

# Ghana School Aid



March 2001

Dear friends

Greetings, slightly belated, for the new year /century/millennium coupled with apologies for the long gap since the last newsletter (November 1999). We are still here, your Committee, beavering away - those of you who attended the Lunch last June have had more recent news (message: to keep in contact come to the Annual Lunch!). No-one has been taken off the address list but I must issue a "warning" to those few of you who have omitted to contribute to the funds in the last few years, that we shall have to do a cull soon - so get your cheque books out (and read Stanley Anthony's note on Gift Aid!). After that admonition I hasten to add that we are of course very grateful for all the splendid support which enables us to help some schools in Ghana in various ways.

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee meets every few months to review the progress of our various projects and consider applications for new ones. Ted Mayne, who maintains close links with Ghana and has an office in Accra, has been elected Vice-Chairman. We have recently co-opted a new member, Alan Mayhew, after he and his wife attended the last lunch. He has done a splendid job in revising and arranging the printing of the leaflet (copy enclosed) and contributes to this newsletter a most interesting article about the village of Yelwoko. More volunteers, to join the Committee and/or undertake a particular task are always welcome. We maintain regular contact with our Official Representative in Ghana, Michael Asiedu (Nana Atta Nuamah II) through correspondence, and the Vice-Chairman Ted Mayne met him when on a visit to Accra recently. Michael has made a number of proposals about our "Aid programme" which we are currently considering; we greatly value all his help and the time he gives to GSA matters. We also keep in contact with Kofi Ohene in Cape Coast (where he is Registrar of the University); his membership of the Committee while he was in London means that he is very knowledgeable about GSA and its aims.

## Projects funded

Total funds raised since we started the Trust are now over **£61,000** and we have allocated a total of around **£48,000** to various school projects, including decisions made at the last committee meeting. These projects include:

- \* a grant of **£1000** towards a new building for the University of Cape Coast Primary School,
- \* a **£400** grant to send books to the Sandema Educational Resource Centre,
- \* a **£500** grant for Yelwoko Primary School (the plan is to use this to purchase cows, so that each year the sale of one or two cows would help to fund final year pupils preparing for senior secondary school),
- \* a contribution of **£1000** to the Mt.Mary Schools Accra towards the cost of a new classroom block being planned by Mrs Elizabeth Ezan for this school for children from underprivileged homes.
- \* a grant of **£500** towards the school building at Gomoa Ojobi near Winneba where Caroline Johnston, who spoke at last year's Lunch, was teaching; Ted Mayne

visited the school on his recent Accra trip and was very impressed.

\* We continue to support the Child-to-Child projects (with a strong emphasis on Health Education) which involve some 20 schools near Winneba, in the Afram Plains and in Nima (Accra). I am glad to report too that the project in cooperation with the Ghana Book Publishers Association to provide Ghana-published readers and library books to some 65 schools with the help in distribution of Ghana Brewery Ltd has now been completed. Michael Asiedu has put a huge amount of work into seeing through this project.

\* Progress has been slow on the Schools on the Line project, for which £1750 has now been raised towards our target of £2000 - thanks to all of you who made special donations. Ted Mayne discussed plans with Michael Asiedu on his recent visit and I hope we shall have more to report soon.

## GIFT AID

*Stanley Anthony has provided the following note about the new arrangements which replace covenants and are much simpler for both giver and recipient. May I urge all our supporters to give by this method.*

You have probably seen the publicity about this new way that the government is encouraging people to donate to charities by allowing the charities to claim back the income tax paid on donations. It is no longer necessary to make a covenant with a witness to your signature. Provided you pay income tax at the standard rate (currently 22%) you may authorise charities to claim the tax back on any donations, whether they are regular, as with a banker's order, or occasional or single payments. You can even give this authorisation by telephone, and the charity can apply for the tax once it has confirmed the arrangement with you in writing. The important point in this scheme is that there must be documentation about each donation so that the Inland Revenue can make proper checks on the honesty of the claims. Bankers' orders and cheques are therefore better than bank notes, but even these are suitable if accompanied by a letter or if a receipt is given.

I have produced a form of declaration to suit the Gift Aid scheme supported by some guidance notes, and since most people are likely to want to have some order and regularity in their giving I have included on the same sheet a bankers order form for use if desired. Please contact me to be sent one of these forms or if you have any questions about Gift Aid. Your local Inland Revenue office will also advise on Gift Aid.

Those of you who are already giving to Ghana School Aid

through a covenant which has not yet expired need do nothing until it expires, unless you wish to change the arrangement. I shall contact you when the covenant is due to finish in order to invite you to use Gift Aid.

