# Ghana School Aid 2022



GSA representative Baako with Headteacher Rev. Azeka and pupils at the opening of the Ken Strong Washroom at Tamale Senior High School, March 2022 (see article on p.9)

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Left to right: GSA Chair William with committee members Nigel, Jo, Penny, Kate, Mary and Rita at Eric Earle's funeral, January 2022



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# Introduction from William Spooner - incoming Chair of GSA

Dear friends and supporters,

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself. I took up the role of chairman last year, taking over from Ted Mayne. Firstly, I would like to thank Ted - as we all would - for his service and how good it is that Ted remains as vice chairman; his steers will be most helpful and the continuity essential.

I am honoured, if ever so slightly daunted, for Ghana School Aid is an organisation close to my heart and one which I am very familiar with. I joined the Committee in September 2015, but my connection goes back considerably further: my late grandmother, Sylvia, was a long standing supporter and it was through her that I became familiar over many years with Ghana School Aid's excellent newsletters. She arrived in what was then the Gold Coast in 1942, her work as a secretary for the War Office taking her from bombed-out London to Accra. It was on a trip to Tamale where she met my grandfather, Arthur, a District Commissioner. On their return to the UK and retirement, supporting Ghana School Aid was for them an opportunity to continue to help Ghana thrive.

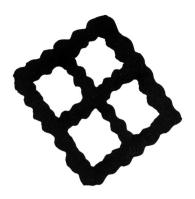
Joining the Committee was in part a response to my work at the time, as an advisor for a large international development consultancy. Finding the cut and thrust not to my liking, I returned to the newsletters and impressed with the outcomes Ghana School Aid delivered I enquired what I could do to contribute. I saw in Ghana School Aid an organisation that, year in and year out, effectively and without drama - thanks, as I later

learnt, to the Committee and crucially Ghana School Aid's representatives in Ghana - made such an important difference. In short, it spoke for itself.

Ghana School Aid is unique; our focus on school capital projects means we target our supporters' funds where it matters most - classrooms and, in recent years, toilet blocks. It is a vocation which we will continue as long as we have the funds to meet requests from schools in Ghana. There will be a time when we are no longer needed - it will be a moment to rejoice - but until then there is much to do as evidenced by the volume and quality of requests we receive.

Attending the funeral of Eric Earle in January [2022] was poignant; he was a gentleman and a great encourager for Ghanaian education. To keep alive that founding spirit is the aim, whilst making sure we continue to disburse our funds to the greatest possible effect. I have not (yet) travelled to Ghana; I will do once conditions permit - an opportunity on which I look forward to reporting back on.

My thanks to you all for your trust. There is much to do!



#### **AGM 2021 REPORT**

#### Compiled by Jo Hallett and Jennifer MacDougall

The AGM was held online via Zoom on Thursday 17th June 2021. The meeting was attended by 24 members and supporters from Accra, Tamale, Perth (Australia) and the UK. Ted Mayne welcomed everyone to our second AGM on Zoom. He explained that he was stepping down as Chair at this meeting, after 14 years, and handing the role over to the capable hands of William Spooner. William said that he was honoured and thrilled to take Ted's place as chair. He thanked Ted for his long service, and a virtual bouquet was presented!

[See more thanks to Ted on p.8]

#### Outgoing Chair's Report, 2020-21

#### By Ted Mayne

Every year at about this time when I settle down to do my annual report, I ask myself "Where has the past year gone?" Time certainly flies, especially as we get older. That said, in spite of the speedy passing of time, for us the year has been both productive and enjoyable. Thanks to Zoom we have had our quarterly committee meetings and the pandemic has not dampened our enthusiasm or hindered our activities. However, we all hope that we shall be able to meet up in person before too long.

For some time I have been considering my future with Ghana School Aid. I have been a committee member for 25 years and Chairman for 14. I was fortunate to be able to work closely with Eric Earle. When he relinquished his Chairman's duties in 2007, I immediately took over and have held the position ever since. For me the time and effort has been all pleasure. I have discussed my future with the committee,



Live-action screenshot from the 2021 AGM

who have agreed I can step down with effect from this meeting. We are very fortunate to have William Spooner on our committee and he is willing to take over. William and his family have close connections with Ghana and he is just the person to introduce new ideas. Fortunately he has youth on his side.

Our recent Newsletter includes reports on our latest projects and we have provided funds to build a number of much-needed toilet blocks in a selection of rural schools. Some of the projects have been quite ambitious and fortunately we have our Ghanaian members who are carefully monitoring our efforts. Here I pay tribute to Kofi Ohene, Alhassan Salifu Baako, and Patrick Nyanteh. Our website is frequently updated, which means that our activities are there for all to see.

As I said, our work is well documented on our website and this is becoming our main source of income. This is encouraging, but it does give our Treasurer Nigel Dennis plenty to do. Jo Hallett is a marvellous Secretary and Penny Sewell keeps our website up to date. Jennifer and Anna MacDougall, once more, have produced an excellent bulletin. These are just a few whose efforts ensure that the operation is well oiled. The Charity Commission are pleased with the way we operate, and nearly all our income goes into our projects. Very little goes towards expenses and all of us give our time free. This I know will continue. The charity is in good hands. For me, my involvement has been all pleasure and I shall support our new Chairman as he takes over the reins.

I close by sending thanks to all those involved and I know that Ghana School Aid will flourish in the years ahead. Bless you all.

#### Secretary's Report, 2021

#### By Jo Hallett

Another busy year for Ghana School Aid! We have been meeting on Zoom during the pandemic, and this has had the advantage of including people who are in Ghana, or elsewhere, as well as those unable to make the journey to London for committee meetings. This is our second AGM on-line.

In the year 2020 -2021, we were able to give grants to 23 schools or projects, nearly all for toilets and sanitation, as this has been our focus for the past two years. During the "application window" of October 2019, we had 62 applications; in October 2020 we had over 70 more. It is clear that the need is very great; I have been sent photos of some dreadful facilities, and many schools have none at all. The effects are particularly severe for girl pupils and female teachers dealing with menstruation, but also have implications for the spread of disease. We have had photos of many excellent toilets and urinals built with GSA grants.

