

Ghana School Aid



AGM 2017

The AGM was very pleased to welcome Kofi Ohene, one of our representatives in Ghana, who talked to us about the continued need for the kind of assistance GSA is providing and the valuable help we have given over the past 30 years. He spoke, in particular, about Nayos Academy which he visited recently. We also heard from our patron, Lord Paul Boateng, who spoke about the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund, a pan-African organisation working on sustainability, especially in the area of agribusiness. Other speakers at the AGM included Sarah Livesey from Action Through Enterprise, Rita De-Graft on the Hia Community Library, Patrick Heinecke on the Sandema Project and Letitia Boateng on Abonse school. Reports on all these projects are included in this Newsletter. [Ed]

See photos next page, from top - (1) Kofi Ohene, Letitia Boateng, Eric Earle, Wendy Earle and Andy Lumor, (2) Sarah Livesey of Action Through Enterprise, (3) Kate Regan, Mary Owusu and Rita De-Graft, (4) Paul Boateng and Ted Mayne.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*Given to the AGM and Reunion Lunch by
Ted Mayne on 15th June 2017*

*Economic security, decent sanitary housing and
quality education is a right for everyone.*

These are the words of Martin Luther King Jr. at one of his rallies in the 1960s and it is what we have used as a base to the work Ghana School Aid has achieved since its foundation in 1986. We set out knowing where we are going because our founders were all aware of the importance of a good education. There was a fear that Ghana's progress could be hindered following independence and this determined group of former Crown Servants set out to make a difference. When we look back at the past 31 years we can see how we have touched the hearts of so many by providing much needed resources and assistance for schools in rural areas. Yes, Ghana School Aid has achieved so much and as each day passes demands for our resources continue. Over 50% of Ghana's population is under 21 and there are simply not enough schools to cope with the schooling of the country whose population has tripled in 30 years. Demands are high and the costs are spiralling. It was Clement Attlee who said in 1943 that if we can educate any population we can go a long way towards eliminating both sickness and poverty. This quote by Attlee is one we as a charity take seriously. I propose to use this occasion to express my sincere appreciation to the current committee for all they have done over the past year. I cannot thank them enough and our activities are nicely presented in our glossy publication – which you have all received – put together so well by Jennifer and Anna MacDougall. So I will not enlarge on what has been recorded. Thank you Jennifer and Anna.

You will be getting a report by our hard-working treasurer, Nigel Dennis. He has put in a monumental amount of work since succeeding Stanley Anthony, and during this time our finances have increased hugely, hence giving us considerably more money to dispense to our needy projects. Nigel has been ably supported by William Spooner who has made quite an impact since joining us recently.

Jo Hallett, our secretary, has worked tirelessly with zest and enthusiasm throughout the year, monitoring meticulously every request for assistance. These have all been discussed openly by the committee and I cannot praise her enough. She manages to visit Ghana regularly and is on site to monitor our work. Her contribution has been massive. Kate Regan, has been another lynchpin of the committee, helping out whenever needed, providing much needed support. [She also visits Ghana along with others on the committee such as Letitia Boateng, Penny Sewell and Mary Owusu who all keep a close eye on our projects round the country, together with our very hard-working Ghanaian representatives Kofi Ohene and Alhassan Salifu Baako.] I have just named a few, but cannot thank Penny Sewell enough for all she has done with the website and co-ordinating this occasion. She has been active with two large projects in the Volta Region. Thank you Penny.

In Patrick Heinecke we have a person who has worked tirelessly in the Northern Regions, spending several months a year working in difficult conditions. He has monitored the Sandema project with adept skills and recently ensured that the project could progress now solar energy panels have been installed.

Last year I celebrated 10 years as chairman of GSA and recently I advised the committee that I have been thinking of passing on the chairmanship to someone with new ideas. I must emphasise that I am not throwing in the towel, but if anyone here would like to take over my duties, please could they let me know. I must add that I am more than happy to continue for a little longer.

I started this report with a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. and I will end with another by this great man. He said: *Education is the passport to decent economic positions.* Thank you everybody.

NEWS

By Jennifer MacDougall

Grant Applications

GSA has become a victim of its own success! We receive increasing numbers of applications for grants and simply do not have the funds or the capacity to administer them all. (In March 2018, for example, we received 16 new requests for help.) Our very hard-working secretary, Jo Hallett, spends a tremendous amount of time assessing, researching and communicating with each applicant, organising documents and photographs and writing reports for all our meetings. We are a very small charity and simply do not have enough funds available to provide for every school, although each one is a worthy applicant. Therefore we are obliged to restrict the number of schools considered, and to suspend applications for grants for a period from time to time. Up-to-date information on this is available on our website - www.ghanaschoolaid.org

The Thirtieth Anniversary Appeal - Update

As reported in the last Newsletter, the appeal was launched by Penny Sewell to help the Joe Bedu Primary School and the neighbouring Cambridge-Bethel School in the Awudome Valley, Volta Region. The aim to restore badly damaged classroom floors and connecting staff accommodation to the national grid at Joe Bedu School was completed in record time. At the Cambridge-Bethel School the new KVIP (4 cubicle toilet) facilities are also complete. A violent storm in March 2017 meant that the roof of the newly completed Pamela Lewis classroom (see Newsletter 2017, p.4) blew off. Luckily the mural portrait and dedication were undamaged. Donations from some generous friends and GSA have enabled the replacement of a much more robust roof and the classroom is back in use.



Pupils (top) and staff (bottom) at Joe Bedu School

Charity donations

Committee member William Spooner introduced us to a couple of websites – “Give As You Live” and “The Giving Machine” – which promise a small percentage donation to a charity each time a supporter buys goods on line, from a range of famous outlets (M&S, Tesco’s etc). He has registered GSA as a recipient, and all of us need to encourage friends and family to sign up so that their expenditure automatically benefits us. To benefit GSA you will need to register and choose Ghana School Aid as your charity. The links are:

The Giving Machine -

www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/ghana-school-aid/

Give As You Live - *www.giveasyoulive.com/signup/choose-charity?q=GHANA%20SCHOOL%20AID*

Personal Archive Material

We are indebted to James Gibbs for keeping us up to date with progress at the Bristol Museum which holds material from the British Empire and Commonwealth collection and accepts private donations. They have completed cataloguing their photographic collection recently including, for example, over 7000 images produced by the Crown Agents of major railway network construction in many countries including the Gold Coast. See www.bristolmuseums.org.uk

Other collections of archives include the Church Mission Society and the website britishempire.co.uk This website was started in 1996 and states that it “gathers information, facts,

opinions, memoirs, pictures.....or anything pertaining to the history...and reminiscences of the colonial period”.

