

Ghana School Aid



2025



Opening Day at ATE's new Learning Centre library in Lawra, Upper West, supported by GSA

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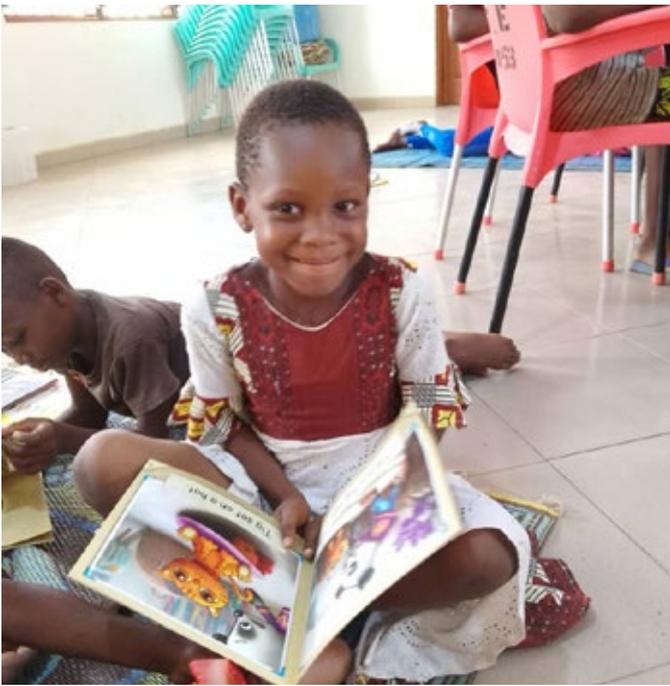
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After school at ATE's library in Lawra



Ted Mayne at GSA's 25th Anniversary AGM



Progress at Kanvilli Tawfikya Primary inspected by Baako



Baako at the commissioning of dormitories at Zugu Dabogni TI



New desks for Golazoli Amalia Primary School



* Figures taken over the last 5 years

Akwaaba!

Dear friends and supporters, in Ghana and in the UK,

This newsletter follows a long and well-loved line of previous newsletters; if you look on our website, www.ghanaschoolaid.org you can see all our previous editions going back to the 1980s. It marks our work as a small charity, showing our impact and makes us accountable to our supporters. Please use this one to spread the word about Ghana School Aid far and wide, among friends and family and in the community.

Next year will be our 40th anniversary. For a charity such as ours, existing purely on voluntary effort, this is a major achievement. More important though are the benefits Ghana School Aid has brought to generations of children in Ghana and their teachers. Education is a tool for change, giving hope and opportunities for young people to make their own choices about how they contribute to their community and nation. In focusing on the basics, classrooms, furniture, toilets and learning resources, Ghana School Aid makes a real and meaningful difference. Thank you to everyone who makes this happen; in the UK to Jo, our secretary, to Kate, for this newsletter, to Penny for the AGM and website, to Nigel, our treasurer. In Ghana to Mr Kofi Ohene in Accra and Baako Salifu in Tamale. There are many others too. Thank you, thank you.

This has to be tempered with sadness at the loss of our two of our own: Elizabeth Mayhew, and Ted Mayne. Elizabeth, a member of GSA for many years, remained a supportive member until she passed on and Susannah, her daughter, continues as a committee member. Ted, our former chairman of long-standing, was a kind and steady influence, bringing diplomatic experience and knowledge of Ghana to his role. Both had a deep and abiding love for Ghana, and the Ghana School Aid mission. As we go into our 40th next year we give thanks for their life and example; may it inspire us as we go forward.

This year also sees the retirement of Letitia Boateng after many years of service on the committee. We say thank you also, whilst having great delight in Akyeamaa, Letitia's granddaughter, joining us. Welcome Akyeamaa to the Ghana School Aid family.

With best wishes,
William Spooner, Chair.



AGM REPORT

... and looking forward to our 40th anniversary

By Kate Regan

Our AGM last year was held on 13th June at St Mary's Church, Upper Street, Islington. We welcomed friends old and new, reported on our work and heard from other organisations with whom we come into contact and sometimes support. It was an open and friendly event as always. Our AGM co-ordinator Penny had found a Ghanaian caterer to supply lunch which was both delicious and generous!



AGM attendees enjoy a Ghanaian feast. From left to right: Mary Owusu, William Spooner, Benedicta Odjidja and Rod Earle.

William Spooner, our Chair, spoke of the many needs that confront Ghana School Aid's representatives. "Children and young people need safe, clean facilities in which to learn – from school classrooms to toilet blocks to teachers' quarters. We know how important toilet blocks are for girls in retaining them in education. When in Ghana last year, I saw school after school that had benefited from our work both outside and inside." He thanked committee members, our representatives for their various work over the year and our Patron Lord Boateng, for his unwavering support and

encouragement.

Nigel Dennis, our treasurer, in his informative accounts included a list of the 19 schools helped with grants between 2023 and 2024. They showed a range of projects from repairing desks through to the building of a new classroom block; from providing bunk beds and mattresses for dormitories at a Technical Institute, to repairing essential pupil transport - and much besides, all reported in last year's newsletter that can be read on our website.