Unfortunately, we cannot continue along this present path, inviting applications through our website and through word of mouth. Firstly, the process of classifying, sorting through and prioritising the applications in order to find a fair way to allocate funds is long and difficult and falls mainly to the secretary. Secondly, we raise the hopes and expectations of many schools which we are not able to fulfil. Thirdly, because of the demographic of our membership, we are getting fewer payments from legacies, and these have been an important source of income in the past. Our income is reducing.

We considered this issue at our last meeting, and recommend that we revert to the previous practice of considering grant applications that come to our notice through our representatives, members of the committee and known organisations that we have worked with in the past. We would be more focused on specific projects. [These issues were discussed in breakout groups during the AGM - see below]

The committee regularly looks for other ways to raise funds, and Penny's hard work fundraising by writing letters to trusts has brought in a significant amount. [See p.13]

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Nigel Dennis spoke to his report, which had been circulated. The annual accounts (1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021) show that our income for that year was £23,837 and the expenditure was £28,138. (The equivalent figures for the previous year were £34,263 and £34,694). Our income is the lowest it has been for 5 years, due to fewer legacies. He noted that we have received £7,150 from 7 different trusts, arising from Penny Sewell's letter writing. Nigel listed the 23 projects that received grants in the financial year 2020 – 2021, with an average of £1,156 each.

Kate Regan commented on the big reduction in bank fees for transfer of funds to Ghana, thanks to the assistance of Kofi Ohene. Lynne Symonds of the Wulugu project said she was impressed by our accounts and the low bank fees.

Ted thanked Nigel for his work as treasurer. The accounts are beautifully kept and presented, and as treasurer, he is totally reliable.

[The latest accounts are included on p.19]

#### **Breakout Rooms**

The AGM broke up into five small groups, located in virtual "breakout rooms". It was an opportunity to meet and talk with a few other people at the meeting, and to discuss these issues. The chance to talk more informally was appreciated!

The feed-back session included the following thoughts:

- Poor cleaning and maintenance of toilets is
  a big issue education on this is needed. We
  should do a presentation to Ghana Education
  Service (GES) on the poor state of sanitation
  in schools it's their responsibility. The
  key to making progress with major issues
  like sanitation is to bring together all local
  sectors, local government, PTA as well as
  GES.
- Better security is needed so that the toilets are not used by the whole community, 24/7.
- Some schools are now looking for disability toilets.
- We could consider applications by region.
- We could raise funds with sponsored events; this has been successful for the Ghana Nurses Association UK. We could also ask for small regular payments by direct debit.
- Fewer grant recipients means stronger accountability via GSA representatives and other known contacts.

#### **Committee Elections**

As mentioned above, William Spooner has taken over as Chair; Ted remains as Vice-Chair. This was agreed by the meeting. It was also agreed that all other officeholders and committee members will remain the same. [The list of office holders, representatives in Ghana and committee members is published on the back page of the Newsletter.]

#### **GSA Facebook Page**

Rita de Graft reported that we had 104 "likes" from people visiting the page [update: 116 in May 2022]. She posts new photos every month. GSA supporters are encouraged to visit and "like" the facebook page.



Ghana School Aid's Facebook page

#### **AGM 2021 Speakers**

#### **Paul Boateng**

Our Patron, Lord Paul Boateng, was able to join us for a few minutes, in the middle of another meeting. He paid tribute to the work of Ted as chair of Ghana School Aid, and to the huge contribution of this organisation to the relationship between Ghana and the UK. He is proud to be a patron of GSA, and he stressed that his titles are Baron Boateng of Akyem in Ghana and of Wembley in the UK. "GSA is a small charity, but it packs a good punch!"

#### Lynne Symonds – Report on Wulugu Project

Lynne Symonds reported that the Wulugu Project is working closely with local democracy – e.g., getting help from the PTAs. She talked about a recent conference on the UN's Development Goals, where concerns were raised about girls not going back to school after COVID. Alison Southern said that the effect of the pandemic on girls' education is likely to take us back several years of progress.

#### **Kofi Ohene - Ghana Today**

Kofi said that schools are now open after a long period of closure for the pandemic. Whilst Primary and Junior High Schools (JHS) are to keep to the 3-term year, secondary schools have moved to 2 semesters. The school year for all schools is now the calendar year.

The development of IT in schools remains a big challenge, particularly when exams are conducted on-line. He re-iterated the problem of girls not returning to education and the consequences of this. JHS and Senior Secondary Schools (SSS) are to give additional contact time to pupils, who have lost out recently. The Government decision to provide secondary education free to all has led to a large increase in numbers and some schools are having to run a 2-track system, with pupils attending either morning sessions or afternoon sessions. Social distancing is maintained and PPE provided.

In terms of vaccinations, 862,000 have been given; the number of cases of coronavirus is relatively low – 92,000 reported, with 790 deaths. However, compliance with COVID rules – such as the wearing of masks - is not good.

National Security is an issue, with problems in neighbouring countries. Robberies, shootings and kidnapping are also becoming a challenge.

There is to be a census at the end of June, which amongst other things, will help with roll-out plans. There is general dissatisfaction with the government's strategies. [June 2021]

#### **OUR THANKS TO TED MAYNE**

The GSA committee is very grateful to Ted for his thoughtful leadership, knowledge and wise guidance in all our activities over the last 14 years. Some of the committee members' comments are included here:

Jo Hallett - Ted has been the Chair of Ghana School Aid since I joined the committee just over 10 years ago. He has been the bedrock of the charity, using his knowledge of Ghana and his many connections with people both in Ghana and in the UK to the great benefit of the organisation. It has been a privilege for me, as GSA Secretary to work with him; I have frequently been very grateful for his wisdom and advice. Ghana School Aid has grown and developed under his leadership. Thank you, Ted!

