

GHANA SCHOOL AID

Answered 19-3-96

Registered Charity No: 299178

Patrons:

HE The High Commissioner for Ghana

The Rt Hon the Earl of Listowel PC GCMG

Paul Boateng MP

2 Great Spilmans

East Dulwich Grove

London SE22 8SZ

Tel: 0181-693 1803

N E W S L E T T E R January 1996

1. As many of you will know (but some may not), Warren Shaw died last June, following an operation. It is a great loss. Warren did most of the preparatory work in setting up the Trust in 1986, corresponding with the Charity Commission and making arrangements for the launch at the Africa Centre; he then became the Secretary and filled that post with great distinction. Some of us were able to join with his family and other friends in a splendid celebration of his life which his family arranged in September. Warren's family asked that donations in his memory should be given to Ghana School Aid, and the Warren Shaw Memorial Fund now stands at over £600; the British Council Retirement Association have also agreed to donate £200 and we are discussing with them what form the memorial should take.

Pamela Lewis agreed to take over as Secretary and the Committee has elected her to this post. We are most grateful to her for taking it on.

You may also have read in the press of the sudden death on 25 October of our Patron, Kenneth Dadzie. He was a most distinguished Ghanaian, serving as High Commissioner in London for the second time and his loss is keenly felt. Our condolences were conveyed to the High Commission and were acknowledged.

2. The TRUST: Eric Cunningham, who was involved with organising the first Reunion in 1986, has become a Trustee. We need to appoint an Honorary Auditor, to comply with Charity Commission requirements; would any member who is prepared to volunteer for this (not very onerous) role please get in touch with the Treasurer, John Whittingham ?

A summary of the present financial position is attached. Two points to note: 1. Peter Thomson (Adisadel, member of the 1990 Visit group) died in 1994 and in his will left £5000 to the Trust; this has now been received and brought into the accounts. The Committee is currently considering whether to fund a special project with this bequest. (Perhaps this generous bequest will inspire others to look at their wills?). 2. Thanks to the hard work of our Covenants Administrator, Stanley Anthony, we have received a total Tax refund of £1230 on covenants made since 1990. This indicates how valuable covenants are as a source of funds, at no additional cost to the donor and I am glad to report that, following the information about covenants in the last newsletter, 21 new covenants have been made. In addition, 25 uncovenanted subscriptions or donations have been received. This is very welcome, but I do have to repeat the message to those in receipt of the newsletters who have not subscribed as yet, that we are in the process of revising the address list; and we shall eventually be forced to assume that those who do not "subscribe" do not wish to remain on the list. It is in your hands! The Committee suggest, as before, a minimum annual subscription of £10 (preferably covenanted); there is no maximum!

Committee:

Eric Earle (Chairman)
Pamela Lewis (Secretary)
Edward Mayne (Membership Secretary)
Brice Bending
John Whittingham (Treasurer)
Stanley Anthony

R M Asiedu (Representative in Ghana)
Madge M Claxton
Eric Cunningham
Kofi Ohene
Alison Southern
Margaret Turner

As forecast in the last newsletter, we have made an approach for funds to firms associated with Ghana and last autumn a letter was sent out to some 90 companies. The response to date has not been encouraging, but we may yet strike gold! Suggestions about organisations to approach will be welcome. We are indebted to Ted Mayne, assisted by Eric Cunningham, for this initiative. An up-dated leaflet has now been produced: a copy is enclosed (please let us know if you would like further copies to pass on to friends / potential benefactors).

3. AID PROJECTS: since the visit to Ghana last March (when we distributed over £2000 in small grants and books etc) we have followed up one project and assisted a new one. The group stopped at Fante Nyankumase (on the Bekwai-Cape Coast road) and "inspected" the building for the Naomi Roberts Nursery School, to which we had previously given a grant of £500. We found the building up and working, but not yet complete, and we have responded to a request from Naomi Roberts for help in completing the building, with a further grant of £500. The new project is in support of a group of five primary schools in/near Winneba which are engaged on a "Child-to-Child" scheme to improve health education; we gave a grant of £200 to each school for the local purchase of writing and other school materials. Ted Mayne, on a visit to Ghana in October, handed £1000 in cash over to David Stephens, the ODA consultant who is supervising the project, and it has been acknowledged by the Co-ordinator in Winneba, Paul Ackom. We have also been able, with the help of the Ghana High Commission, to arrange the distribution in Ghana to 10 newly-established secondary schools in rural areas of nearly 5000 science text-books which had been donated by the author, the late Sheila Haggis. The books were air-freighted by Ghana Airways, free of charge.

4. GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: for the second year running we booked a 'small agencies' stall at the Global Partnership fair at the Barbican. We were one of nearly 200 agencies and traders taking part. This event provides us with useful publicity and contacts with people interested in Ghana and working in similar fields. It is a valuable way of learning what is 'going on' in the world in general and Ghana in particular. Our "stall" was organised by Pam Lewis, with some committee helpers.