(Stanley E. G. Anthony, Gift Aid Administrator, 8  
Campion Terrace, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire,  
CV32 4SX)

## OBITUARY

We have sadly to report again the loss of some old friends and colleagues:

**Wilma Gladstone**, friend and mentor to many of us, Alan Grieve who with his wife Janet has been a long-standing supporter of GSA and **Olive Compton**, former Headmistress of Wesley Girls High School. Robbie, Wilma's predecessor at Saltpond and Eve Evans have provided appreciations of Wilma (below).

**Alan Grieve** had distinguished war service in Burma as a Gurkha officer and then served in the Administration in Gold Coast/Ghana (he was GA in Bekwai when Brice Bending was DEO and I recall meeting him there). He was subsequently Secretary of the Institute of Education, University of Newcastle.

The following note about **Olive Compton** has been received from Clarice Howorth (formerly Garnett) On February 29th 2000 Olive Compton died, aged 94. Modern rapid communication meant that the Old Girls' of Wesley Girl's High School elsewhere knew about this as soon as those in Britain. About thirty came to the funeral service in Westbury on Trym. Dr Mary Grant, Mrs Rosina Acheampong and Mrs Nancy Thompson had travelled from Ghana especially to attend the service. They officially represented the President of Ghana, the Ghana Education Service, and past and present staff and students, but also expressed personally their own appreciation of all that Olive had done and the encouragement that she gave to individuals during the years 1942-1960.

Agnes Aggrey-Orleans brought a tribute from her father, F. L. Bartels, former headmaster of Mfantshipim. Others who attended had been in official positions in Government service. Roland and I, with Barbara Bowman, were very glad to be able to be there and grateful to all who had shared in the arrangements.

On May 28th a Memorial and Thanksgiving Service was held in London at Wesley's chapel, arranged by Eunice Ocran and other Old Girls. Some of you who will be reading this shared in that celebration. Services had also been held in Ghana, and later it was arranged that Olive's ashes should be buried at the school.

We also convey our condolences to Kofi Ohene whose mother died at Christmas 1999 while Floria and the children were visiting Kofi in Cape Coast, so he had his immediate family's support at that sad time. Early this year Floria was able to visit again for the Anniversary at Ahweriase near Aburi.

## WILMA GLADSTONE MBE

When women in England were still being paid less than men in similar teaching posts and would - when this was changed - have to proceed by seven yearly stages to achieve the same scales as men, the principle of equal pay for equal work applied in the Education Service of the Gold Coast. It was an attractive place for first class women to go and it is not surprising that some outstanding women educationalists were attracted from Europe and that others were recruited locally. "Only the best is good enough for Africa" said the great Aggrey of Achimota. The Gold Coast was clearly determined to have the best. Among the very best was Wilma Gladstone who served for seventeen years despite the death of her father while she was on her way out by sea and despite becoming ill seven years later and requiring a years treatment in Switzerland. At that stage many would have given up and returned to an easier life among friends and family in a temperate climate. But Wilma had made friends in the Gold Coast, ever since she had been a student in Edinburgh and met them in the international Club and she was confident that there was much more she could still usefully do and could give to an independent Ghana, as the country had then become. So she returned for a further ten years and as Principal Education officer in charge of Curriculum Development (based at Saltpond) revolutionised much of the work of teachers in primary and middle schools throughout the country, not only by issuing most helpful teaching notes, books and other teaching materials, but also by visiting schools and district offices to ensure that the best use was being made of the material which she and her able colleagues (Joyce Trott, Service Addo, Florence Addison and many more) at Saltpond so liberally supplied (and woe betide the DEO or headteacher who was thought to be backsliding!). She was determined that nothing of value should be neglected; she never compromised nor sacrificed a matter of principle; she clearly understood what was necessary and sought to secure the first-class advance in education that the country demanded and which she was sure could be secured in different ways by different but well-trained people. She was respected for it, indeed she was loved for it - just as she herself loved and respected the educationists to whom she gave herself without stint. After she left Ghana she maintained contact with many life-long Ghananian friends. When Wilma retired from Ghana in 1962 at the age of 48, she returned to Moray House in

Edinburgh where many years earlier she herself had trained. There she passed on the fruits of her rich knowledge and experience to others, while both at college and at home she extended her friendship to students who had been attracted to Edinburgh from many parts of the world. Wilma Gladstone is most sadly missed by many friends, not only in educational circles, in Ghana and Scotland and further afield throughout the Commonwealth. (E.D.R)