**Penny Sewell** - For me, Ted's period as Chair of GSA is remembered as a period of great courtesy, good will, consistency, humanity and love. Ted exhibits those qualities in abundance and I think they rubbed off on his colleagues and

on our work. GSA benefited and continues to benefit greatly from his contribution to it.

Letitia Boateng - In his farewell message, in the newsletter of 2005/2006, Ted Mayne's predecessor Eric Earle of blessed memory, stated that Ghana School Aid would be in good hands with Ted Mayne. This statement is true, because many of GSA's funded projects have been achieved under his leadership and directions. Ted is very passionate and dedicated to the education of children. Through his guidance and support to the committee he chaired, many school buildings and facilities have improved. The environments of most schools that benefited from GSA grants are now conducive to learning, and many lives of Ghanaian children have been impacted during his time as Chairman of GSA. I must mention that although Ted has retired, he still joins the committee at meetings to share his knowledge and experience. Thank you Ted. You are very much appreciated. Enjoy a peaceful retirement.



Ted Mayne (right) with Paul Boateng at the 2017 AGM

#### **NEWS**

## The Ken Strong Washroom at Tamale Senior High School (Tamasco)

This project has been developing over the past 3 years [see Newsletter 2021, p.10] and we are delighted to report that, after several difficulties and interventions, it is now complete, thanks largely to the enormous persistence of our representative, Baako. We all owe him enormous thanks. The school now has an excellent girls' tiled washroom with running water, electricity, 10 toilet cubicles and 2 changing rooms with wash basins.





Grand opening of the new girls' washroom, Tamasco, including (top) Baako handing over the keys to Headteacher Rev. Azeka

## Report from Alhassan Salifu Baako, GSA representative Northern Ghana:

Tamasco was established in 1951 with an enrolment of 20 boys and named Government Secondary School but later changed to Gbewah Secondary School in 1972, then changed to Tamale Secondary School in 1973. Currently the enrolment of the school stands at 3,638 out of which 1,956 are boys and the girls are 1,682 with a staff strength of 208 made up of 156 teaching staff and 52 non-teaching staff. The school is also referred to as the Northern Light, or the torch bearers, and this is because it was the first secondary school established in the whole of the Northern Territories.

The 70th anniversary celebration took place in December 2021 and was graced by dignitaries such as the president of Ghana H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo, the vice president H.E. Dr. Alhaji Mahamudu Bawumia, H.E. Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, Executive Secretary of the Ecowas, Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, Minister of Education and the Director General of Ghana Education Service, Prof. Kwasi Opoku Amankwa.

Tamale Secondary School became the first school in sub-saharan Africa outside South Africa to establish the Cadet Corps in 1953. The school became a co-educational institution in 1958 after it admitted the first batch of female students and was also the first school to present students for GCE 'O' Level in Agricultural Science in 1955. It was also the first school in Ghana to run all the seven programmes of the Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSCE) introduced by the Ministry of Education in 1991.

Tamasco is the most consistent school in the National Science and Mathematics Quiz (NSMQ) in the Northern Sector. It won the maiden National Science and Mathematics Zonal Quiz competition for the five regions of the north and reached the semi-final stage at the national level in 2021.

The school has produced many prominent people who have served, and are still serving, the country in diverse ways. The current vice president was a product of the school as well as the late former vice president, Alhaji Aliu Mahama. Others are the present Speaker of Parliament of Ghana, Alban Sumana Bagbin, the present Minority Leader of Parliament, Lawyer Haruna Iddrisu, parliamentarians and many more. All these people contribute their quota in the development of the school and the nation.

It will interest you to know that the first Senior Prefect of the school, Alhaji Gbademoshi became a headmaster of the school and finally became the Director General of Ghana Education Service. It is interesting to also know that the present headmaster, Rev. Azeka was an old boy of the school. The school has produced medical doctors, lawyers, bankers, Air Marshals and many more.

In fact during the 70th Anniversary Celebration, Tamasco acknowledged and also listed Ghana School Aid among six corporate bodies that supported the school in diverse ways, and in the case of GSA, the construction of the Ken Strong ten seater water closest and changing room for girls.

It is a great pleasure for me to inform you that the Ken Strong Washroom built at Tamasco was successfully commissioned today. Both the teaching staff and the students, especially the girls, thronged around the ultra-modern toilet facility built for them in memory of Ken Strong to witness the ceremony. Also present were the media personnel who covered the proceedings in both English and the local language (Dagbani) to broadcast on radio and television. The radio station present was Radio Tamale and two TV stations, they are the Sagani TV and the GTV.





Interiors of the Ken Strong Washroom, Tamasco

## Speech given at the official opening ceremony in March 2022 by Baako:

"Ken Strong, from the UK, was a teacher at this school in the 50's and 60's. During his five years here, he developed a deep love for the school and for Tamale. His passion was to impart knowledge and skill to the young people he taught.

Ken died some years ago, but in 2019, his widow, Karola, and his daughter, Claire, gave a significant donation to Ghana School Aid to be used for the benefit of this school. The headteacher at that time identified an urgent need for a girls' washroom in this location. Plans were drawn up, and builders were brought in.

There have been a number of hurdles on the way, but now we are looking at this excellent facility designed to improve the health, wellbeing and good spirits of the girls living at the school. The donors are very impressed by the photos they have seen and are delighted that the washroom is now completed.

Ghana School Aid wishes to thank all the people who have worked so hard to bring this project to fruition. In particular, the Headteacher, Rev. Eddy Azeka and his senior staff team, who have monitored the project and expedited the work as it progressed.

On behalf of Karola and Claire Strong and of Ghana School Aid, it gives me great pleasure to declare the Ken Strong Girls' Washroom officially commissioned and open."

After I delivered my speech and handed over the keys on behalf of the Strong family, to the Headmaster, Rev. Eddy Azeka expressed



Inside the new facilities at Tamasco

gratitude to the Strong family and Ghana School Aid. He explained how lack of the washroom was a worry to the girls in the past and they had to be moving faraway to free themselves, but now that they have this built it will surely improve their well-being. He advised them on the proper way to use the facility - what to do and what not to do.