Jo Hallett, our secretary of 15 years, spoke of changing times, from committee meetings in London, many having journeyed from outside the city, to nowadays, just a handful of people at the Universities of Ghana's Overseas office in City Road (freely open to us) with many more attending on-line, significantly those in Ghana.

She explained the process of receiving and assessing requests for grants, followed by our representative Kofi Ohene's financial control of grant monies. His experience and connections make it relatively straightforward as well as secure and transparent. As our representative in Ghana, he also provides valuable guidance in matters general and specific.

Baako Salifu, GSA's representative in the north of Ghana, is an experienced, retired headteacher based in Tamale. He brings requests from needy schools, many of them very isolated, to each meeting. (Such schools in the north are a stated priority in the deeds of our charity.) He transfers grants to schools and gives motivational support

to projects all the way through, earning much respect from local leaders and their communities. Baako joins us on zoom for committee meetings and provides detailed reports of work in progress together with amazing sets of pictures. (Many of these can be seen in Update on Projects on p.9.) In our informal afternoon session, we heard from Jo about recently supported projects and from Wendy Earle about a project in memory of the family's parents, Eric and Auriole Earle, who were founder members of GSA. Adaklu Kodzobi Basic School in the Volta Region will benefit from a reading room with toilet facilities. (See under 'News' for exciting progress since then.) We also heard from Jane Scott about the Wulugu Project and Michele Carlisle with news from Action Through Enterprise (ATE), two dynamic charities in the north that we support from time to time. Joining us for the first time was Katie Allen East, representing Eduspots, an organisation focusing on volunteer-run activities in communities across Ghana. Their activities include after-school clubs, creating libraries and fund-raising for electricity. Attendees enjoyed the chance to share news and views on charitable work in Ghana.

Finally, Kofi on zoom brought our focus onto Ghana as a whole, describing the challenges faced by the country and for the new government which was to be voted in at the December 2024 general election.



Looking forward to next year

Soon after this newsletter is published, we'll be holding our 2025 annual general meeting, our 39th since a group of educators met to form GSA in gratitude to Ghanaians for happy and memorable working years in their country. We are looking forward to GSA being 40 years old next year, a milestone that perhaps the founders might not have expected! Yet we continue to be an impactful, volunteer-run charity with few expenses and a valuable reputation.

However, as William our Chair has said, moving forward is not without its challenges. As our reputation has grown in Ghana, so has the number of schools asking for our support. The applications we receive continue to show great need, with existing facilities limited or non-existent. We take comfort that we can encourage practical solutions with our funds, leading to lasting results. You can read here and on our website reports of projects completed and appreciative messages from pupils and staff.

With our future in mind, we welcome new members to our Executive Committee, particularly those of Ghanaian heritage or with another, knowledgeable connection to Ghana. If you are already a supporter, please spread the word amongst your family and friends and encourage those interested in our mission to consider joining the committee or fundraising for us.

If you are being introduced to our work now, to find out how you can support us, please do contact us via our email info@ghanaschoolaid.org. We would love to hear from you.

NEWS

Ted Mayne

GSA is very sad to report the passing of our former Chairman, Ted Mayne. Ted was at the helm of the charity for 14 years until 2021. He ably led GSA forward from its early days, when founder members supported education in Ghanaian schools, inspired by a shared affection for a country in which they had worked, to becoming an established smoothly functioning charity, still small but impactful. He never left us, simply moving to being Vice-Chair and continuing to advise discretely and wisely. William, our current Chair, highlights Ted's reassuring consideration and support. "Ted was the kindest of men. He was generous, always, with his time."



Ted with Prince Charles at a charitable reception on behalf of GSA, at St James's Palace

Our patron Lord Paul Boateng writes: "Ted Mayne represented the very best of British public service in both Empire and Commonwealth. His contribution to education in Ghana through Ghana School Aid was enormous. Ted's personal warmth and enthusiasm for development through education was unmatched and generations owe him a debt of gratitude. In Africa when a great soul passes, we say "a mighty tree has fallen" Ted had

a heart of oak! Go well Ted!" Medasi" which in his beloved Ghana means simply "Thank you"."

Other tributes to Ted's contribution to the work of GSA can be read on p.20 .

Eric and Auriol Earle legacy project is underway!

By Jenny Earle

In March a major milestone in the delivery of this project was achieved with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Ghana School Aid and representatives of Adaklu-Kodzobi D/A basic school for the construction of a single-storey 450 square metre Reading Room and two new washrooms. This project has required significant planning and discussion about the design, the construction phases and the funding needed to ensure successful completion.



Foundations at Adaklu Kodzobi

The school of around 365 pupils, boys and girls from kindergarten through to senior school, and 16 teachers, is near Ho, Volta Region. It has

the benefit of electricity and running water. The school has experience of working with NGOs, and this project is supported by the local Chief and by the Earle's Ho-based family friend Dr Hilary Gbedemah (see GSA 2024 Newsletter, p.11). She held productive meetings at the school with local community representatives as well as staff and students, all of whom were enthusiastic about the proposal.