Two Half-Marathons!

Congratulations and grateful thanks to Paula Moran who has raised over £1000 for GSA by running TWO half-marathons. Paula is a full-time working mum, and daughter of GSA committee member Kate Regan. Her efforts are a brilliant example to us all to “get out there” and raise money for GSA! Thank you so much Paula.

HIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY – FOLLOW-UP VISIT IN FEBRUARY 2017

Report from Rita De-Graft

In February 2017, Kate Regan from Ghana School Aid, joined Mary Owusu and Rita De-Graft, both from the Ghana Nurses Association UK and Development Missions Network Ghana, to travel to Ghana. The aim of the visit was to follow up on the progress of the Hia Community Library which was started in November 2007, and also to organise the set-up of the library including organising the layout and several boxes of books which had already been shipped to Ghana between 2008 and 2017. [GSA has donated funds for furniture and the installation of electricity.]

Pre-departure planning in the UK involved liaising among ourselves to discuss travel plans, both in the UK and in Ghana. Kate offered to donate resources for recording and classifying

the books and library lessons for the Librarian and school children. Whilst in Ghana, Agnes Nartey from Ghana Nurses Association also joined the team to travel to Hia. The team travelled to Hia on two separate days. Transport was arranged by Mrs. Owusu which made the journey easier and comfortable.

On arrival at Hia, the Team had a meeting with the Chief of the village, Nana Wiredu, who is now blind. The Team also met Teachers of the only primary and Junior High School at Hia, which was followed by unpacking most of the boxes of books sent between 2008 and 2017. What a task it was!

With the resources donated by Kate Regan, most of the books were recorded and classified by colour-coding them. The book shelves, which had already been constructed by the Library committee, had to be re-assessed and modified to ensure the safety of their use. One of the Teachers, who had recently been on a Library course, volunteered to join the Library Committee setting up and running the Library. A classroom visit was facilitated where a cross section of primary 4, 5 and 6 pupils were given a lesson on how the resources in the library could be used to enhance their learning.

The journey of realising the vision of the Hia Community Library has been long and protracted, however we are optimistic that with the progress made so far, the target group, largely school children, will be able to start utilising the resources (books) available to enhance their learning.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

By Jo Hallett, Penny Sewell and Jennifer MacDougall

Sandema Project, Upper Western Region

Patrick Heinecke, GSA Committee member, has had an 18-year connection with this project and visits frequently. This project is a wide ranging enterprise including a Vocational School, library, and a local radio station, Radio Builsa, broadcasting in a local language and providing information on social, medical, political and educational matters. Broadcasting had become costly because of the increase in electricity prices, and intermittent due to frequent power cuts.

A recent ambitious initiative has been to bring 22 solar panels all the way from Germany, supplied by a German charity; to provide a suitable secure building for the panels to go on the roof, and to house the large battery units. Ghana School Aid has contributed £2000 to the costs of installation. This has been very successful, so that the radio is now broadcasting from 5 am to 10pm, with a non-partisan, non-religious mix of educational and entertainment programmes. It is enormously appreciated in the community, and addresses a wide range of relevant health and social issues with particular emphasis on the needs of women and young people. Running costs are very little. The remaining issue is security – the installation of CCTV to enable monitoring 24/7. Patrick is funding this himself. The committee was delighted to hear of the tremendous progress of this innovative project!

The current concern is the local library, opened in 2000 and intended to be open 6

days a week for use by the whole community. It has deteriorated badly and needs major improvements including new shelving, rebinding and staffing. Two teachers from Bolgatanga have offered to retrain the librarian and GSA has donated £800 towards the Save the Library Fund.

Pen to Paper Ghana

We had a request from this Non-Governmental Organisation in February 2017. (www.pentopaperghana.com) This is run by Katie Emerson who lives in Ghana, and its main focus is on improving literacy through free daily classes, one-on-one support and teacher training in the Kumasi and Mampong districts. It also has infrastructure projects and provides school scholarships. The request was to provide matching funding of £800 to fund a mobile library van. This was agreed by the committee and a van was purchased, renovated, and now provides a library service to primary schools.

Katie later emailed GSA:

2018 looks to be another great year for the NGO. Having just completed reading classes with one school, Pen to Paper Ghana spent January [2017] assessing the reading ability of all the children in their next junior high school, in partnership with the Ghana Education Service. Katie and Richard, the co-founders, have now started their free phonics classes with those truly struggling to read, teaching them every morning from 7 - 8 a.m. before the school day begins. They're also working with the teachers of the primary part of the school to have bi-monthly meetings to share good practice and to improve the phonics knowledge

of the teachers, as well as running their mobile library van to the school.

Another exciting project that was undertaken in January was the building of a well for a village. The village had one well which was not sufficient to supply all the villagers and therefore people were having to use the water from a dirty stream. The new well has been dug next to the school to particularly ensure that the children have a clean water supply to drink from.



Kumasi/Mampong area children wave their donated pencils (top).

New mobile library van (bottom)

New Bethlehem Academy, Darkuman, Accra

This school does sterling work in a struggling community. We responded to their application by sending £1000 and received the astonishing news of how much had been achieved: including

2 gas stoves, 1 gas cylinder, a new kitchen gate, new floors and windows, a new roof, 2 dining tables, crockery and cutlery etc, a canopy for outside dining, library books and shelves, musical instruments, a polytank, new signage, painting walls, kindergarten play equipment, and repairs to printers. School enrolment had increased from 96 to 146 in 6 months!