The Girls' Prefect on behalf of her colleagues thanked the Ken Strong family and GSA and assured us that they will put the facility to good use and make sure they maintain it well. A lot of photographs were taken and all the girls were happily rushing in with smiles when it came to moving in to inspect the facility.

On my part when asked what I have to tell the beneficiaries, I replied that I urge them keep the facility well for their own use and for the use of generations to come after they have completed and left school.

In all it was very successful, not only for Tamasco, but also for the Ken Strong family and Ghana School Aid. It is my hope that Karola and Claire will derive pleasure from the successful completion of this great project for the target group.

#### Letter of Appreciation from the Headteacher of Tamale Senior High School:

"The Management, Staff and Students of Tamale Senior High School hereby extend profound appreciation to you, the family of Mr. Ken Strong, for the initial donation of £5,000 and subsequent donation of £2,600 which have been used to successfully construct washrooms at the girls' dormitory.

I am pleased to inform you that the facility is currently in use. Indeed, by this singular donation, you have greatly enhanced sanitation, eased congestion and most importantly, uplifted the image of the school. I further wish to assure you that the facility would be well taken care of by staff and students.

On this note, I would like to reiterate that your support and loyalty to our school is greatly appreciated. Be assured that Mr. Ken Strong, our teacher and mentor, would continue to live on in our hearts, in Tamale Senior High School and in Ghana at large. Thank you.

Yours faithfully, Rev. Edward Azeka (Headmaster)"

## Hia Community Library Update – February 2022

By Rita de Graft

[Rita visited Ghana in late May 2021 after 2 years absence and was delighted to see the progress at the Hia Community Library. This initiative of the Ghana Nurses Association UK has been supported by GSA for some years (see Newsletter 2018, p.5). Photos show pictures of children and their teacher happily accessing the books, and learning to read. Rita spoke to us at the 2021 AGM. This is her report.]

The Hia Community Library was established to serve school children living in the surrounding villages around Hia, near Obuasi in the Ashanti region of Ghana. The building has a big spacious room containing the bookshelves and books, a storeroom and an office. The library, which is about 85% completed, has been in operation for about four years but not without its challenges. There are currently no bathroom facilities at the library.

With schools closing in March 2020 during the initial Covid-19 lockdown, the library was shut for ten months until January 2021 when



Pupils reading in the Hia Community Library, 2021

schools re-opened. The local District Assembly Committee has also been using the library as an office to perform administrative tasks geared towards development activities in the district. The most recent activity was when the newly appointed District Education officer had a familiarisation meeting at the facility with the Chiefs from the district, stakeholders in education, teachers and parents to discuss issues related to improving children's education.

The library is currently being used by school children from Ewiase and Ekorase Nankawora. The library is managed by Michael Mensah, a teacher at the Hia primary school. The library facility is also used by school children for prep (night studies) supervised by the teacher.

There are a few works to be completed which include:

- Re-doing the bookshelves as the current shelves are too bulky and tall for some pupils who cannot reach the top shelves.
- 2. Equipping the library with more books.
- 3. Completing the cataloguing of the books

In all, we are optimistic that more school children will use the library to improve their learning.

[Further funding of £1,880 was awarded by GSA for new shelving in May 2022.]

#### **GSA Promotional Leaflet**

Kate Regan has just completely redesigned and reprinted our promotional leaflet giving up-to-date details of our work, how to contact us, and methods of contributing to GSA. For copies please email: kate.regan20@gmail.com



GSA's new leaflet (shown unfolded)

#### **Fundraising Update and Website**

Penny Sewell has developed a new programme of fundraising by sourcing a fund-raiser, Paul Woodcock, who lives in Spain. He scours the lists of available trusts and forwards the contact details of 5 of them per week to Penny, in return for 10 per cent of funds donated. Penny then writes an appeal letter to each of them. At the time of going to press she has sent over 321 letters; most get no reply. But from those trusts who have contributed, we have now raised over £20,000 after costs. This is a magnificent boost to our funds. At the AGM one member commented that we are doing very well with these trusts, taking away sole dependency on support from members' family and friends. William expressed grateful thanks to Penny for making a significant contribution to our income. Penny has also developed, and enjoys looking after the GSA website. She has an IT friend who helps her with the technicalities. Information and updates on our work, how to donate, and all editions of the Newsletter are on the website. Any comments or contributions from members would be welcome. Please visit the website at www.ghanaschoolaid.org

## Action Through Enterprise (ATE) Ghana

GSA has supported this organisation for a number of years. ATE works in Lawra, a remote and poor rural area in the Upper West Region, supporting education and the whole community. They have given presentations at our AGMs in 2017 and 2019 and our committee member Kate Regan visited the area in 2019. [See Newsletters 2018 p.8, 2019 p.5, and 2020 pp. 5&7].

In September 2021 GSA received a request for £1,320, to help with funding the new Tanchara Hub model to enable ATE to reach 10 new rural communities. This would start with providing free school meals, school materials and sanitary pads for the two junior high schools in Tanchara. The long term aim is to enable children to finish their schooling in order to break the cycle of poverty. Presently only 1 in 4 children complete their basic free education due to having to work, for example in illegal mining. ATE is committed to empowering women and girls through education and business opportunities. GSA awarded the grant in full.

Our secretary, Jo Hallett, received this letter from Leela Shanti, Programmes and Development Manager, in December 2021: I am so grateful for all the support that Ghana School Aid has provided to Action Through Enterprise (ATE) to enable children to access education in Lawra; from support with textbooks, uniforms, emergency food supplies through the pandemic, to school materials for children in our newest hub at Tanchara, due to launch in January [2022].

Given your wonderful support, as a courtesy I just wanted to let you know that after six brilliant years with ATE, I am moving on to take on a new challenge as CEO of Team Kenya. So I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you and the trustees of GSA for all your funding towards of ATE's EducATE programme over the last few years - I so appreciate your belief in our work, and shared goals to enable access to education for all in Ghana. My colleagues, Sarah Gardner and Tara Colsell-Hawes, will continue to be the contacts for ATE and report on the work and the impacts in the Tanchara Hub.

