

GHANA SCHOOL AID

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Patrons:

HE The High Commissioner for Ghana
The Rt Hon the Earl of Listowel, PC, GCMG
~~Professor D. M. Balmé, CMG, DSO, DFC, MA~~
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17. 4. 90

NEWSLETTER: APRIL 1990: VISIT TO GHANA

Dear Friends

You will be pleased to know that a group of 19 took part in the tour which left on 26 March and returned on 7 April. Everyone received an incredibly warm welcome both at Government and personal level. There was a taxing programme of visits and receptions which we all enjoyed; and we were left in no doubt that the decision to make a return visit after about 30 years' absence was keenly appreciated - we were greeted with enthusiasm everywhere.

The travel arrangements made by Africa Travel Centre worked well, thanks to the hard work of our tour manager, Jeremy Dean. The programme was worked out between the Ministry of Education and the Ghana Tourist Board. We learnt that the PNDC Secretary for Education, Mr. Asante, took a personal interest in the plans and he with his senior colleagues held a meeting with the group on our first day, part of which was televised. During the initial three days in Accra, we visited Achimota, Legon, Aburi with official receptions each evening; plus visits to the two schools for which we brought supplies. We then split into two groups: 11 going to Kumasi and Tamale and 8 to Cape Coast and Sekondi/Takoradi, for 5 days. We returned to Accra in time for a reception by the British High Commissioner and then most of us went on a 2-day trip to Ho via the Akosombo Dam. Finally, two crowded days in Accra including a press conference and a magnificent Farewell Dinner hosted by Mr. Asante at which we were all given lovely presents - and of course danced High Life. We were able to see a number of old friends: Isiah Boye-Doe, Jimmy Anang, Michael Asiedu, J.S. Kaleem, R.M. Yakubu, D.A. Brown. Sadly, Sam Essah had died in February and a number of others are no longer with us. Robert Asiedu and Kofi Ohene were tireless in helping with the arrangements and ensuring that all went smoothly. It was a remarkable and memorable trip; it is clear that any other "Ghana Been-tos" (as we were christened) would be most welcome, either individually or in groups - but expert guidance on travel is essential.

We took out with us as part of the group's baggage approx. a ½-ton of books and equipment. The total value was about £3000; cost to the Trust because of discounts and gifts c.£2000. The bulk of this was taken to the two Ghana School Aid "adopted schools" at Abokobi and Dodowa, near Accra, where we were welcomed at colourful ceremonies - some recorded on video. We gained much useful information about the schools' needs, which are very great.

REUNION LUNCH. A lunch has been arranged on Wednesday 6 June at John Adams Hall of Residence, Endsleigh St. WC1. We hope to be able to show after lunch an edited version of approx. 9 hours of videotape, together with photographs etc. If you would like to see Ghana scenes 30 years on, this is your chance. We also propose to use the occasion to discuss the next stage of fund-raising to assist with further projects, now that we have a better idea of current needs. If you would like to attend would you complete and return the attached form to Madge Claxton as soon as possible (and not later than 20th May), so that we can give the Hall an accurate estimate of numbers.

We look forward to seeing you on 6 June and telling you about our adventures.

Yours ever

The Committee

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