Letter from Jacob Nortey:

On behalf of the New Bethlehem Academy of Darkuman, Accra, Ghana I write to express the profound appreciation of the pupils, teachers, and staff to you and your group members for the enormous financial lift you have provided the school for its facelift programme.

The Academy, formerly Patience Nortey Memorial Basic School, was established by Mrs Patience Nortey Quao, of blessed memory, about twenty years ago to encourage the children in this predominantly Muslim community to have basic education. She single-handedly operated the school up to Primary 6. Since her passing it has been gradually upgraded, and today it is preparing the pupils to sit for the Basic Education Certificate Examinations. In the last four examinations all the pupils presented have passed 100 percent. This year, the fifth, the teachers expect to be also a 100 percent pass. Your help of five thousand and twenty Ghana Cedis will help the Academy to carry out repairs and upgrade the Computer Laboratory, the Kitchen, and the Approach to the school. It will also help in providing additional play equipment for the KG section. We shall provide you with a comprehensive accounting of the use of the funds.

Nayos Academy, Eastern Region

We heard of this school first through the charity Action Through Enterprise (ATE; see also below), and asked our representative in Ghana, Kofi Ohene, to visit it. In a village of 500 people with no school, a young couple decided to build one themselves for the community. In the meantime children were being taught under a flimsy canopy with very little furniture or equipment while new premises took shape on an adjacent site. Kofi told us that Peter and Selina Ossom are the owners, that the school is a private initiative and is the only school in Yensiso, on the Mamfe-Koforidua road. He recommended that we send £2000 towards the new building, and recent reports show subsequent dramatic progress. Enrolment stands at 100 and growing.



New Nayos Academy school buildings

Gombele JH School and Action Through Enterprise [www.ateghana.org]

At the AGM in June Sarah Livesey of Action Through Enterprise gave us a presentation on their work with a school in the far north-west of Ghana. ATE was founded by Sarah Aboreh who went to Lawra as a VSO volunteer, and works with local communities to combat poverty in the Upper Western Region. GSA had donated £1000 early in 2017 towards this project which encourages sustainable development and works

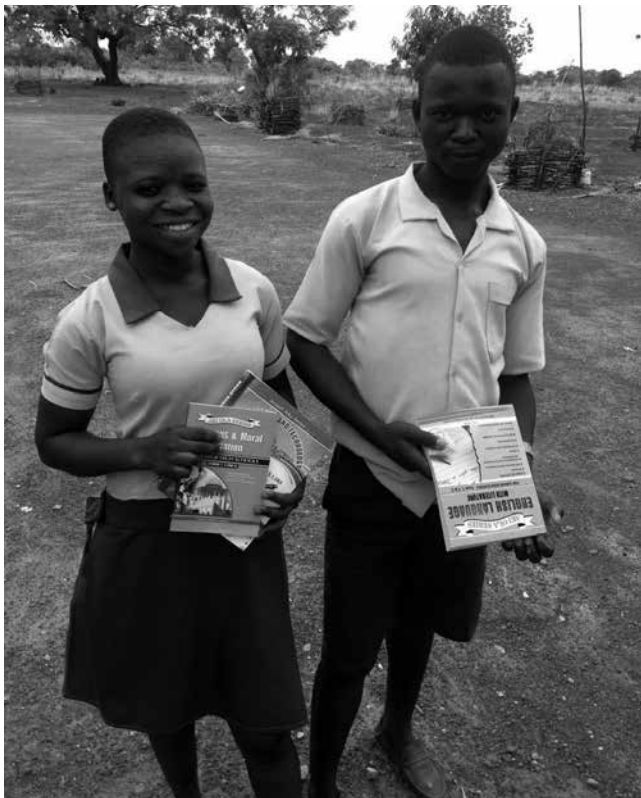
with families with special needs. Sarah Livesey reports on the purchase of textbooks for Gombele Junior High School:

Action Through Enterprise (ATE) began working in partnership with Gombele Junior High School in January 2017. It is the fourth school ATE has begun supporting. Located in the south of Lawra District, Upper West, Ghana, it is the school in by far the poorest, most remote part of the district that ATE has worked with so far. Baseline monitoring in November 2016 found a low attendance and high drop-out rate of pupils from the school, which was unsurprising given the struggle for many households to afford the most basic needs.

To support access to the free government education available, ATE delivers a programme called EducATE, which works in partnership with the school and community to provide a free school meal to each pupil each school day, and to identify and tackle other barriers to attendance and learning, such as a lack of text books, uniforms and other key educational provisions. The Headteacher, PTA and School Management Committee highlighted that the school desperately needed textbooks as children were often sharing one text book between four or five pupils and in some subject areas they had no text books at all.

It is with immense delight that Action Through Enterprise (ATE) can report that 161 text books have been purchased and presented to Gombele Junior High School on 4th April 2017. This means that the number of children sharing a single text book has been greatly reduced. This will hugely support their daily learning of the national curriculum and their learning towards their Basic Education Certificate Examinations.

The 77 pupils and the staff at Gombele JHS are overjoyed and extremely motivated by the support. The purchase of these text books and the positive impacts it will bring to the pupils' learning has been made possible by the generous donation of a £1000 grant from Ghana School Aid. Angelina, pupil in Class 3 says "The arrival of the text books have given me more hope that I can pass my BECE exams".



Gombele JH schoolchildren, with new text books

Abonse School, Eastern Region

Abonse school has been supported by GSA and monitored by committee member, Letitia Boateng, for several years. From the original bamboo shack the new building has been developed and supported by the local community, Ghanaians in the UK, Ghana School Aid, the US embassy, and the Presbyterian Church. GSA has provided grants for furniture, and various building materials over 11 years.

In the last 3 years the school has achieved a 100% pass rate, which Letitia attributes to the much improved learning environment. A grant of £1500 was awarded by GSA in February 2017 to complete the present project including plastering, painting and installation of safety rails. The work has been completed to a good standard.