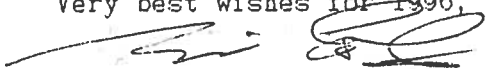
5. MEMOIRS project: Eric Cunningham writes - We now have several interesting contributions and I am grateful to all those who have written, always perceptively, sometimes very amusingly, occasionally with graceful self-depreciation. It promises to be an entertaining and eclectic anthology - but to make publication worthwhile we need a few more contributions. So may I make a further appeal to those who perhaps through diffidence have been reluctant so far to offer something? Some suggestions: a memorable occasion (eg Independence Day, VJ Day), servants, on trek, significant encounters, the unexpected visit, personal misfortune, Labadi beach, the Elder Dempster experience, arrival and first impressions I hope you'll get in touch with me please at 1 Downland Court, Somerstown, Chichester, W.Sussex PO19 4AQ Tel 01243 537061. Thank you.

6. REUNION LUNCH : This year's Reunion Lunch - our Tenth Anniversary! - will take place at John Adams Hall on Thursday 23 May. Details are enclosed. If you wish to attend, please return your form to Madge

Claxton at the address shown. We are repeating last year's arrangement of booking a room for the afternoon, so that people who do not have to rush away can stay and talk to their friends (with Tea if they wish). The charge has been increased to include a small "donation" to GSA funds (if we get our sums right!). Last year's Lunch was once again an enjoyable event, attended by over 60, although some "regulars" were absent because of prior commitments. Mr. Dzisam from the High Commission, representing Mr. Dadzie, said a few words, and we showed videos taken on the recent visit to Ghana, including a most impressive record of the visit to Asokere-Ashanti, commissioned and presented by Madame Grace Agyekum, mother of Mrs. Floria Ohene. Pam Lewis and I are to meet Paul Boateng in March and we hope to discuss a possible House of Commons "event".

A final note: Wilma Gladstone tells me that she had a card from Chris Eddy saying that he would be 90 on 1 January. Chris was one of the speakers at our first reunion lunch in 1986. He made a most distinguished contribution to education in Ghana as Assistant Director for Teacher Training in the 1950s and before that as General Manager of Methodist Schools. We all wish him well. And an interesting recent "foot-note": Chris Eddy's successor as GM was Robert Dodoo. One of the visitors to our Global Partnership stall in November was Robert D.'s granddaughter and, now on a visit to relatives in Ghana, she will make contact with Robert Asiedu and visit some of "our" schools.

Very best wishes for ~~1996~~, and hoping to see many of you on 23 May.


Eric Earle, on behalf of the Committee.

LIST OF SCHOOLS which we have aided to date:

Abokobi and Dodowa Junior Secondary (the main recipients of the aid transported by the 1990 Visit group). Achimota, Legon, Bagabaga, Sakasaka, Asokere, Kroboa Coaltar, Ahwerase, Philip Quaque (Cape Coast), Kurawura, Wa, Assin Achiase, Assin Nyankumase, Larteh - Primary/JS schools. Adisadel, Holy Child, Navrongo, Tamale, West Africa SS Accra - Senior Secondary schools. Sacred Heart Vocational School Accra. Five primary schools, Winneba.

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ACCOUNTS 1995 - 1996

9 Months: 1.4.95 - 31.12.95

Income:

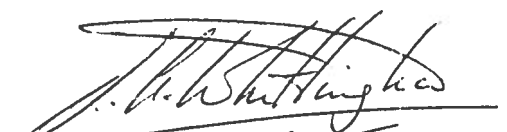
	£	£	£
1. Donations			
1987-95 brought forward	14,836.25		
1.4.95-31.12.95	2,678.47		
Peter Thomson bequest	5,325.00		
Warren Shaw bequest	660.50		
Inland Revenue tax refunds on covenants 1989-95	<u>1,230.99</u>		24,731.21
2. Nett surplus on lunches			
1987-94 brought forward	801.48		
1995	<u>28.70</u>		830.18
3. Deposit interest			
N.S. Investment Account			
1989-94 brought forward	1,704.04		
1995	<u>246.55</u>	1,950.59	
NatWest Business Reserve Account			
1989-95 brought forward	170.73		
1995-96 (nine months)	<u>170.10</u>	<u>340.83</u>	2,291.42
<u>Total Income</u>			<u>£27,852.81</u>

Expenditure:

4. Items supplied to schools in Ghana			
1987-95 brought forward	12,291.15		
1995-96 (9mths) books, school equip, grants	<u>2,085.77</u>	14,376.92	
5. Office expenses			
1987-95 brought forward	637.89		
1995-96 (9mths) newsletters, postage, publicity	<u>160.98</u>	<u>798.87</u>	£15,175.79
<u>Total Expenditure</u>			

Balance of funds:

N.S. Investment Account	5,491.58		
NatWest Business Reserve Account	6,495.10		
NatWest Current Account	<u>690.34</u>		<u>12,677.02</u>
			<u>£27,852.81</u>


 Hon. Treasurer
 18.1.96.

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