<b>£12,033.29</b>	<b>£183,674.02</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>			
J. Bedu Memorial Fund (School)		-£3,000.00	
Nawumi RC Primary School		-£300.00	
Bethel-Awudome School		-£2,100.00	
Aburaso Methodist Primary School, Kumasi		-£500.00	
Sandema Educational Resource Centre		-£1,500.00	
Zagyuri Anglican Primary School		-£1,000.00	
Wulugu Project		-£1,000.00	
Let's Read (N. Ghana Prim Sch Support)		-£2,000.00	
Yendi Girls' J. A. School		-£1,200.00	
Kasoa School (BA Staff Ghana School Project)		-£1,250.00	
Abonse Presb. Basic Primary School, Akwapem		-£1,500.00	
		-£125.00	
Transfer Charges (GhIntBank) – Nawumi, Zagyuri, Yendi, Abonse.			
Newsletter Printing and Postage		-£869.33	
UKOWLA Subscription		-£35.00	
JustGiving Fees (7 months @ £18.00)		-£126.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE:</b>		<b>-£16,505.33</b>	<b>-£167,222.91</b>

<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>-£4,472.04</b>	<b>£16,451.11</b>
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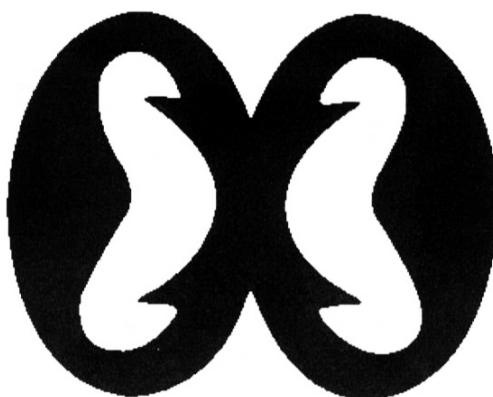
<b>BALANCE OF FUNDS at 31/03/2012:</b>			
COIF Deposit Fund:	£14,164.88		
NatWest Current Account	£2,286.23	<b>£16,451.11</b>	

# ACCOUNTS 01/04/2012 - 31/05/2012

*Treasurer's Report presented at the AGM 16th June 2012*

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

	Totals	Grand Totals
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Regular donations (mainly standing orders)	£480.00	
"Memories" donations	£40.00	£2,192.74
Donations in memory of Pamela Lewis	£25.00	£218.00
Donations through JustGiving	£23.71	£1,086.13
Donation from the Morel Trust	£500.00	
Penguin Books Ltd (matching the gift raised by Paula Regan)	£95.54	
Lunch (2012) bookings & donations in April-May 2012	£1,087.00	
+ Lunch income in March £642.00 - venue booking fee £62.50 = £579.50		£1,666.50
<b>TOTAL INCOME (01/04/2012 – 31/05/2012):</b>	<b>£2,251.25</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>		
Sandema Educational Resource Centre	-£1,500.00	
JustGiving Fees (2 months @ £18.00)	-£36.00	£162.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE:</b>	<b>-£1,536.00</b>	
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£715.25</b>	
<b>BALANCE OF FUNDS at 31/05/2012:</b>		
COIF Deposit Fund:	£14,164.88	
NatWest Current Account	£3,001.48	<b>£17,166.36</b>





## OBITUARIES

### **Pamela Lewis 1925-2011**



***A Tribute by Eric Earle, delivered at  
Pam's funeral, Llanwrtyd Wells, 2  
December 2011***

Auriol and I first met Pam and Aylwyn in Accra in 1956 when we lived in neighbouring government bungalows. I was an education officer in the Gold Coast government and Aylwyn had been recruited as one of a new group of Assistant Secretaries to staff the government ministries being set up prior to Independence. (Aylwyn played a leading role in the Tema Development Corporation, setting up a new town.) Our families became firm friends [and kept in touch after both families returned to England].