Gumani Hasaniya Islamic Primary School, near Tamale

Our representative Salifu Baako recommended this school for a grant to fit the metal windows and doors which had already been purchased. The school building was in a poor state and they had run out of money. GSA provided the necessary funds of £440. A letter of appreciation and photos were received:

Coming on the heels of financial constraint in completing the remaining three classrooms by the PTA your support was timely and a lifeline to the school's continuous existence. The PTA, the staff and students of the school are very grateful for the support received from you through Salifu Baako, the representative of Ghana School Aid here. We pledged to maintain the doors and windows.



Newly fitted windows and doors, Gumani Hasaniya Islamic Primary School

Gumani Methodist Schools A and B, Tamale

These schools were also recommended for help by our hard-working representative, Baako. They are separate but adjacent schools and supplied very thorough applications, with photos, for new desks. GSA agreed a grant of £700 for 40 dual desks for school A and £600 for 35 desks for school B. The committee heard that the schools have now received most of these and were awaiting labels stating “Donated by Ghana School Aid”.

Bekwai Islamic School, Ashanti Region

This school serves the Asante Bekwai Zongo community which is a poor area where most of the population are farmers or involved in

the production of palm kernel oil. The GSA Committee agreed a grant of £800 for this school to buy classroom furniture. Here is part of the Headteacher, Samuel Abetteh's, thank you letter:

The kg classrooms are now having adequate round tables and chairs which is now promoting team learning and effective and efficient group method of teaching among the pupils and the teachers. Teachers do not now waste time to arrange the furniture because of the table shape. This has helped them deliver a lesson in a flexible and systematic manner in line with their teaching philosophy and lessons objective. The teachers find it very easy now to move over during teaching and indoor play activities to address individual pupils' needs..... There has been an improvement in the pupils' handwriting because the furniture has promoted good seating posture. We are very grateful for your kind gesture towards our



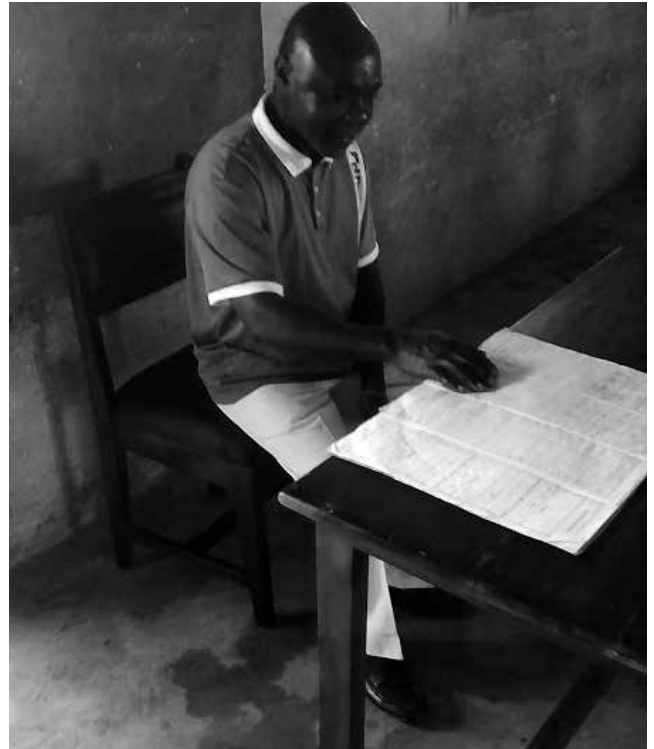
New classroom furniture at Bekwai Islamic School

school. Long live GSA, long live the Board, long live your representatives, long live Madam Jo. [GSA secretary] The students give you guys hi fiveeeeeee!!!!

Akim-Anamase Zion Primary School, Central Region

The Headteacher of this school sent photos of many broken desks and tables. After a robust email exchange concerning the care and repair of furniture, including the importance of using screws instead of nails to make repairs, photos were provided showing the school carpenter had been at work. However, new desks and tables were still required. GSA agreed to send £1000 to cover the cost. The Head, Charles Oppong sent a letter of appreciation:

Thanks very much for your time and also wish to thank you and your able donors once again for your great donation to Anamase Zion primary. In fact the Grant has improved the teaching and learning of both teachers and pupils. Now pupils can now Seat comfortable in the classroom, handwriting of pupils is now improving, also teachers Seat in their comfortable tables and chairs without roaming about. This has enabled the teachers to access and evaluate the strength and weakness of the pupils very well. Last but Not the least the provision of the cupboard has save the children's from taking their books to homes after School..... In fact there has been a massive change since the arrival of the furnitures. Everybody is very Happy and even a sister School was appealing to your noble organization to come to their aid with the same materials (furnitures). Once again thank you and your noble organization and we wish to see you peoples at Anamase Zion primary School one day.



New tables and chairs at Akim-Anamase Zion Primary School

T.I. Ahmadiyya Primary School, Brong Ahafo

This is a farming community whose main source of income is through illegal mining (galamsey). The school is 53 years old and submitted a detailed request for new furniture – desks, tables and chairs. A grant of £1200 was agreed in May 2017. The school sent lots of photos of the new brightly coloured chairs and tables.

Zawiatul Irfan Islamic Primary School, Tamale

As reported in the last Newsletter, 2017, GSA awarded this school a grant to supply 50 metal dual desks for pupils. A subsequent grant has provided desks and tables for teachers as well as some large storage cupboards, as recommended by Salifu Baako, our representative in Northern

Ghana. The Headteacher, Sumani Issah, sent a letter of appreciation:

The school initially faced with furniture challenges which your good organisation solved for us. As Oliver Twist asks for more, we tendered in an application for teachers' tables and chairs as well as school cupboards. Your good organisation gave us ten teachers' tables, chairs and six school cupboards. All this is under your good representative...Mr Alhassan Salifu Baako. We thank him for the good work done. May God bless your organisation and your coordinator.



New storage cupboard (top) and teachers tables at Zawiatul Irfan Islamic Primary School

Gadara Academy, Sekondi

The school is situated at Ngyiresia, a fishing community near Sekondi, Western Region. When it was visited by our representative, Kofi

Ohene, the two-storey building comprised a Nursery, KG, Primary and JHS classes, total enrolment 120, with 17 teachers. Although GSA is wary of funding ICT equipment because maintenance problems often render equipment unviable, the positive report we received led us to allocate £1760 for the purchase of 4 or more computers to go into the burglar-proof, furnished ICT laboratory. These are necessary to enable the JHS pupils to prepare for their ICT examinations.