**Eve Evans has also contributed the following memory of Wilma.**

I first met Wilma in 1946 when I was on trek in the Gold Coast. She was in the far north, and as the rest-house was occupied I was told I could stay with the education officer. It was the start of a friendship which lasted over fifty years. Not only were we great friends, but also met professionally when Wilma was for a time a member of the Gold Coast Library Board. But some of our happiest times were when we went travelling together. We toured Scotland in Wilma's car and England in mine and spent many happy holidays in one another's homes. Then we started going further afield - Italy, Austria, USSR, the Nile, Isles of Scilly, Nova Scotia, Portugal and Barbados where we stayed with Jack Bannochie. She was an ideal companion, ready to go anywhere. Our last trip was in 1995 when we went to Sicily, Southern Italy and the Aeolian Islands. It was obvious then that she was not too well, as she had to hold on to me when we were walking, but even so she enjoyed every minute of the holiday.

I stayed with Wilma in 1997 during the Edinburgh Festival. We had a full cultural programme and also visited one of our favourite places - the Botanic Gardens. I was not to know that this would be the last time I would stay at Woodburn Terrace, and the last time I would see Wilma. I kept in touch with her and would phone her regularly. She was always very cheerful and we would have long conversations, talking about the things we had done together. I spoke to her last only a few days before she died.

She was a wonderful companion and an outstanding friend. She leaves a gap which cannot be filled.

*Wilma's sister has also sent me a moving tribute from Dr Emmanuel Evans-Anfom who recalls that as students in Edinburgh in 1942 he, Henry Bannerman and Mathew Barnor first met Wilma and became life-long friends from then on. He recalls meeting Wilma for the last time in 1996 when he received an award from Edinburgh University. At 82 and despite failing health, Wilma took his wife shopping, entertained them both in the Overseas Club, attended the ceremony and the Principal's Dinner. He says "It is the Wilmas of this world... who help others to move the world forward".*

## REUNION LUNCHES

Around 50 people attended the lunch held on June 1 2000 which as usual was an enjoyable and convivial occasion with many old friends and some new ones. Sadly, none of our Patrons was able to attend but the High Commissioner was represented by Mr Anani Demuyako (who also attended one of our Committee meetings). We had an excellent line up of speakers in the afternoon: Robert Mares gave an account of his visit to Ghana with his daughter in September 1999; the Rev. Peter Hobson introduced extracts from the video of the funeral of Jimmy Moxon, his uncle. Mrs Yvonne Osafo told us about her Ghanaian Art and craft enterprise, Akwaaba, and arranged a display of carvings, clothes and other items; Caroline Johnston described her work at the school near Winneba where she had been teaching recently (a school to which we have now given a grant); Patrick Heinecke gave details of the Educational Resource centre at Sandema, which we have also supported; and Lynne Symonds brought us up to date with the range of activities of her Wulugeu Project. All this goes to show that while many of us may be nostalgic about our time in Ghana (in some cases, many years ago!) we are keeping up to date with and supporting current developments.

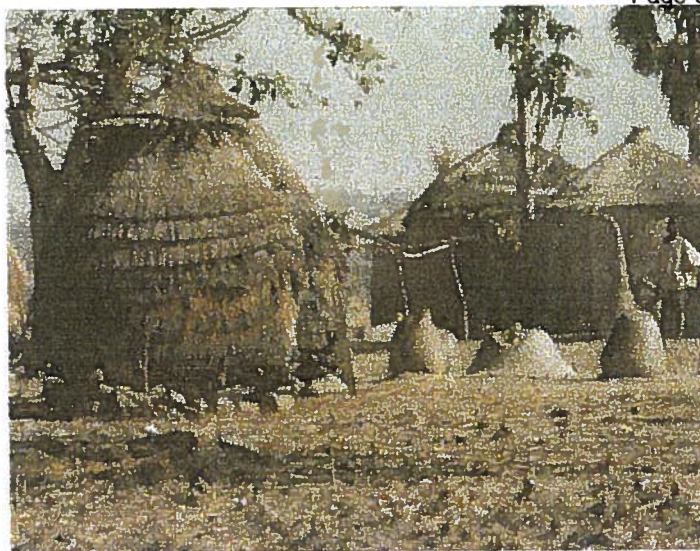
This year's lunch will take place on Thursday 7 June - full details in the enclosed programme and form. You will note a proposed earlier start for those who would like to arrive in time for a kind of informal 'AGM' in the morning. GSA has a pretty informal structure and way of proceeding, though of course we are formally governed by the Trust deed approved by the Charities Commissioners to whom we report every year. The trustees appointed under the trust Deed form the core of the Committee, to which other members are co-opted from time to time. We are always on the look-out for new recruits to the Committee to join in the regular work of GSA and/or to take on specific tasks (e.g. to edit this newsletter!). So if you would like to know a bit more about the 'nuts and bolts' of the trust which you support, do come along early on 7 June.