We got involved in arranging a reunion in London of various people who had worked in Ghana and over 100 assembled in a university hall in April 1986. This was so successful that it led to 3 connected things in all of which Pam became heavily involved : an annual reunion lunch, the setting up of a Trust to provide help for schools in Ghana and the planning of return visits to Ghana. In the end there were

just two visits, in 1990 and 1995, (though we contemplated more and Pam was thinking of another one only 2 or 3 years ago. Pam came on both. They were highly successful and enjoyable and also had a serious purpose in that we conveyed gifts of books and materials to various schools.

When Pam became the Hon Sec c1995 we became more organised – she saw to that: regular committee meetings with minutes – a bit of order! And the annual gathering , a lunch with guest speakers, reports on projects also became an AGM with Chairman and Treasurer reports. Pam set all this up and ran it very efficiently until handing over to her successor a few years ago. One of her projects which involved a great deal of work was setting up a Membership List of members who agreed to having their details circulated, which resulted in old friends getting in touch again. We invited Paul Boateng (former cabinet minister and now Lord Boateng) to be one of our Patrons – an interesting link with the past as Pam's son David had been classmates at school in Accra!

Pam remained on the Committee and attended meetings regularly until October 2011. She took over organising the AGM at short notice a few years ago. She could always be relied upon to remind us of our priorities in supporting schools in rural areas in practical ways and would question whether a particular proposal met those criteria. She was usually right! And when we occasionally made an exception she accepted the decision. The very high regard in which she was held is indicated in emails from colleagues who were shocked and sorry to learn of her death. Although she had missed the last two committee meetings most of us did not realise that she was seriously ill and it was a great shock. She was

the sort of person who seems indestructible. The messages speak of her clarity of vision and commitment, of her being very welcoming and informative to new committee members, “her wisdom and insight will be greatly missed – she had such a bright and intelligent personality” was one comment. Our representative in Ghana, Kofi Ohene writes “she has been a mother and friend since the mid-80s when I was a student at the I of E and she made an invaluable contribution to the work of GSA”. Another Ghanaian member, Letitia Boateng says “how shocking to hear the sad news about Pam – we love her dearly....” That gives the flavour I think of how Pam was regarded by her friends and fellow committee members.

*Ghana School Aid is setting up a Pamela Lewis Memorial Fund to raise funds to support the poor rural schools she championed so strongly.*

## **Denis Trussler 1931 – 2011**

***By Stanley Anthony***

Denis Leslie Trussler was born in Kimberley, Nottinghamshire, and educated at Ilkeston Grammar School and Liverpool University. After National Service in the Royal Army Education Corps, one year of which was served in Kenya, he taught in a technical college before joining the Colonial Service as an Education Officer. He was posted to the Gold Coast in September 1956 to work in the Accra District Education Office, inspecting primary and middle schools under the guidance of Eric Earle. He took an active part in the organisation of Accra's Ghana Independence Celebrations, arranging the schoolchildren lining the route of the Duchess of Kent from Accra Airport to the Governor's Residence. Denis and Elsie's first child was born soon after their arrival

in Accra and Stanley and Ann Anthony well remember the Trussler's help and guidance in settling into the work in the District Education Office and into their new life in Accra when they arrived a couple of months later and soon had their first child. Later Denis spent one year at the Government Teacher Training College in Tamale, and then 18 months in the Kumasi District Education Office. While there he worked with Florence Addison planning the royal visit to Kumasi College of Technology.

When his Ghana contract ended in 1960 Denis moved to Kenya lecturing in a Methodist Teacher Training College, which included acting for the Administrator of Protestant Schools in Coast Province when the latter was on leave. He was especially proud to be associated with the establishment of the Coast School for the Physically Handicapped in Mombasa. On returning to the U.K. he served in various posts: lecturing to overseas students in educational administration at Leeds University, supervising the teaching of English for special purposes in Colchester, and finally setting up a School for English for Adults in Bedford. He retired to Exmouth in 1996. For many years he was a Methodist local preacher, serving in that capacity at Exmouth Tower Street Methodist Church until his death.