Five desktop computers were delivered in April 2017, plus a power surge protector. We received a report and photos of the computers showing all five are now fully functional in a secure room.

Siawkrom D/A Primary School

This is a rural school in the Eastern Region, running largely on the goodwill of its dedicated staff, including the Assistant Head who has worked unpaid for two years. Our representative, Patrick Nyante, visited the school and provided an informative report. He was impressed by the efforts made and the good relationship with the community. We received a request for funding for teachers' tables and chairs, cupboards and pupils' desks, with detailed cost estimates. We allocated £1240 towards this project.

Here is part of a thank you letter from Solomon Kwabena Gyimah on behalf of the school:

I, on behalf of the staff, PTA executives of Siawkrom D/A Primary School and the entire community write to express our profound gratitude and appreciation for giving us a grant of GHC 6,800 for furniture in the school. The grant has made a significant impact in the social and academic life of the pupils. The

memory of your organization will forever linger in the hearts of the school as you are the only organization that has extended an arm to the school..... The furniture has made teaching and learning very effective, comfortable and conducive..... The desks have solved the problem (of copying) The pupils' handwriting is now improving as a result of their new sitting arrangements. Teachers can now sit in the comfort of their chairs to mark pupils' work and other related classroom tasks, which was not so in the past.... Pupils now put their books under keys and lock. ...Another lasting impact the grant has made is the relief it has brought to parents. Parents have been saved from contributing money to secure those items for their wards..... With one accord, we say a big "THANK YOU " and "AYEKOO" to GHANA

SCHOOL AID and all your donors for such a gesture. We hope you will continue to help the school to see more development to make the school the beacon of excellence in the Birim South District.

Seikwa Presbyterian JHS, Brong Ahafo

This is a Ghana Education Service school struggling to progress on the capitation grant. Their results are improving and enrolment is increasing but they are hampered by lack of furniture and have to borrow from a local church. GSA agreed to fund £900 towards the cost of 80 new desks.



New desks at Seikwa Presbyterian JHS

Jumapo Methodist Basic School

This is a public school in the Eastern Region managed by The New Juaben Municipal Assembly under the Ghana Education Service. We were sent a request from Richard Owusu for furniture for the 115 boys and 128 girls (nursery to junior high school) in order to “improve academic excellence and standards”. GSA provided £700 in September 2017 and received photographs and thanks for the 10 desks, 3 cupboards, table, chair and notice board: “The PTA...staff, pupils and school as a whole really appreciate your effort and the aid given to us.”



New desks and blackboard at Jumapo Methodist Basic School

Yilonaayili Anglican Primary and Kindergarten School, Northern Region

GSA representative, Salifo Baako, visited this school and recommended a grant to improve conditions for the pupils. He reported that:

“Yilonaayili Anglican are requesting support to floor their classrooms- 6 in number... they have a staff strength of 13 teachers and more than 320 pupils. It is located at the far outskirts of Tamale where most parents find it difficult to properly take good care of their children’s education and so in most of the classrooms you can still find most children without school uniform. Inside the classrooms are actually bad as stated by the headteacher. They sit on the bare floor without chairs in some



New concrete flooring at Yilonaayili Anglican

classrooms. Those that have are very few. I see that helping them to floor the classrooms will bring some comfort to them as mentioned by the headteacher”.

The committee agreed £845 to provide for concrete flooring and Baako sent some photos of the results. The committee will consider further funding for furniture as soon as possible.

Kanvilli-Tawfikiya JHS

Our representative Alhassan Salifu Baako is Headteacher of this school which is in need of a new classroom block. In May 2017 the committee awarded £1500 towards this building. Baako wrote a long letter detailing the construction of a 2-classroom block, and sent photos of the building under construction.

REVIEW

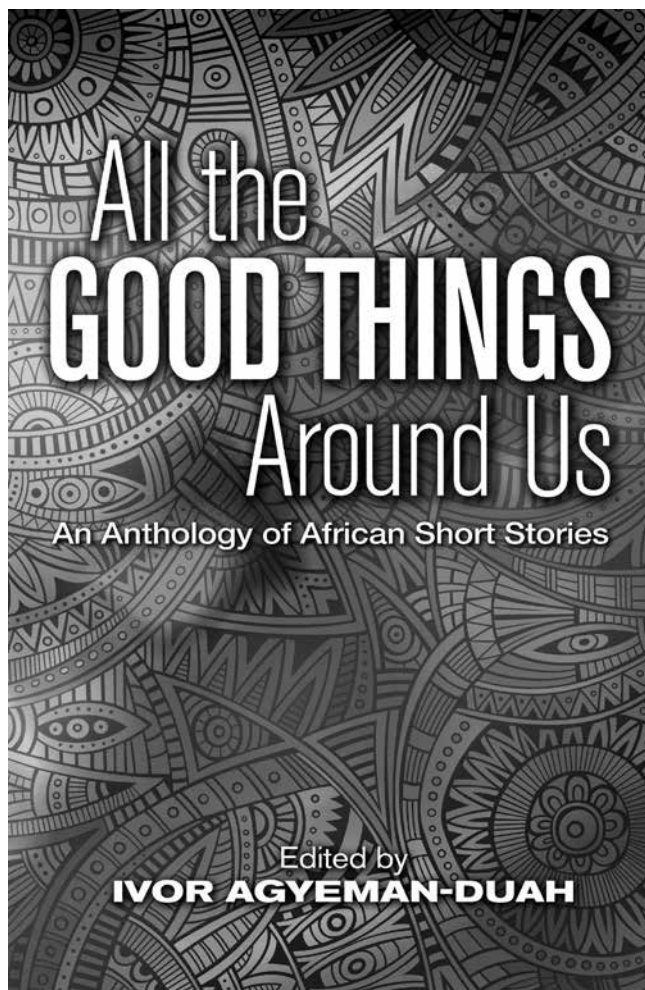
By James Gibbs [taken from a longer review]

Agyeman-Duah, Ivor, ed. ***All the Good Things Around Us: An Anthology of African Short Stories***, Banbury: Ayebia, 2016, ISBN 978-0-9928436-6-3, 366 pages, £12.00.