Excited girls at Adaklu Kodzobi School

Construction is estimated to take about 8-9 months from commencement. The objective is to provide a quiet space where students can engage in independent reading, as well as additional washrooms for the girls to improve hygiene facilities for them. The school and local community have provided assurances that they will provide materials and labour necessary for successful completion, augmenting the funding from the legacy and GSA. From discussions, the Earle siblings have also committed to supporting this project through to completion as a lasting tribute to their parents who were so inspired by their years working with Ghanaians in education.



Hilary (2nd from left) presenting a gift of cement for the Adaklu Kodzobi project from Kofi Ohene and family

Just as we go to press, we have had exciting news that the project has been started. The Earle family write "We and the Ghana School Aid Committee are delighted that Phase 1 of this ambitious construction project is now under way. We offer congratulations and thanks to the Chief, to the Headmaster, to Dr Gbedemah and all concerned in ensuring its success and look forward to the progress reports."



Members of the school community, the Chief and other dignitaries with Hilary, cut the tape at the groundbreaking ceremony

Report on my participation in the Anti-corruption workshop for CSOs

By Alhassan Salifu Baako, GSA's Representative in the Northern Region

The USAID in collaboration with Democracy International and Grameen Ghana organized a one-day workshop training on Anti-Corruption Advocacy for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Northern Region in October, 2024 at the Nim Avenue Hotel, Tamale.

In all, sixty-four (64) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) attended the training workshop including me, representing GSA, on behalf of the Kumbungu District, one of the Districts in the Northern Region that has benefited a lot from GSA support.

Because of the distance they had to cover from all parts of the region, participants were invited to report the day before to pass the night there, to enable them to prepare for the meeting the next day. The course organizers bore the cost of feeding and accommodation of all participants and later paid for our transportation too.

The organizers and facilitators came from the national capital, Accra. They have organized similar workshops in other regions so far covering more than seventy districts in Ghana.

A pre-test and post-test of ten (10) questions each were conducted on the subject matter for participants to test their understanding of the subject matter. The training workshop was carried out in the form of discussion by all participants, which gave members the opportunity to contribute ideas, making it a great success.



Anti-corruption workshop - Baako is in the centre of the picture

Participants were taken through what corruption is, the causes of corruption, the effects of corruption, corruption at the highest level as well as petty corruption, the legal framework of corruption, institutions that are mandated to fight corruption and the role of Civil Society Organizations in fostering accountability and promoting good governance. The definition of corruption from the point of view of Transparency International and that of the World Bank was also discussed.

After going through a lot of discussions under the guidance of the training facilitators, participants were put into groups to discuss corruption in four thematic areas namely:

Agriculture, Education, Health and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) for us to come out with common practices by people in these sectors of work, that are tantamount to corruption, in order to avoid or report them.

The workshop came to an end with the promise that they would write to thank us for our participation. They also invited us to share a brief profile of our organizations to enable them to enhance their Performance Accountability Activity (PAA) implementation process. I have received their thank you letter through WhatsApp.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

The following reports of successfully completed projects show the variety of basic needs that Ghana School Aid supports. We often hear not only that conditions for teaching and learning have been improved, but that enrolment has increased as a result.

Action Through Enterprise Lawra, Upper West

This is a dynamic charity based in the UK, who have been supported in their educational work by GSA from time to time. As well as outreach work in village 'hubs' around the area, supporting schools, young people with disabilities, and small businesses, they run two community centres; one is in Lawra and the other, which was opened last year, is in Nandom, a town further north towards the border with Burkina Faso. (See Michele Carlisle's news on p.16).



Consulting a revision guide at ATE's new library in Nandom

A grant was requested last September to create a 'learning and library space' at each centre, to include shelves, other furniture, storage, soft matting for the disabled as well as books. GSA

was able to fund £2,000 of the £2,925 requested. An on-line appeal by ATE raised money for more specially purchased books that could be added to a BookAid International donation received last year.



Caught choosing a book at ATE's library in Lawra

Happily, this project funded by GSA later strengthened a subsequent, successful application to another donor for internet-enabled laptops at the centres. With sustainability in mind, this further grant included an amount for four staff: an IT assistant and a library assistant for each centre. Kate Regan visited in February to help set up the library areas, train the new assistants and plan the initiation of a rotating book-box system for schools.

Since opening in February, after school on weekdays and on Saturday mornings, the centres have been buzzing with young people enjoying

their choice of reading, doing puzzles, colouring, etc. The staff have been able to listen to readers individually and encourage involvement in whatever way users need. ATE will keep in touch with an impact statement.

Golazoli Amalia Primary School, Northern Region

This school, through contact with Baako, requested a grant of £1,000 for 50 backless, wooden desks as pupils were sitting on the classroom floor. We wished to help but suggested in the interest of comfort and sustainability, that they purchase instead 40 metal dual desks, which they did. We received a letter of thanks from the headteacher, Mr Ibrahim Fatawu. In it he says “We can now boast of having new metal dual desks to facilitate teaching and learning. This was like a dream to us. Mr Baako a shared a good time with us and he advised both teachers and students to take good care of the furniture. He also encouraged our pupils to take their studies seriously...Long live Ghana School Aid to continue with the good work. We are ever grateful to you.” To follow is an excerpt from Baako’s detailed report to us, showing how we are kept in close touch with the conditions and sentiments of all the schools that we support in the areas accessible to him and how local leaders are informed and involved.