## **Vera Tregidgo 1927 - 2011**

***From an obituary by Stephen Tregidgo***

My mother, Vera Tregidgo, died on 30 January 2011. She was married to Philip Tregidgo who co-authored the successful 1960's secondary school series of “Practical English” for Teaching English as a Foreign Language. It is still being published in much revised form today. They

arrived in the then Gold Coast in January 1954, with me as a two year old.

The family stayed in Ghana until the summer of 1963 with my father teaching at Winneba Teacher Training College; and in Tamale before taking up senior education officer/administrative roles in Accra, for a short while, and then Cape Coast and finally Saltpond. During this time my brother, Mark, was born in Accra in December 1954, and my sister, Jane-Ann, in Tamale in June 1957.

In addition to her strongly held Socialist views, Vera was fiercely independent minded. She was strongly advised, for example, to return to the UK for the births of Mark and Jane-Ann because she had some kind of Rhesus negative blood issue, which was a danger to both her and the babies she was carrying. She insisted in having both births in Ghana and as a child I do remember her having a very rough time in being pregnant in the heat of Tamale.

On return to the UK in 1963, Vera remained a housewife while acting for Philip as the typist of his many manuscripts. Her support to his work was much appreciated by him, not the least her proofreading skills. Her interest in Africa generally and Ghana specifically never left her. As Mark and I became more independent, Vera started to do voluntary work in an Oxfam shop in Petersfield, Hampshire, the town to which they had moved on leaving Ghana and the town in which Vera died. She worked in the same Oxfam shop for more than 40 years.

With Philip, the two of them were among the founder members of Ghana School Aid so it was very fitting that Vera went with a Ghana School Aid party on a two-week visit to Ghana in the

1990's. I know she valued that trip very much.

Vera leaves behind Stephen and Mark and 7 grandchildren she adored. Philip had died in 1992 as a result of a lung disease contracted while working in the mines in the mid 1940's; and Jane-Ann, after surviving a degenerative disease contracted at birth, died in 1999.

## **Wilfred Court 1929 – 2011**



### ***From an obituary by Ruth Court***

Wilfred [started] working as an architect in Ghana in the mid 1950's. He worked with a private firm which was building homes for local people displaced as a result of the construction of Tema Harbour. He later worked with the Public Works Department in Tamale, where he helped build a laboratory for monitoring the effects of French nuclear testing in the Sahara, and another one for the study of river blindness. During his time in Ghana he helped to organise the Independence celebrations in Accra in 1957. He would recall that Kwame Nkrumah lit the Flame of African Freedom in Independence Square during the ceremony. However, it was Wilfred's responsibility hidden away behind the screens, to ensure the flame ignited at the appropriate time!



His next job was in Nigeria where he worked at the Ahmadu Bello University in Kaduna. After marrying Elisabeth in December 1963, they lived in Nigeria until 1968 when life in Nigeria was becoming unsettled due to the Biafran civil war. They returned with their 2 daughters Sara and Judy to England.

The family finally settled in King's Cliffe where the youngest daughter Ruth was born in 1969. Wilfred worked for several architectural practices before setting up on his own. He also worked as Trust Architect for Hampstead Garden Suburb which he loved as he had a real passion for the preservation of beautiful old buildings. He remained a trustee for the Trust after his retirement.

Wilfred returned to Ghana twice. In August 2007 he was accompanied by his youngest daughter Ruth - a trip which has left her with many wonderful memories as she got to see all the places that she had grown up hearing about – such as Tamale and most notably the flame of African Freedom in Independence square!

Wilfred was diagnosed with prostate cancer and bone cancer in April 2008, an illness which he approached with his usual calm and uncomplaining fortitude. He died on 29th April 2011. Elisabeth, Wilfred's wife of 47 years also passed away shortly afterwards on 7th June 2011. They are both missed very much.