As editor Agyeman-Duah has brought together twenty-eight stories in the volume. Ama Ata Aidoo is represented by two [‘Rebellion’ and ‘Feely-Feely’], and Sefi Atta, Martin Egblewogbe, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie are among those with one each. Without getting too involved in picking through the selection - the full list is available online - one must ask why Agyeman-Duah included a work by Wendy Day Veevers-Carter that is not a short story, and how he



Classroom block under construction at Kanvilli-Tawfikiya JHS



would justify finding space for three (3!) of his own efforts. On a positive note, I was delighted that he had included a 39-page novella, ‘The Skull in the Garden’, by Peggy Appiah. In his Introduction, he writes that Appiah had ‘left’ him the story ‘years before’ (she died in 2006) and that she had asked him to publish it ‘someday’. Its appearance is particularly welcome since recognition of Appiah’s contribution to African writing is long overdue.

Agyeman-Duah clearly supports the view that she is a major writer and, in his notes on the authors, credits her with having written ‘over thirty novels’. I haven’t been able to find that many in the public domain, and I am intrigued by the possibility that there may be other substantial pieces of fiction awaiting (perhaps under his guardianship) publication

‘someday’. However, Appiah had enough work published to be acknowledged as an author of rare gifts who has made a contribution to the evolution of writing about Africa. The adult themes she addressed include the protection of African mineral rights in *A Dirge Too Soon*, and - in the novella in the new collection - family relationships and inheritance.

An incomplete bibliography of her output was included in the ‘Peggy Appiah Memorial Book’ produced by her family and friends (including Agyeman-Duah) in 2006 that is accessible through the Internet. It includes an important contribution by Peggy’s grand-son, Adetomiwa Edun who He recalls that ‘In her later years, one Ashanti morality tale persistently resurfaced. When one hears the solitary croak of a frog in the dusk, followed by silence, (the frog) is asking: “Who will bury me?” When his croak is answered by a chorus of replies he is asking: “Who will inherit me?” The insight encapsulated in this observation links neatly with themes explored in ‘The Skull in the Garden’ and with the issues of interment and inheritance that were near the forefront of Peggy Appiah’s mind in her last years. Those wondering what coloured her reflection on these topics will find relevant background in her husband’s autobiography and in *In My Father’s House* by her son, Anthony. Cross- reference reveals that the Appiahs are a family of authors and the totality of their output is greater than the sum of the parts.

‘The Skull in the Garden’ was launched, or ‘unearthed’, in London, but I hope it will - ‘darker elements’ and all - be widely discussed in Ghana. It addresses important issues and is a major contribution to the anthology that Agyeman-Duah has edited for Ayebia.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 01/04/2016 - 31/03/2017

by Nigel Dennis, Treasurer

INCOME	£
Income as listed in 2017 Newsletter on page 16	18,162.21
Additional Regular Donations	1,557.00
Neil Bax Legacy Second Installment	5,000.00
The Morel Trust	500.00
Additional Donations through Just Giving and My Donate	610.75
Additional HMRC Gift Aid	113.33
Annual Lunch Bookings and Donations 2017	<u>840.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>26,783.29</u>

EXPENDITURE	£
Expenditure as listed in 2017 Newsletter on page 16	11,979.67
Additional Donations to School Projects	11,190.00
Additional Expenses of Officers in Ghana	35.00
Additional Ghana Bank Transfer Fees	125.00
Annual Lunch 2017	<u>166.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>23,495.67</u>

FUNDS at 31st March 2017	£	£
NatWest Current Account Balance 1st April 2016	4,804.94	
COIF Deposit Account Balance 1st April 2016	10,125.00	14,929.94
Add Income Less Expenditure £26,783.29 - £23,495.67 =		<u>3,287.62</u>
TOTAL		<u>18,217.56</u>
Nat West Current Account Balance 31st March 2017		8,092.56
COIF Deposit Account Balance 31st March 2017		<u>10,125.00</u>
TOTAL		<u>18,217.56</u>

GRAND TOTALS 1986 – 31st March 2017	INCOME (£)	EXPENDITURE (£)
1986 – 31st March 2016	231,175.39	216,245.45
1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017	<u>26,783.29</u>	<u>23,495.67</u>
TOTAL	<u>257,958.68</u>	<u>239,741.12</u>
Income less Expenditure	£257,958.68 - £239,741.12 =	£18,217.56

TREASURER'S REPORT 01/04/2017 – 15/03/2018

INCOME	£
Regular Donations	5,159.60
Neil Bax Legacy Third Installment	4,500.00
John Hampshire Legacy and Family Trust First Installments	18,500.00
The Morel Trust	500.00
Donations through Just Giving	85.44
Donations through My Donate	1,251.38
HMRC Gift Aid	475.00
COIF Deposit Fund Interest	19.81
Annual Lunch Bookings and Donations 2017	<u>1,172.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>31,663.23</u>

EXPENDITURE	£
Donations to School Projects	27,122.50
Expenses of Officers in Ghana	80.00
Newsletter	530.05
Ghana Bank Transfer Fees	200.00
Annual Lunch 2017	505.61
Annual Lunch 2018	<u>194.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>28,632.16</u>