I visited the school [for the handover of the furniture on behalf of GSA] in the company of the Assemblyman of the area and another local opinion leader. The headteacher had sent for the PTA executive members and some opinion leaders of the school’s community. On arrival I noticed all the furniture was packed. I asked why they were not yet arranged in the classrooms, and

they replied that since they knew I was coming they wanted me to do the handing over before they used them. This made me smile! We quickly arranged a class for the meeting.



A class at Golazoli Amalia Primary

The headteacher welcomed us and narrated how they did not have furniture at all for their teaching and learning for years until the Assemblyman got to know of their plight and the idea of applying to GSA came up... Today they are proud owners of 40 metal dual desks which will enhance the teaching and learning activities in the school. Some of the pupils I interacted with said they are happy to have the furniture to use and their uniforms will no longer be dirty.

On my part I sent them greetings from GSA, gave a brief history of the organization and what it does for Ghanaian schools.... I advised them to take very good care of the furniture and appealed to them that they should not only regard it as school property but as property belonging to the community, to be used when they hold meetings in the school.

Kanvilli Tawfikiya Primary School and KG, Northern

A grant from GSA of £2,100 in May 2024 to repair a leaking roof, has been put to impressive sustainable use by this school, using the new headteacher's valuable ideas. Baako, as always keeping an eye on all developments, writes that before re-roofing, 'The new building was widened all around the old building, after which the old walls were knocked down leaving only the headteacher's office...the roof too was raised higher with new materials, (aluminium, zinc and wood).' As the heat can escape more easily, its intensity will be reduced in the hot season.

A further small grant was given to accommodate the new plan. Pictures show the successful use of a modest grant that has improved the learning environment for all the primary and KG children.



Kanvilli Tawfikiya primary class

Kungkulung Primary School, Northern Region

Very occasionally our grants are used for a purpose other than that applied for. Another donor may have stepped in, or another need at the last minute is more pressing. This is not ideal but is usually still acceptable, as most remote schools

have many needs basic to teaching and learning. Kunkalung Primary is a case in point. GSA awarded a grant of £1,000 to repair a storm-damaged roof. Meanwhile another benefactor had come to the rescue and the school asked us, via Baako, whether they could use the money for much-needed desks. Baako visited and was impressed by how little seating both staff and pupils had. Metal dual desks were duly purchased, leading to a happy outcome.

Kwasi Doi Presidential KG, Eastern Region

This school is close to Aburi in the Eastern Region. The school is a 'model school', built under an initiative of ex-President Kufuor's some years ago. Its buildings include decorative features noticeably extra to a standard Ghanaian school design. Our representative Kofi Ohene noticed its neglected state in 2024. Coincidentally, he met its headteacher at a conference in Accra and a connection with GSA was made. An estimate for renovation of the exterior and toilets was accepted and a grant of £1,750 was given in May 2024 for the work. This has been completed and there is now a welcoming building for children and staff with excellent toilet facilities.



Kwasi Doi rear of school after renovation

Nambiri Basic School, Northern Region

Nambiri D/A Basic School in the remote Saboba District of the Northeast, is a vital educational centre for about 250 students. Through contact in 2021 between committee member Rita de Graft and Abigail Adjapong, then a newly qualified teacher posted far from home, GSA helped the school, by providing a grant to renovate the dilapidated teachers' quarters. The school, thanks to Rita, has since received support from other UK benefactors to rebuild what was an unsafe three-classroom block. Abigail has flourished as a teacher and is now an active member of the community in Nambiri.

After a happy period of schooling security for the community, storms in last year's rainy season severely damaged one of the classroom roofs. Merging of classes and unsafe teaching areas disrupted teaching and learning. GSA gave a grant of £2,000 in January this year to cover the cost of the most urgent work.

As with Kungkulung Primary School, another benefactor had swiftly come to the rescue, in this case the District Assembly. GSA has since approved an alternative use of our grant for much-needed desks and painting school buildings following reroofing.



Painters at work at Nambiri Primary School

Our relationships with schools through good communication and understanding of multiple needs, supports our accountability to our donors.

Abigail has sent recent news to Baako that as soon as the school received our grant, work was underway to paint the school. Metal dual desks are being made on site. The painting is now finished. As soon as the welder has completed the desks, the project will be commissioned and a report sent to us from Baako.

Otaakrom Technical Institute, Ashanti Region

This TVET college, 45 miles west of Kumasi, had very little furniture and needed mono-desks for its lively student community, to help further their vocational training. We fulfilled their request for £1,500 to furnish their classrooms and received a letter of thanks, together with photos of happily seated students. There are further needs that GSA might be able to fulfil in the future.