## **Dr Evelyn George Skinner (Lyn) 1920-2011**



### ***From an obituary by Maureen Skinner***

After serving in the RAF during the war, in 1946, Lyn went to Jesus College Cambridge and read Natural Sciences. He attended the Institute of Education in London where he met Richard Graves, a Ghanaian scholar on his course, who became a lifelong friend, and gained a diploma. He went on to the Gold Coast (now Ghana) and set up the first science laboratories in the Northern Territories. He also worked as a headmaster and then a school inspector.

When the Gold Coast became independent in 1956 Lyn returned to the UK and used his redundancy money to put himself through medical school at the Middlesex Hospital.

Lyn and Maureen married in February 1966 and went back out to Ghana. Lyn worked as a doctor at the diamond mining company's hospital (Consolidated African Selection Trust- CAST). Here he did a lot of surgical procedures as well as medical. Lyn also held a bush surgery each week when he would travel to people who otherwise were unable to reach a doctor. Equipment then was minimal and Lyn had to improvise on numerous occasions. Maureen worked as a sister

on the wards and as a sister tutor.

In 1967 Lyn and Maureen came back to the UK and Lyn decided to enter general practice. He did several locum jobs before joining a practice in Basingstoke in 1968. He worked there for twenty one years and retired in 1989 at the age of sixty eight.

Lyn died peacefully at home with all the family there with him on 20th March 2011. He is survived by his widow Maureen, his son Simon, his daughter Susan and was a proud granddad to Tom, Amy and Hannah. In an article written by Lyn to be read at his service he included the following: "I have had a wonderfully interesting life, been well loved and am completely happy. How lucky I have been". These are words that give great comfort to his family.

## **David Bradshaw 1929-2011**

*Taken from an address by Dr David Fletcher for the University of Sheffield, with additional material by Jennifer MacDougall.*

David had a very distinguished career in education after national service. He taught in Bristol and then in Ghana for which country he formed a lifelong affection. But it was on his return to this country that he commenced a most distinguished career which was to last a quarter of a century in further education management most notably as Principal of Doncaster Metropolitan Institute. He was awarded the OBE in 1985 in recognition of his service and achievements. Following his "retirement" he joined the Council of the University of Sheffield, where he had been a student, and served fourteen years contributing to many aspects

of university life with enthusiasm and genuine interest.

David was in Ghana between 1959 and 1963 at Winneba Training College as Tutor in Education and Educational Psychology. He was also Acting Head of Post Secondary Teacher Training from 1961 to 1963. He was strong supporter of GSA and regularly attended our meetings. We are delighted that donations at David's funeral and additional funds from GSA were sent to a school at Kasoa, near Winneba, to enable the completion of much needed additional classrooms. The Hartley Trust School (previously known as the British Airways School) has erected a plaque in remembrance of David and extended an invitation to GSA members to visit the school if they are in Ghana.



## David MacBean

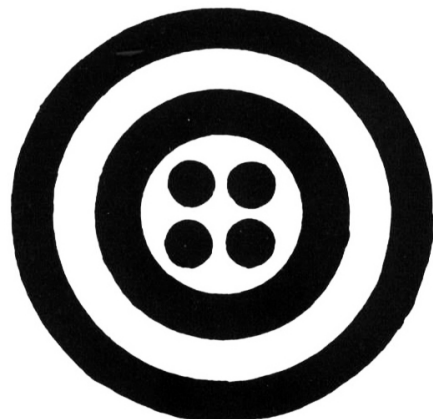
*By Eric Cunningham*

David MacBean, who died in July 2011 aged 83 after a long period of incapacity cheerfully borne, served in Ghana 1956-60 as a contract Education Officer, initially briefly at Sekondi and subsequently at Pusiga Government Training College. He greatly enjoyed his work there, and was both well-liked by his students and highly regarded by the Principal, Brice Bending. He was a graduate of Glasgow University with an honours degree in English. Returning to Scotland after Ghana he taught at three secondary schools in Ayrshire, his final post being head of English in Loudon Academy.