More information at www.ateghana.org



**Pupils in Lawra** 

#### **UPDATE ON PROJECTS**

## Asuofua Basic D/A Primary School, Ashanti

Rita de Graft visited Asuofua DA Primary School in June 2021, which had recently been awarded a GSA grant of £1,148 to build urinals after their existing facilities were destroyed in a storm. The school has almost a thousand pupils and 32 staff. Following Rita's visit a further grant of £550 was provided to supply vital handwashing items.

We have received the following letter from teacher Josephine Owusu:

On behalf of the staff, and the children, we express our gratitude to GSA for this further support. The veronica buckets will help promote hand hygiene among the children and the staff before and after eating, after visiting the toilet and playtime. We again express our





New toilet and washing facilities at Asuofua

appreciation to you Jo for your hard work and Mr. Ohene and all the Members for your great work done. We will see to its sustainability.

## Aperade Senior High School, Eastern Region

Aperade was granted £1,383 in 2021 and have sent photos of their (almost) completed 5 seater KVIP toilet block.



Completed building at Aperade

The Headteacher, Benjamin Okai wrote:
On behalf of the staff, pupils, SMC/PTA
executives and the entire community of Aperade
I wish to articulate our profound gratitude to
GSA for the assistance given to the school in
securing a toilet facility for the school... the
procurement of this project has led to a massive
increment of about 20% of the enrolment in the
school on the part of the girls.

However, there is a speedy work ongoing and the project is almost in completion. I will keep you updated as soon as the project is fully completed. Thank you.

### Diasibe AME Zion Primary School, Ahafo

This school was awarded two grants in 2021 (£1,600 in total) for a urinal and handwashing equipment. This letter was part of a second application for funds to build a toilet facility for this school. It describes the situation typical of rural schools in Ghana:

From Alex Twum Barima, Headteacher - Diasibe AME Zion Pr. School

Together with my staff, SMC, PTA and the students, we are very excited to apply again this year on the theme sanitation for a urinal facility from your helping organization.

Our application for a bore hole last year was understandably declined because of its expensive nature.

WE HUMBLY THEREFORE PLEAD TO TENDER IN OUR APPLICATION THIS YEAR FOR URINAL FACILITY FOR THE STAFF AND THE PUPILS IN LINE WITH YOUR THEME 'SANITATION.'

The reasons for our need are that, the school pupils and teachers have no convenient place to urinate. The school has no urinal facility hence both the staff and the pupils urinate at inconvenient place that is on the bushes around the school. This makes it unsafe more especially for the boys and the girls and the female staff to urinate and even change their diapers during menstruation for the adolescent girls. *Notwithstanding the above reasons, because* there indiscriminate urination on the school compound, the urine releases bad smell to the school environment which can cause outbreak of diseases in the school. Also, because the pupils use the surrounding bushes around for urination, it very dangerous in the sense that they can be bitten by snakes especially our kg boys and girls.



**Completed toilets at Diasibe Primary School** 

These are the reasons justifying our application for your great support to get us a urinal facility for our pupils and the staff for a conducive school environment to execute effective teaching and learning for successful academic performance.

The school is sited in a cocoa farming community called Diasibe in the Ahafo Region of Ghana. This is the only school providing formal education to the occupants of Diasibe community. The people in this community live with their families in their villages within their cocoa farms. The school has a student population of 270 with 7 teachers. The school has kg to upper primary with age groups ranging from 3 to 14 years.

The school is run by GES [Ghana Education Service] and for that matter uses the GES curriculum for teaching. The school is being supported by GES capitation grant which is based on the student population and indeed is not sufficient to cater for the day to day administration of the school. The school has

seven SMC members chaired by Mr. Yaw Kwakye and PTA also chaired by Mr. Alhassan Kramo. The community's contribution to the school is full in terms of communal labour but poor in terms of financial assistance because of their low income levels.

## **Abonse Presbyterian Primary School**

[Letitia Boateng writes] This school was built by the Ghana Government not long ago, and was badly in need of a urinal. For obvious reasons and in desperation, the school started to build one for both pupils and teachers. Due to lack of funds, the project stopped as soon as it started in January 2019.

In May 2021, Ghana School Aid came to the rescue with a grant of 300 pounds, and the urinal, although delayed due to the pandemic, was beautifully completed in January this year [2022]. The Headteacher of the school, Mr. Godfred Opare, wrote a letter of appreciation and sent some pictures of the completed work.



New block at Abonse Primary School, 2022

## Other schools with similar new facilities funded by GSA 2021-2022

- · Akrodie School, Islamic School, Ahafo
- Dimali JHS, Northern Region
- Dohini Islamic Primary School
- Enyankwa DA Primary School, Central Region
- Kenyasi No. 2 Girls Basic School, Ahafo
- · Kings Academy, Ashanti Region
- Kwaboanta D/A JHS, Eastern Region
- Walewale Vocational Technical School, North Eastern Region [see a photo of the new KVIP facility under construction on p.2]





Kings Academy - before (top) and after (above)