**Left: Desks have arrived at Otaakrom TI
Right: Otaakrom TI students at their new desks**

Kofi Kingsford, writes on behalf of the college:

'I bring you sincere greetings from Otaakrom Technical Institute to all the board members of Ghana School Aid. This is to express our heartfelt gratitude to your foundation for stepping in at the

*right time when we call on you for your help...
..Moreover, we are very grateful for the partnership which in effect has brought smiles on the faces of these Ghanaian youth who are interested in acquiring technical and vocational skills training in a formal way.'*

Tafi Atome JHS, Volta Region

The plight of this JHS was brought to our attention by a volunteer teacher, Helen Brierton, who had taught at the school 20 years ago and kept in contact with them.

They needed a new roof for the school after severe storm damage meant that the building was unsafe. Helen had raised £1,000 and asked us for £2,000 to renew the whole roof. We responded to this on the basis that a project manager kept in contact with our representative Kofi Ohene, as it is an area outside our normal reach.



Tafi Atome JHS new roof

We received pictures of the students having lessons outside while the new roof was being built and of the completed work.



Pupils working outside during roof work apr 2024

Zagyuri-Miskiye KG, Northern Region

This school was helped by committee member Jennifer McDougall's granddaughter and friends. Their fund-raising efforts and a report on the kindergarten's need for classrooms featured in last year's newsletter. The school received £3,000 from GSA in January 2024 for a roof, windows, doors and gravelling. By May the classrooms were in use and at this point GSA awarded a further £1,500 for flooring, plastering and painting to complete the block.

Baako, as always, kept a close eye on progress and reported in July that plastering was almost complete and of good quality. He commented, "From my observation perfect work was going on and it will not take them too long to finish, looking at their devotion to work. The workers are coming from the same community. They come early and close late each day."

Work was finished by September, and we received a letter of appreciation, mentioning that GSA had solved a 17-year-old problem for them.

Baako visited in March this year as a formality to see the finished KG classroom blocks. He reported 'I met the Assistant headteacher and the KG teachers. Teaching and learning were going on effectively. The school block for the KG, which was supported by GSA, still looks new both inside and outside the classrooms. The assistant headteacher and the teachers told me they are now comfortable together with their pupils who are very happy they now sit in neat classrooms to learn. It has increased their enrolment and the pupils' attendance is now regular. They said they cannot thank the GSA enough to express their

gratitude. On my part I also advised the children to take their learning seriously. They can do this by coming to school early before lessons begin, they should all try to concentrate when their teachers are teaching them, participate in the classroom work and do all homework given them. Before I left, I briefly stated my visit in the Visitors Book on behalf of GSA as usual.'



Zamzamiya classroom repairs

By February this year, despite a problem of wood supply reported by Baako, much had been achieved. Baako visited this school many times to support its renovation work and when all work was complete in March this year, GSA received a letter of appreciation from the headteacher, Fuseini Abdul Majeed. It concludes "We are most grateful to GSA and all those who support the organisation for coming to our aid at a crucial time when we needed the support most as the rainy season is approaching again. We also thank your representative Baako for always being around to monitor the progress of work and offer suggestions when needed."



Zamzamiya Primary School blocks after renovation

Zuarungu-Moshi JHS Upper East

In October 2024, the Kent Family Foundation responded positively to the GSA application for funds to cover work to be done at Zuarungu-Moshi



Primary class at Zagyuri Miskiyya School

Zamzamiya Primary and KG, Northern Region

The two blocks in this remote school were badly in need of renovation and Baako sent a detailed account of what he found when visiting before our September 2024 committee meeting. Of note, was that the school has a Dutch teacher, Lianne de Buch, who uses one classroom to teach disabled children and to train teachers to do so. This classroom, a special place for the physically challenged young people in the community, had a roof in need of repair and washrooms with unhealthy drainage. The other classroom block was in a poor state. We awarded separate grants for each block of £1,700 and £1,000 respectively.

JHS. The school was without proper toilet facilities and had applied to GSA for a grant to build a KVIP toilet block. The foundation awarded us a generous grant of £3000 and this was sent to the school to enable them to build the new facility. The work has been completed, and the school writes:

“The community provided the operational support, supervisory roles and locally available materials and other resources.... The new toilet facility has put smiles on the faces of the entire community members, students and the staff of the school as they celebrate the tenth anniversary of the school this year.”

We are all extremely grateful to the Kent Family Foundation for their significant contribution to the health and well-being of Zuarungu-Moshi JHS.

Zugu Dabogni Technical Institute, Northern Region

On behalf of GSA, Baako has been involved with this new institute’s development since 2022, when it changed from being a private institute to being under the auspices of Ghana’s Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Service.

His reports to GSA for funding and impact have described a community that is very supportive of the young students who are both local and from further afield.

Our Chair, William, visited the school with Baako in 2023 not long after GSA had given a grant for furniture for staff as well as for the students who range in age from 15 to 19. He met the dynamic headteacher and keen students. Since its first grant, GSA has given a further £2,000 in

two tranches from 2023 to 2024, to help them to finish building boys’ dormitory huts. These were urgently needed as available accommodation in the community is given to female students. The community was happy to help with building the traditional huts.