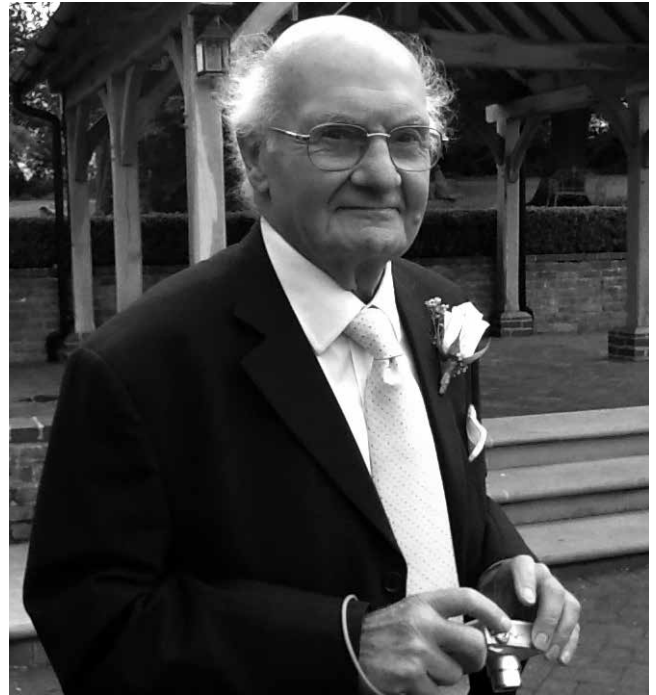
OBITUARIES

Stanley Anthony 1932 - 2017

From an obituary by Ann Anthony

Stanley was a scholarship boy from a loving home in a mining community on the Notts/ Derby border and was educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Mansfield and then Hull University. At Hull, as well as meeting his wife, he made friends with several fellow students who were from West Africa and this inspired him to apply for a job in Ghana as an Education Officer, which he started in November 1956. He had trained as a secondary school geography master and spent two years doing national service in the Education Corps so inspecting primary schools in Ghana was quite a challenge. Fortunately his District Education Officer was Eric Earle who was a great boss and teacher, and Dennis Trussler (just two months senior to Stanley) was a good colleague. Stanley enjoyed the work and always got on well with the teachers he visited, although the poverty of some of the schools was distressing.

Looking back, as Stanley's wife, we both found it an exciting time; here we were, a young married couple (without a bean), 24 and 22, and 7 months pregnant and we had our own (to us palacious!) rented government bungalow and a brand new car (affordable with the allowances). Thanks, Ghana! Yes, the heat was sometimes too much, but hey, we had servants! One of Stanley's earliest jobs was to help organise the school children along the roadside for the Independence Parade (they then called him a pink man, not white!). He was based in the Accra office but quite often went further afield on trek which enabled him to see how people lived in the rural



areas. Stanley took it all in his stride (as he did throughout life) and often took his wife and baby son with him; great memories of the Prampram rest house right on the beach and snakes on the loo wall in another one! For the last 6 months of his first tour he was seconded to the West African Examinations Council as an administrator which involved travelling further in Ghana, and the work suited his meticulous eye for detail.

The second tour started in Cape Coast but soon he was posted to the Government Secondary School in Tamale where he taught Geography and English. Here he made good friends with fellow Ghanaian teachers (David Gaveh was one), as well as Ken Strong, John Glover and Eric Cunningham. He always remembered that the students were so keen to learn that they would remind him if he had forgotten to give them homework. He organised a Christian group for the students. As a sideline he taught Civic Studies to adults in WEA classes, which also taught him much about Ghana's history. His contract was only for two tours but as Ghana was still short of enough local graduates to fill all the posts, he

was asked to stay on for a third tour which he was happy to do, but after that it was necessary to return home for the eldest boy's education - by then he was 5 and a half and had two sisters.

Stanley obtained a teaching job at Caludon Castle Comprehensive in Coventry. The contrast between teaching in Tamale where the students were so keen to learn that they complained if a teacher failed to give them homework and some of the less than enthusiastic boys at Caludon was marked, and though Stanley had taken it all in his stride, he was pleased when he obtained a job at the Mid-Warwickshire College teaching Geography and General Studies to over 16s and adults.... in later years he was a tutor on the teaching course for those with a skill but no teaching qualification; he loved teaching that course and learned all sorts of skills while supervising lessons, from first aid to driving instruction to psychology. But perhaps his most enjoyable job was as a part-time Open University Tutor.

[Stanley became a lay reader with his local church of St. Paul's and also served as Sunday school teacher and treasurer amongst other roles. He was treasurer for a number of other organisations including his allotment committee.]

...Stanley loved Ghana and particularly the people; that first job had a big influence on the rest of his life. [One] of his passions was Ghana School Aid, ... a charity started by people who had worked in Ghana (mostly in education), loved the country and its people and wanted to help them improve the schools, particularly in the poor rural areas. Stanley enjoyed both the company of ex-colleagues, including Ghanaians living here, and serving as treasurer. He much

enjoyed a visit back to Ghana with this group in 1990.

And he had time for hobbies; as well as the allotment he made beer and country wine from excess crops. He did a lot of DIY in our Victorian house in Campion Terrace where we lived for 48 years. He enjoyed some good holidays.....and for the last 2 years the company of our beautiful cat, while he coped so patiently and not complaining with his illness. But above all Stanley was a family man, very proud of all his children and their very happy families, and amazed at the achievements of all his grandchildren.

Tributes to Stanley from GSA committee members

Ted Mayne, Chair

In a letter to Stanley shortly before he died Ted wrote the following -

In your recent email you stated that you no longer felt well enough to attend our quarterly meetings in London and that you wished to resign from the committee. Your request is, of course, agreed but the committee felt it appropriate that you should be made an Honorary [Committee] Member. We all hope that you will accept this position. We are all so grateful to you for all you have achieved and contributed during the time you have been on the committee.

Jennifer MacDougall

Stanley and Ann Anthony were founder members of Ghana School Aid and Stanley was a committee member and Treasurer for many years. Of course this is a key position for a small charity, and he handled the frustrations and problems of organising the funds and

transferring cash to suitable beneficiaries in Ghana with seemingly effortless ease. He was delightful to work with and a great friend and support to all on the GSA committee and to Ghana.

Mary Owusu

Please give my condolences. We are in Ghana at the moment and I am sure all those people Stanley had supported in Ghana will be eternally grateful. A big thank you on their behalf.

Penny Sewell

Dear Stanley - his contribution to the wellbeing of humanity (at least those people he could affect) has been immeasurable, if GSA is anything to go by. My deep condolences to his family.

Sue Hewlett

This news is very sad. I knew Stanley less well than others but I really liked him. There was a certain comforting peace about him. It's good that he is indeed at peace now.