Dimali JHS



**Dohini Islamic Primary School** 



Kenyasi No. 2 Girls Basic School



Kwaboanta D/A JHS

#### TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 01/04/2021 - 31/03/2022

by Nigel Dennis, Treasurer

INCOME		£
Regular Donations Irregular Donations including Legacies and Donation Donations from Trusts Donations through Virgin Money Giving Donations through Everyclick Donations through Giving.com Donations through Give as You Live Annual Lunch Bookings and Donations 2022 HMRC Gift Aid Interest from COIF Deposit Fund  TOTAL INCOME	ons In Memory	5,153.91 8,655.56 19,590.00 4,373.67 18.08 5.37 1,486.48 220.00 1,023.91 0.43
TOTAL INCOME		<u>40,527.41</u>
EXPENDITURE		£
Grants to projects in Ghana Fundraising Expenses of Officers in Ghana Annual Lunch and AGM 2021 Annual Lunch and AGM 2022 Newsletter May 2021 Bank Transfer Fees		20,717.00 2,822.73 20.00 66.00 78.36 626.97 16.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>24,347.06</u>
FUNDS at 31st March 2022	£	£
NatWest Current Account Balance 1st April 2021 COIF Deposit Account Balance 1st April 2021 Add Income less Expenditure £40,527.41 - £	13,725.63 <u>1,000.00</u> £24,347.06 =	14,725.63 16,180.35
TOTAL Balance at 31st March 2022		30,905.98
Nat West Current Account Balance 31st March 2022 COIF Deposit Account Balance 31st March 2022		29,905.98 <u>1,000.00</u>
TOTAL		30,905.98
GRAND TOTALS 1986 – 31st March 2022	INCOME (£)	EXPENDITURE (£)
1986 – 31st March 2021 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022	388,831.16 40,527.41	374,105.97 <u>24,347.06</u>
Total	429,359.01	<u>398,453.03</u>
Income less Expenditure £429,359.01 - £398,453.03 =		£30,905.98

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### **ERIC EARLE 1925-2021**

Founder and former Chair of Ghana School Aid



A Tribute to Mr. Eric Earle [Read at Eric's funeral by Steve Ohene] By Kofi and Floria Ohene and family, Ghana

Mr. Eric Earle was the Secretary at the University of London Institute of Education when I was studying as a graduate student at the Institute 1985 to 1987, under a British Government Scholarship. Eric invited me to his office in 1986 and shared with me his previous work in Ghana as an Education Officer in Cape Coast, Ho and Accra, during the latter part of the colonial period. He disclosed his continued interest in Ghana and the concern of his and some other colonial service colleagues (the late Brice Bending, Eric Cunningham and John Whittingham) about the post-colonial developments in Ghana particularly on Education and the intention to form an interest group to raise funds to support Ghana schools in poor communities. Eric's love and interest

in Ghana, his initiatives and good works led to the establishment of Ghana School Aid (GSA) in 1986.

I had the privilege to sit in their executive committee and annual general meetings, 1986-87 and worked closely with Eric and GSA, 1991 to 1998 when I served as Foreign Service Officer at the Universities of Ghana London Office. On my return to Ghana in 1998, I continued to work with Eric and Ghana School Aid as the GSA Representative in Ghana, (after two previous friends and GSA Representatives, the late Michael Asiedu and Robert Michael Asiedu).

Eric Earle devoted the best part of his time and energy, from the mid-1980s until his passing, to the work of Ghana School Aid. He served as a founding Executive Member and Vice Chairman, later Chairman after Brice Bending, and active Executive Member after handing over the chairmanship to Ted Mayne. He facilitated and coordinated two successful Ghana School Aid group visits to Ghana in 1990 and 1993. From the humble beginnings Ghana School Aid has given grants to more than 100 schools across the breadth and length of Ghana in the form of library books, computers, building materials for roofing, construction of buildings/urinals, school furniture, and water storage tanks.

Eric's interest and work led not only to the establishment of a network of relationships between the Ghana colonial civil service officers, their friends and families in Britain and Ghana, but more importantly, it rekindled interest in the development of education in Ghana and deepened post-colonial friendship, interest and love between Britain and Ghana.

In spite of his position and seniority, my relationship with Eric developed to a point where we became close friends in addition to our common interest in the growth and development of education in Ghana. Eric Earle and his family have been a big part of the life of the Ohene family both in UK and Ghana. Our family, including our late mothers, enjoyed numerous visits to Auriol and Eric in their Guildford home for lunches, and birthday parties. We were privileged to join the family in celebrating Auriol's 90th birthday in 2019 and Eric and Auriol's 69th wedding anniversary in March 2021.

Mr. Eric Earle, my good friend and mentor, as we bid you fare-well we know that you have played your part by offering a life-time service to education and contributing to the growth and development of schools in Ghana. We will miss your friendship, good humour, humility, and desire to support the under privileged schools and society. May your gentle soul Rest in Perfect Peace.

#### In memory of Eric Earle by GSA members: Margaret Turner [Founder member and long-time committee member]

Eric's death is sad for his family but the fact that GSA is now giving such help to many young Ghanaians is a tribute to his work in establishing it. Members of GSA can be happy to realise that they, whether they knew him or not, are continuing his work. This news made me think about the early days of GSA. These are my recollections about how GSA came into existence.

Eric and three former colleagues who had worked in education in the Gold Coast/Ghana (Brice Bending, Eric Cunningham and John Whittingham), had discussed whether, forty to fifty years later, they could do anything more about education in Ghana. They decided to collect as many names as possible of people who had been involved in education before and after independence and invite them to a reunion. They organised a very enjoyable daytime event at which people reminisced and renewed old friendships and I think the four organisers were surprised at the enthusiasm shown for further reunions and for a visit to Ghana. Some time afterwards, Eric invited me to join a planning committee for the 1990 visit, probably because he thought that a woman who had taught at a school in Ghana and was remote from administration, would be a useful addition.

Eric's many contacts with Ghanaians were invaluable. Together with these Ghanaian friends, he arranged visits to all the schools and other establishments that any of the party had been involved with. Wherever we went, we were welcomed warmly. As far as I remember his three British colleagues did not come but Auriol did. Eric and Auriol together charmed all we met.

Subsequently, an expanded committee met in Eric's office at the London University Institute of Education to discuss how to continue and to arrange a second visit to Ghana. For this second visit he liaised closely with one of the two Michael Asiedus and arranged for a Ghanaian tourist agency to make most of the arrangements. This second visit was also a great success. Eric was accompanied by his daughter Wendy. (Probably Auriol was then too busy with her work as a councillor in Guildford.)

The committee was now more aware of the needs of Ghana schools and became more focused. The original chairman was Brice Bending, Eric Cunningham was the secretary and John Whittingham the treasurer, but Brice's health was not good and Eric followed him as chair. Under his inspiring leadership GSA moved forward and with the help of many new committee members became what it now is.