Zugu Dabogni TI Dormitory huts under construction

Students were involved in finishing the first dormitory huts in 2023. Once again after the second grant of £1,000 in 2024, Baako saw the students in action, learning their trade ‘on the job’ as they completed a final three dormitory huts. He wrote ‘While some students were mixing mortar to floor the frontage of the newly built 3-roomed hostel, others were inside working on the electrical fittings...At the back of the new building was a two-seater toilet project going on with student carpenters, both male and female, working on the roofing. Wiring, plastering and flooring were completed, as well as doors and windows.’ Only final touches remained last September when Baako visited for the commissioning of the beautiful, traditionally built dormitories.

This practical work has enhanced the students’ learning and attachment to their school. The first final exams under the TVET system were taken last year and the principal reports that the results were good. He stated that GSA’s help has given ‘a solid foundation for the growth of the institution’.

NEWS FROM ASSOCIATES

Action Through Enterprise

By Michele Carlisle, ateghana.org

“ATE is truly a game-changer. Trust me, the impact on these kids will be long-lasting.”

These are the words of Michael Frimpong Gyimah, ATE’s new Technology and Learning Coordinator. He’s part of our growing team, as we bring new opportunities to the young people of Upper West Ghana – and we are so grateful to GSA for supporting us in this fantastic work.



Food for learning at Tuopare JHS

Having delivered a huge impact in Lawra for over ten years, in 2025 we expanded to neighbouring Nandom, where people are also hungry for change. Schools there are dilapidated and under-resourced, with broken desks, few books – and, in one case, NO textbooks at all. Attendance in the schools we plan to work with is under 30% and exam results are low. We are changing this. We’ve

already opened a beautiful Inclusion Centre, launched two disability groups, and have begun feeding and supporting Tuopare JHS.

Alongside this, we have opened Technology and Learning Zones in both Lawra and Nandom Inclusion Centres. Ghana School Aid has funded both library areas, with other funders supporting the IT suites and the employment of five new staff. The Opening Day of the library area in Lawra on Saturday 15th February felt like a festival, and the same effect was felt in Nandom as children and parents poured in. Opening hours have since been extended, and facilities are packed after school and on Saturday mornings. We are especially grateful to Kate Regan, who travelled to the Upper West in February to help train staff and set up the library, which has made all the difference. Her experience and ongoing support is much appreciated.



IT hub at Lawra Inclusion Centre. Library readers in the background

Olivia Saa, our new Library Intern – and a previous beneficiary who we supported through JHS and SHS – told us: “I love working with children and helping them learn to read. I enjoy it, the children are really enjoying it, and it improves their literacy.”

We are so delighted to have GSA as a long-standing partner, and a key player in the development of the learning zones. Seeing children flock to the centres to enjoy reading is a daily reminder that what we are doing is changing lives.

Ama Ata Aidoo books

News from James Gibbs, Chair Morel Trust and GSA member

GSA played a key role in seeing through the Ama Ata Aidoo Book Distribution scheme that Focus on Your Strengths proposed, and the Morel Trust Funded with a grant. GSA used the grant to buy books by Ama Ata Aidoo from her Oxford publisher, Ayebia. The books, that were not being distributed in Ghana, were freighted to Accra from where they were distributed by Akoss Ofori-Mensah to libraries in the Eastern Region. Akoss has reported that books have reached their various intended destinations in schools, libraries and community centres across the Eastern Region. Thanks again to GSA for their role in this.

On 'other literary matters', readers of the GSA Newsletter may be interested to know that Ama Ata Aidoo's profile remains high in her homeland. (See the link to a tribute below.) Note, too, that considerable effort has gone into marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Aidoo's mentor and fellow writer Efua Sutherland.*

Further reading:

2023 09 21 Ama Ata Aidoo: A Tribute
<https://www.theelephant.info/reflections/2023/09/21/ama-ata-aidoo-a-tribute/>

*Note from ed: The events already underway in Accra to mark the anniversary of Sutherland's birth (in James' words), aim to define the legacy of a versatile, dynamic and courageous woman, celebrating her output as a writer and the roles she played in encouraging other writers, in promoting play spaces for children and in researching Concert Party. The variety and influence of her work was huge and culturally significant.

In addition, an interesting description of Ghana's Concert Party Theatre, including references, can be found on Wikipedia.

The Wulugu Project: recent project work

By Jane Scott

Provision of bore holes

During COVID, Wulugu Project jumped into action and raised money in the UK to fund drilling bore holes in more villages so clean water would be available locally. Fifty bore holes were built in the following two years and training given in safe, hygienic use during the pandemic. Most are still functioning well today and helping the villages guard against typhoid, cholera, diarrhoea, malaria and dengue fever whose pupa are laid in open water scrapes. The bore holes, as well as improving clean water supplies, also release girls from water carrying duties and enable them to attend school.



Women at a bore-hole built by Wulugu Project.

Success from education

Lukula was a village where we had built a school in 2009. Children gained a good primary education from home and then had to travel to Junior High Schools and High Schools in Damongo. Many girls then trained as nurses and health care workers and happily did not rush to the city but stayed locally to help their home villages. Health care provision was patchy. These young women wanted to run a diagnostic clinic in these very remote villages to pick up diseases at an early stage and knowing us, asked for help. As it was not quite 'Education', Wulugu Project could not fund this, but put them in touch with John Humphries' Kitchen Table Charities Trust who liked their inventive plan and so funded the clinics.