Letitia Boateng

It is so sad about Stanley. May his soul rest in perfect peace.

Patrick Heinecke

Sandema wishes to express deepest condolences on the death of our Stanley Anthony.



John Bernard Hampshire 1927-2017

From an obituary provided by the family

Born in Yorkshire, John served in the Navy and later qualified as a teacher. Following marriage to Joyce in 1955, he was appointed an Education Officer in the Gold Coast and continued to have a lifelong interest in Ghana, producing several textbooks, and was a keen supporter of Ghana School Aid for many years.

On returning to the UK John taught at Richmond School, North Yorkshire and then deputy Headteacher at Huntington School York until his retirement in 1992. He and Joyce were very involved in their local community until Joyce's death in 2012. John died in August 2017.



Barbara Baddoo 1924 - 2017

From a tribute provided by Jim and Nancy Baddoo

[Barbara was a supporter of Ghana School Aid and a review of her memoirs To Ghana with Love is included in the Newsletter 2010-11. [www.ghanaschoolaid.org] It is an entertaining account of her long and eventful life in the Gold Coast/Ghana and brought back many happy memories for many readers.]

Barbara was a student in Cambridge in 1942 when she met her future husband, Michael Allotey Baddoo at the Methodist Students



Society. She subsequently worked as a teacher in Nigeria and visited Michael's family in the Gold Coast. In 1950 she and Michael married when he had qualified as a doctor and moved to the Gold Coast in 1952 where they were posted to different hospitals all round the country. They had five children and lived for several years in Korle Bu where Barbara worked as English tutor at the Nurses Training College.

In 1969, the family moved to Ho, where her husband became the Regional Medical Officer of Health for the Volta Region. Here, as in other places, she made new friends and she taught English at OLA (Our Lady of Apostles) Secondary School. In 1971, the family moved back to Accra where her husband became the Regional Medical Officer of Health for the Greater Accra Region, and later the Director of Medical Services. In 1976, after her husband had retired, she got a job with the Institute of Adult Education at the University of Ghana, where she worked in the Correspondence Course Unit. She found this a worthwhile and challenging job. Throughout

her life in Ghana, she got on very well with her in-laws and their families. In 1984, she and her husband Michael moved to the UK where they spent a very happy ten years, interacting with family and old friends.

In 1994 they returned to Ghana and sadly, Michael passed away in September 1996. She stayed on in Ghana until 2001 when she returned to the UK. Her last visit to Ghana was for a short holiday in 2008 which she really enjoyed. During her lifetime, she wrote a few books including some childrens' readers and an autobiography entitled 'To Ghana with Love'. She died at the age of ninety-two.



Leslie Beckett 1929 - 2017

From a tribute by Martin Beckett

Leslie was born in Wigan, Lancashire – a community rooted in the Lancashire mining and textile industries, and also a community with strong links to the Labour movement and to Methodism. [He gained a degree in physics from Manchester University where he met his wife Mary, a biology student.]

In 1955 Leslie and Mary sailed to West Africa to work at Mfantshipim School in the Gold Coast. As well as teaching physics and biology they enjoyed music and drama activities with both staff and students. They remained there for over 6 years, sharing in the excitement of the



Mary and Leslie Beckett in Ghana days

Gold Coast attaining independence, and seeing responsibility for the government of the new Ghana passed to Kwame Nkrumah. [Leslie] maintained links with the school through the Mfantsipim Old Boys Association in London. As recently as 2008 he was honoured to chair an event organised by the Mfantsipim Foundation in London at which one of the school's most distinguished former pupils, Kofi Annan, made the keynote address. [He and Mary were also founder members and keen supporters of Ghana School Aid, and attended meetings for many years].

In the mid 60's Leslie moved from Watford Grammar School to become Head of Physics at William Ellis School in Highgate, north London. While there, the British Council began to use his experience of teaching in Africa to help train teachers participating in the Voluntary Service Overseas – VSO - programme. This ultimately resulted in an offer from the British Council to go to Malaysia to develop a national science curriculum. So again the family moved abroad in 1972 to spend 4 very happy years in Kuala Lumpur.

Back in England in the late 70's during a shortage of physics teachers, Leslie continued

with the Nuffield Foundation, writing material for independent learning of science. [Leslie] was always passionate about teaching and about sharing his love of science....

Leslie's final job before retirement was as a lecturer and science tutor at the Institute of Education at London University, training graduates to become science teachers. The tutors spent many of their vacations running training courses around the world which Leslie absolutely loved. He was especially thrilled to be running a course in South Africa at the time of the vote to end the apartheid regime.

At home, his interest in Oxfam and other development and relief organisations continued. For a while he was on the National Oxfam Council. In Watford, he played a key role in raising funds to buy – as a gift from the People of Watford - a locally-manufactured truck to join the convoys transporting relief supplies to drought-stricken areas in East Africa in the mid-80's. More recently he joined the Jubilee 2000 debt relief campaign. For many years he also supported Amnesty International - diligently sending letters and Christmas cards to prisoners of conscience around the world, including to Nelson Mandela, to give reassurance that they had not been forgotten.

It was also, around the early 80's that he established a new contact with the Iona Community. He subsequently enjoyed annual visits to the island, developing new friendships, sharing in the activities, the walks and the music. [Leslie was an accomplished musician and was also a local Methodist preacher for over 60 years. He was an inspiration to many and will be deeply missed by his family and many friends.]



Photo taken at Mfantshipim School Foundation Charity Dinner in honour of Kofi Annan, October 18th, 2008. Front row (left to right) - Baroness Chalker, Kofi Annan, Nane Annan, Mary and Leslie Beckett



Receipt of GSA funded items at (clockwise from left) Gombele, T.I. Ahmadiyya, Bekwai, Seikwa

Ghana School Aid



April 2018

PATRONS

HE Papa Owusu-Ankomah, 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:

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

ENQUIRIES

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REUNION LUNCH AND AGM

**The next Reunion Lunch and AGM is at 11 am on Thursday 14 June 2018 at
St Mary's Church, Upper Street, Islington, London N1 2TX**



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