#### Rita de Graft

Very sad to hear of Eric's passing. He was my first contact with GSA and was instrumental in our first application and subsequent first grant for the Hia Community Library project. He will be greatly missed.

#### Mary Owusu

So sorry to hear this sad news about Eric. He and Auriol invited me and Rita to their home for lunch and gave us books for Hia library. He was such a kind hearted gentleman. We have lost such a wonderful person. May he rest in perfect peace.

#### **Paul Boateng**

Eric's life time of service to Education and to Schools in Ghana was very special. He will be remembered with deep affection and respect.

#### Penny Sewell

I am much saddened by the news of Eric's passing. His contribution to Ghana was immense, his role in GSA really huge. We will miss his good humour, his wisdom, his caring, his bottomless fount of knowledge and good sense. A major page has turned. My heartfelt condolences to his family.

#### Jennifer MacDougall

I am so very, very sad to hear of Eric's passing.
I have many happy memories of childhood in
Ghana and visiting his home in Cape Coast where
he, Auriol and the children lived some of the
time during his service as an Education Officer.
Eric was an inspiration to many people and the



**Eric and Auriol Earle pictured together** 

reason I joined GSA. He will be missed by the whole GSA community and remembered as a founder organiser in 1986 and the inspirational driving force for so many years.

#### Sue Dale Tunnicliffe

I am so sad. I met Eric about 30 years ago through IOE former students' association and learnt of his Ghana work. He and Auriol were always so kind and welcoming and they did such great things for Ghana and education. We always kept in touch hence my involvement with you all.

#### Kate Regan

This is very sad news indeed for all of us at GSA, as well as no doubt many others who have benefited from his work in education and his generous charitable support.

#### Letitia Boateng

I am very sad about the passing of Eric. He was a perfect gentleman and full of wisdom, and made immense contribution to education in Ghana. He will be terribly missed by all of us at GSA.

#### Jo Hallett

I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Eric just before Christmas. Although not unexpected, it is always a shock when someone finally dies. I am glad he made it to his 96th birthday - a great achievement! He played such a central part in GSA. Ted tells me that he is the last of the four GSA founders. Eric put his heart and soul into the issues discussed at committee meetings, even when he could no longer travel to London. We know he was still interested and engaged right to the end.

#### William Spooner

Sad news for us all; this marks the end of an era for GSA.

#### **AURIOL EARLE, 1928-2021**



Auriol was one of the first of her generation to attend university as well as an accomplished sportswoman. She accompanied her husband Eric to the Gold Coast/Ghana in the early 1950s where they spent many happy years. Auriol became involved in community life and set up a nursery school with other expatriates and Ghanaians. She made many friends and long term attachments which later resulted in the founding, with Eric, of Ghana School Aid in 1986.

Following their return to England Auriol was active in developing the arts in Guildford, served as a Lib Dem Councillor in the 1990s, and became Chair of the Borough's Arts and Recreation Committee. She was a devoted mother and grandmother.

#### LALAGE BOWN, 1927-2021 From an Obituary by James Gibbs



Lalage Bown died in Shrewsbury on 17 December 2021 at the age of 94 after being hospitalized for a short time following a fall. She was born in Coventry on 1 April 1927, and attended Cheltenham Ladies College before going up to Somerville College, Oxford, where she studied history. After graduating in 1948, and following courses in adult education, she took up a post in adult education and extra-mural studies at the University College of the Gold Coast. For the next forty-three years, she criss-crossed Africa, lecturing in newly-founded African universities and contributing to the development of adult education. She clearly felt that sort of life was her fate since the biographical profile on the back of one of her books includes the following quotation: "My first name being a classical Greek one for a woman who talks a lot, I was obviously destined for lecturing."

Lalage Bown held teaching posts in a total of seven universities in five countries. After the Gold Coast/Ghana, she contributed to establishing or building up adult education programmes in Makerere University College, Uganda, the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, the University of Zambia, Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria, and the University of Lagos. In 1981, when some of her age-mates were retiring, Bown, by this time dubbed "the mother of adult education in Africa," was appointed Director and Professor of Adult Education at the University of Glasgow. She held those positions with distinction for more than a decade before embarking on a productive retirement in Shrewsbury.

The anthology, *Two Centuries of African English*, [which] she put together is one of the 'must have' titles in the African Writers Series, a volume that I find myself constantly referring to and that invariably delights with the new encounters it offers.

Lalage Bown remained active and involved into her eighties and nineties at which time, partly through Ghana School Aid (GSA), I got to know her. GSA was just one of the organisations involved with Africa and education that Lalage Bown contributed to in her old age. She was a good friend of long standing of the organisation and details of her involvement in its work can be found in the newsletters posted on the GSA website.

Professor Emerita Lalage Jane Bown toiled in the field of adult education with a fiercely positive and creative spirit, always aware that there was much to find learn from those she worked with. She will be remembered with gratitude, admiration and affection by legions of friends, by her adopted children, and the very, very many who constituted her extended family.

#### **Tributes to Lalage Bown:**

#### Peter Williams

Curiously enough (and thankfully) I had called her for a chat only last Sunday afternoon and she spoke with Julia and me for nearly an hour - she had been full of high spirits and chirpy as ever with her usual fund of anecdotes about what was going on in Shrewsbury and reminiscing about recent times. She was planning her 95th birthday party. What a wonderful woman and what a privilege for us all to have known her and be counted among her friends.

#### Penny Sewell

I'm so sad to hear your news about Lalage. I had great admiration for her, so intelligent, so caring.

#### Jo Hallett

It is sad news indeed. Lalage was a larger-thanlife character, who will be remembered with fondness and gratitude.

#### Wendy Earle

Sad news. I know my parents were extremely fond of her and she made an enormous contribution to GSA. I think Dad will be following her very soon. This year is beginning to feel like the end of an era.

#### Jennifer MacDougall

I'm very sad to hear this news. Lalage was a real pioneer in many fields, a fervent supporter of GSA, and a wonderful person.

#### Ted Mayne

This is sad news. She gave so much to Africa during her life.