In 10 days in January 2024, twenty health care workers worked in three villages and saw over 1,000 villagers, giving advice on hygiene, child nutrition and growth. They spotted many undiagnosed cases of high blood pressure and diabetes. Basic drugs and vitamins were given out and patients sent to suitable clinics and hospital where they could get further treatment.



Diagnostic clinic run by health workers educated at a Wulugu School

A challenging project

More recently, we have been working hard to give children from the village of Akamande a school. The Akamande area looks, at first sight, impossible

to build on. Our Ghana team researched this, deciding that it would be well worth taking the considerable risks to effectively move thousands of lives out of unavoidable poverty. It was easy to see why others had refused all pleadings for help. The area is surrounded by the White and Black Volta rivers. No road can access the area. All materials, including sand and gravel must be conveyed by canoes across to the village, making it very expensive to build.

The local MP who has made a considerable donation to the project, has ensured that there are sufficient funds. The locals have carried heavy blocks and other materials to the site on their heads. The community are very involved in ensuring the school is completed. They need accessible education for their children who currently attend schools across the river on canoes or must stay with relatives in other towns.

Solomon, our team leader, says: 'It is these smiles on the faces of the innocent children and the hope we give them that gives us the joy and strength to take on such tasks. The people are ever so grateful for Wulugu Project's passion and support'.

Ed: GSA has supported Wulugu's long-standing, impressive project work from time to time in the past when an educational need has arisen that we were able to help with.



Building the school at Akamande

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

GHANA SCHOOL AID TRUST – CHARITY NUMBER 299178

Treasurer's Report 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025

	2024-2025	2023 - 2024
INCOME	£	£
Earle Bequest	.....	10,000.00
Other Donations In Memory and Legacies	2,245.44	2,150.00
Donations from Trusts	20,500.00	11,150.00
Other Donations	5,205.00	5,711.85
Donations through Give as You Live	475.00	3,197.88
Annual Lunch Bookings and Donations 2023	.....	1,080.00
Annual Lunch Bookings and Donations 2024	520.00	442.00
Annual Lunch Bookings and Donations 2025	120.00	.....
HMRC Gift Aid	<u>408.67</u>	<u>1,032.50</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>29,474.11</u>	<u>34,764.23</u>
EXPENDITURE	£	£
Grants to projects in Ghana	32,835.00	36,845.00
Advertising Leaflets	.....	179.22
Newsletter May 2024 (and May 2023)	686.55	734.72
Website	72.00	.....
Lunch and AGM 2023	.....	342.52
Lunch and AGM 2024	220.00	215.00
Lunch and AGM 2025	180.00	.....
Fundraising	2,163.66	885.50
Expenses of Officers in Ghana	130.00	225.00
Bank Transfer Fees	<u>20.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>36,307.21</u>	<u>39,456.96</u>
FUNDS at 31st March 2025		£
NatWest Current Account Balance 1 st April 2024		21,976.04
Deduct Expenditure less Income £36,307.21 - £29,474.11 =		<u>6,833.10</u>
Nat West Current Account Balance 31st March 2025		<u>15,142.94</u>
GRAND TOTALS 1986 – 31st March 2025	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
	£	£
1986 – 31 st March 2024	488,518.78	466,542.74
Add 1 st April 2024 – 31 st March 2025	<u>29,474.11</u>	<u>36,307.21</u>
Total	<u>517,992.89</u>	<u>502,849.95</u>
Income less Expenditure	£517,992.89 - £502,849.95 =	£15,142.94

With thanks to Nigel Dennis, Treasurer

FAREWELLS

Our Thanks to Ted Mayne

Collated by Kate Regan

Our gratitude for Ted's leadership and quiet passion for giving children in rural Ghana a chance to be properly educated, is huge. Below are some of the tributes from GSA committee members, made at his retirement and now.

Jo Hallett – Ted has been the bedrock of the charity, using his knowledge of Ghana and his many connections with people both there 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 grateful for his wisdom and advice. Ghana School Aid has grown and developed under his leadership. (Written on Ted's retirement and she adds) He had such a friendly, warm and encouraging outlook

towards everyone. We miss him and his continuing support of GSA.

Penny Sewell – I joined the GSA committee in 2009 and was immediately impressed by the then Chair, Ted Mayne. Here is a list of adjectives which come to mind when remembering Ted. Quiet, calm, reserved, tolerant, thoughtful, caring, measured, wise, pragmatic, and I could go on. He exhibited those qualities in abundance, and I think they rubbed off on his colleagues and on our work. Ted never rushed decisions. He always showed great integrity, his main guiding criterion when assessing applications for grants from Ghana, was the degree of accountability, even personal connection, that was built into the application. In that regard, I remain forever grateful for his championing of the Joe Bedu school, named after my late husband, in Ghana's Volta Region. The school benefited hugely from grants from GSA.



Ted (2nd from right) with committee members, past Chairs and representatives from the Ghana High Commission

Ted had lived and served as a diplomat in many different countries, yet he retained a special love for Ghana and its people. For me, he embodied and perpetuated the spirit and ethos of GSA - small-scale endeavours which make an enormous difference to the education and well-being of pupils and staff.