He was an enthusiastic and very generous supporter of Ghana School Aid, and though distance prevented attendance at the Annual Lunches he was actively in touch, even after his teaching career was sadly ended because of a stroke.

His son Colin records having been entertained as a child by his father's stories of life in Ghana, and his father's continuing interest in Ghana, particularly through a Ghanaian helper in the nursing home where he had to spend his last years. Colin reports "Dad always had a smile on his face when I went in and she was working". In his father's memory Colin made a sponsored run in September 2011 that raised more than £1000 for Ghana School Aid.

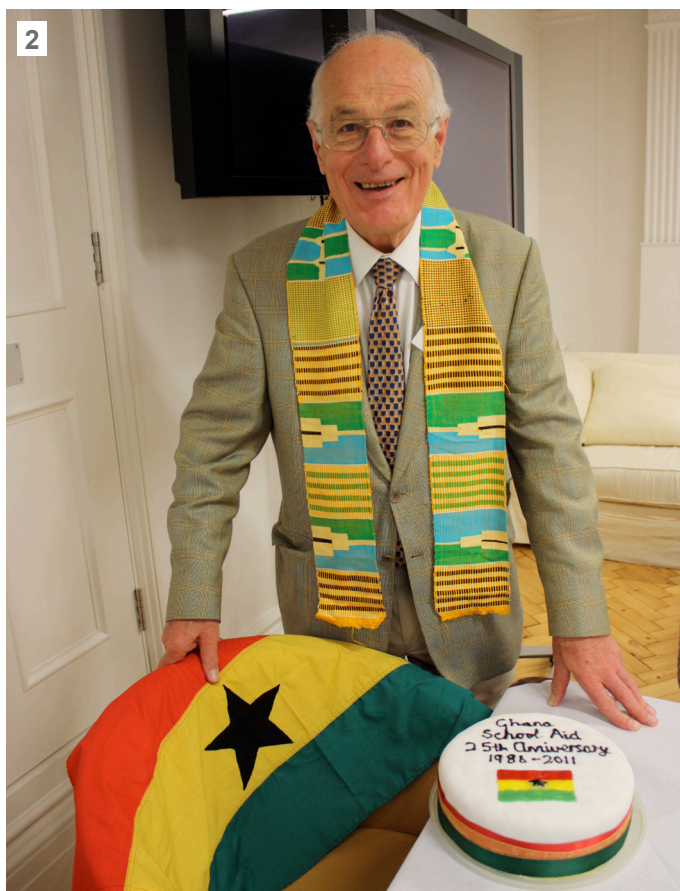
David is fondly remembered as a good man endowed with ability and stickability, and his friends in Ghana School Aid offer their sympathies to his family on their loss.



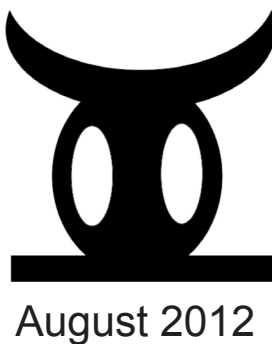


## 25TH ANNIVERSARY AGM, 16th JUNE 2011

1. Two of our Founders, Eric Earle and Eric Cunningham
2. Ted Mayne, Chair of GSA, with the Anniversary cake
3. Members enjoying lunch
4. Wilhelmina Assamoyah, representative of the High Commissioner of Ghana, cutting the cake
5. Second (and third!) generation GSA members



# Ghana School Aid



August 2012



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## PATRONS

HE Prof. Kwaku  
Danso-Boafo, 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:** Stanley Anthony

**AGM organisation & website**

**administrator:** Penny Sewell

**Newsletter:** Jennifer MacDougall

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

### **Other Committee Members:**

Letitia Boateng, Eric Earle, Patrick Heinecke,  
Sue Hewlett, Susannah Mayhew, Kate Regan,  
Judith Gillespie Smith, Margaret Turner

## ENQUIRIES

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

### **Tel:**

+44 (0)1483 565296

### **Email:**

EPMayne@globalnet.co.uk

### **Newly relaunched website:**

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