#### Letitia Boateng

I am saddened by the passing of such an

intelligent and lovely person. She will be sorely missed by all at GSA.

#### William Spooner

I recall Lalage gave me great kindness (and spirited enthusiasm!) when she attended our AGM at St. Mary's Islington a couple of years back. She imparted such energy and joy.

#### Margaret Turner

Sad news but good to know that only a week ago she was cheerful and had a lively conversation with a friend.

#### Rita de Graft

Sad to hear the news. My first contact with Lalage was in 1998 when she supervised me when writing my dissertation at the Institute of Education. It was a joy to meet her years later at a GSA AGM and talk about it. Her legacy will live on. May she rest in peace.

#### Mary Owusu

So sorry to hear of Lalage's passing. It was such a delight and enlightening talking with her. We will forever be thankful for what she did for Ghana education. May her gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

#### Kate Regan

That is sad news. Lalage clearly left an influential legacy in adult literacy education through her life's work. GSA has been fortunate to enjoy her support and her contributions to our AGMs. She was so motivating.

#### Kofi Ohene

Just read about the death of Professor Lalage Bown. I had the privilege to work on her travels to the University of Ghana as External Examiner in the best part of the 1990s when I was at the London Office. Professor Lalage Bown made an immense contribution to the development and growth of Adult Education in Ghana. She was larger than life. Her Great Works will remain forever in the History of Education in Ghana. May She Rest in Peace.

#### HELEN KIMBLE, 1925-2019 From an obituary by Lalage Bown



My friend Helen Kimble, who has died aged 94, was remarkable for her intellectual talent, applied over many years to African affairs, for her loving care for her four daughters and for her readiness to campaign for justice. Wherever she worked, she elicited great affection.

After a brief stint as an editor at the Bureau of Current Affairs in London, Helen married David Kimble, who later became vice-chancellor of the University of Malawi. In 1949 she accompanied him to the new University College of the Gold Coast (now the University of Ghana), where he was director of extramural studies. For 11 years there and five more at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, where David was professor of public administration, Helen worked with him on many pioneering projects, particularly in publications for African audiences, which were also useful to Africanist scholars in Europe and the US.

Helen edited a series of pamphlets on African current affairs and also co-edited the African series for Penguin. In 1963 she and David co-founded the authoritative Journal of Modern African Studies, now in its 58th year, and edited it jointly until 1972. Her individual work included teaching economics in both west and east Africa.

Back in Britain and divorced from David in 1977, Helen moved to Oxford. Her sense of justice led her for the rest of her life to work with the antiapartheid movement – she was a monitor in the South African elections that brought Nelson Mandela to power. She was also dedicated to supporting detainees in Campsfield House outside Oxford. She mobilised volunteers to assist refugees there and crusaded against the policy of locking up innocent people.

#### BARBARA BOWMAN, 1923-2020

A tribute from Mrs. Eunice Ocran (For Wesley Girls' High School Old Girls' Association UK & Ireland)



The late Miss Barbara Bowman arrived in Ghana in 1956 when the country then known as the Gold Coast had become an independent country Ghana. She came to teach English at Wesley

Girls' High School (WGHS) at Cape Coast, Ghana. WGHS is a very old and well established girls' school. As Barbara Bowman herself said, she fell in love with the school straightaway, and determined to give it her best. No wonder her students always achieved high grades in their examinations. She taught English and elocution to form 1 students and English Literature to the sixth formers. In 1961 she was appointed Assistant Headmistress and worked tirelessly with the late Mrs. Clarice Howorth (nee Garnett), the then newly appointed headmistress, to maintain the high standards of the school. She retired from the school in 1972 and returned to the UK where she continued to take a keen interest in the school. In Britain she became an active member of the Wesley Girls' High school Old Girls' Association UK. She took part in the fund raising activities of the Association. We will miss her so much.



Barbara trained as a teacher at Homerton College, Cambridge where she met Ian. They decided to continue their teaching careers at Mfantsipim Secondary School, Cape Coast, in the Gold Coast/Ghana in 1953. Barbara taught part time at Mfantsipim but later founded and ran Cape Coast International Primary School with other colleagues. She became the Headteacher and the school was attended by many different expatriate nationalities as well as Ghanaians.

On their return to England in 1962, Barbara continued teaching full time for many years near Leeds. She loved children and enjoyed the interaction with them her whole life. On retiring from teaching she took up writing historical novels which were published in the UK and USA.



Barbara and Ian loved their time in Ghana, in particular the Ghanaian people, and remained in touch with the many good friends they made there. Later, with others now back in the UK, they were founder members and lifelong supporters of Ghana School Aid.

She was a very proud mother, grandmother and great grandmother and will be missed by all who knew and loved her.





#### **INFORMATION**

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#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Chair:** William Spooner

Vice Chair: Edward Mayne

Secretary: Jo Hallett

**Treasurer:** Nigel Dennis

AGM organisation & Website

ohenekofi5@gmail.com Administrator: Penny Sewell

Newsletter: Jennifer MacDougall

Representatives in Ghana: Kofi Ohene,

Alhassan Salifu Baako, Patrick Nyanteh

#### **Other Committee Members:**

Letitia Boateng, Rita de Graft, Susannah

Mayhew, Beatrice Monney, Mary Owusu,

Kate Regan

#### **PATRONS**

HE Papa Owusu-Ankomah, High

Commissioner for Ghana

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

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022**

The meeting will be held online via Zoom on June 16 2021 at 2 pm. We invite everyone to join in via Website: www.zoom.us/join

> Meeting ID: 886 5759 6993 Passcode: 1234

#### **DONATIONS**

**Please donate online:** giveasyoulive.com/charity/ghanaschoolaid Or scan the adjacent QR code with your mobile phone's camera

**Cheques:** Payable to Ghana School Aid

Please post to: The Treasurer, 230 Greys Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 1QY

Bank transfer details:

Ghana School Aid Trust, Bank: Nat West, Sort code 60 80 07, Acc no. 36306274



#### THANK YOU