Mary Owusu – Ted was so welcoming when I joined GSA all those years ago. He was a very conscientious Chair who contributed immensely towards better care in education for children in Ghana. We will be forever grateful for his foresight and friendship. His legacy will live on.

Letitia Boateng – I am deeply saddened about the passing of Ted. Having worked with him for so many years in Ghana School Aid, I found him to be a dedicated, inspiring and loving person. He will be forever in our hearts. May his soul rest peacefully.

Jennifer MacDougall – Ted was Chair of GSA for 14 years, taking over from Eric Earle. I was grateful for his thoughtful leadership, knowledge and wise guidance in all our activities. He had many very helpful contacts from his career which greatly benefited GSA. He was a very supportive Chair and always happy to help with the newsletter. A kind and generous man. We will miss him.

Margaret Turner - Ted was introduced to GSA by Eric Earle and became another very capable, caring and energetic chairperson when Eric resigned. Under his quiet leadership, GSA drew in new committee members, new ideas about funding, web-site and approach. A Ghanaian representative was invited onto the committee as liaison with remote areas of Ghana. Increased demands from Ghanaian schools for support

meant more work for committee members, more need for funding. His work continues.

Remembering Elizabeth Mayhew

Elizabeth Rosemary Harding Mayhew was born in 1932 in Sutton Coldfield. She grew up a Methodist with a liberal and inclusive outlook. Her father sadly died when she was in her early 20s. Maybe it was this early loss which instilled determination and independence in Elizabeth. After studying English alongside ancient Greek and Latin at the University of Leeds she went on to teach in various positions in Devon and Oxford before joining Oxford University where she eventually rose to Senior Lecturer. During her early time at Oxford the opportunity arose for Elizabeth to go out to teach at Wesley Girls High School in Kumasi, a placement that proved formative. Upon her return to Oxford Elizabeth embarked on an exciting new programme to train teachers of English, developing the then ground breaking Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree which held that top quality teachers needed to be properly trained in pedagogy as well as their specialist subject.

It was through this teaching development that she met – and taught – the wife of Ghana's future Prime Minister: Dr Kofi Busia. Mrs Busia wrote to her in the late 1960s and asked if she would consider coming to Ghana again to help build up their national teacher training capacity at Cape Coast University, which was then a college of the University of London. Elizabeth agreed and stepping off the plane in Accra into the warm fug of humid air felt like coming home.

At Cape Coast University Elizabeth met Alan Mayhew, the University's Director of Development.

Cape Coast University then was a melting pot of nationalities and professionals from all sectors. Elizabeth and Alan made many friends and connections in this vibrant post-independence community, including Peggy and Joseph Appiah. She also drove an old Morris traveller around the country in a marathon long-distance car race – right up to the Upper West!

Elizabeth's eldest daughter Susannah was born in 1971 in Mpraeso and the family lived on Cape Coast University Campus in staff quarters that Alan had designed. The twins Lucy and Katharine were born in 1975 (in the UK) and shortly afterwards the family moved to Nigeria. In 1979 the family decided to return to the UK and chose Bath as the place to build their home. Alan continued to practice tropical educational architecture that took him to a range of destinations including Indonesia, India and also once again to Nigeria.

Alan and Elizabeth joined the beginnings of Ghana School Aid, and became dedicated committee members and lifelong supporters of GSA. They

pioneered GSA's participation in the School Links programme and spearheaded their Schools on the Line Millennium project supporting schools located on the Meridian line.

They instilled the love for the country into their daughters. Susannah went out to Ghana in 1995 for her PhD field work on public health where she met her future husband Michael. Lucy and Katy joined Susannah to assist her with her research; the three girls were locally dubbed as the 'triple twins'. In 1998 Elizabeth and Alan returned to Ghana to visit Susannah during her field work, travelling up to the Upper East Region, reliving many of the harsh climatic and infrastructure challenges that persist now, as they did many decades before.

Elizabeth retained an active interest in African affairs and was delighted to have a Ghanaian carer (and fellow Methodist!) to look after her in her final weeks. Susannah and Michael hope to continue Alan and Elizabeth's support for GSA for many years to come.



Elizabeth with colleagues (and her husband, Alan) at Cape Coast University c.1970



Olivia Saa, Library Assistant, with Kate Regan sorting new books for ATE's two library centres



Otaakrom TI students outside their classrooms



Zamzamiya Primary school after 2-block renovation



Boys at Adaklu Kodzobi School with Hilary Gbedemah in centre



KG class at Zaguyri Miskiya Primary School

Ghana School Aid



June 2025



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Secretary: Jo Hallett

Treasurer: Nigel Dennis

AGM organisation & Website

Administrator: Penny Sewell

Newsletter: Kate Regan

Representatives in Ghana: Kofi Ohene, Alhassan Salifu Baako, Patrick Nyanteh

Other Committee Members:

Rod Earle, Rita de Graft, Jennifer MacDougall, Susannah Mayhew, Mary Owusu

PATRONS

HE High Commissioner for Ghana

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

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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



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Editor: Kate Regan