## A VISIT TO THE VILLAGE OF YELWOKO

*by Alan Mayhew*

In 1998 my wife Elizabeth and I together with our eldest daughter Susannah visited Ghana for six weeks. Beginning in Accra, we later travelled to Kumasi, then to Bolgatanga from where we went to Yelwoko, in the far north east, before returning to the capital and Cape Coast. The main reason for visiting Ghana - apart from a holiday - was to see old friends and familiar haunts but in particular we were keen to reach Yelwoko where two Anglican sisters, who are close friends, had worked for many years and

where our daughter had lived for several months during 1996-97 while researching health policies in the country. Yelwoko is a small village of some 5000 people and is about 48kms (30 miles) from Bolgatanga. Lack of political commitment has resulted in the region remaining poor and undeveloped, an area largely ignored by successive governments. Yelwoko is a typical village of the region. Virtually all the villagers live in a compound. These are self built, owner and family occupied compound houses consisting of round huts connected by walls and yards built of laterite, rendered with clay or dung, and often highly decorated. The roof is usually thatched with reeds. The compounds, each surrounded by its own fields, are scattered across the landscape and connected by narrow dusty paths. Animals, such as goats, pigs, chickens may also have a thatched shelter near the compound. People and animals seem to co-exist happily. The heart of the village consists of the Christian church, school, library, clinic and the women's development centre (WDC). Before the arrival of the Anglican Mission none of these buildings existed. There is no 'public' land in Yelwoko, all land is privately owned including sites upon which there are 'public buildings'. The community clinic was built voluntarily by the villagers and later equipped, both through charitable funds from Ghana and the UK. Facilities are gradually being used and when fully operational it will serve some six or seven villages. Gaining the confidence of villagers to use the clinic takes time and many are too poor to be able to afford to use its services. Infrastructure is little developed. The village is still without electricity or telephones. Until fairly recently villagers obtained their water from the river, streams and a few wells. Women in particular carried full bowls or buckets on their heads for great distances back to their houses. A dramatic change came through the sinking of two boreholes. The quality of borehole water is excellent and the plentiful supply is used for all domestic purposes, a facility that has greatly eased the hardship of everyday life. Yelwoko benefitted from one of the major development projects in the area through the construction of an earth dam under a UNDP initiative. At present the reservoir primarily provides a source of water for animals, but has been stocked with fish and there is one outlet through the dam wall for irrigation to a nearby vegetable garden, which although small is flourishing. The development of the dam into an income supporting and generation resource has yet to be fully exploited. There is no sanitation except for pit latrines in a few houses. The only motorised transport are the vans of the Anglican Mission and the WDC. There are a few donkeys, bicycles and the odd donkey and cart. Whenever a mission or WDC vehicle travels to Bolgatanga it is always full of people. The nearest police station is some miles away but there is no



*Yelwoko village huts*

crime in the village! and policemen are needed only when a crime is committed by strangers. For most of the year, Yelwoko is a dry, parched and rather desolate landscape, punctuated with the occasional outcrop of granite boulders - a wide open landscape with its own peculiar beauty, glorious sunsets and brilliant stars at night. Villagers are predominantly subsistence and small scale commercial farmers who rely on the five month rainy season for their livelihood and survival. Land is not very fertile and with only a single irregular rainfall the area frequently suffers from droughts. Staple food is made from millet flour (TZ-Tuo Zata) and is pounded millet and water which is often eaten with various soups containing vegetables such as ochre, fish and occasionally meat (guinea fowl, goat and bush rat). Food is mostly carbohydrates, vegetables are limited and although fruit is available people don't eat it much. Food shortages are frequent and supplies rarely last through a long dry season. Malnutrition is a major health problem especially for young children and expectant mothers. In a successful year a good harvest of millet may fill a family's grain store -if they have one- for most of the coming year and provide a modest surplus to sell, but it is a struggle to survive and local famines are frequent when rains are poor. An encouraging development has come from the village school children through their initiative in establishing dry season gardens. These are mud walls surrounding a small garden area designed to keep out animals and provide some shade. The dry season gardens have all been built near to one of the water boreholes so that produce can easily be kept regularly well watered, and with flourishing results.

The people of Yelwoko consist mainly of one ethnic group the Kusaasi, there are also a few Fra Fra and Tallensi. Each have their own specific cultural and historic identity which children learn about through listening to stories and proverbs from their elders. Language, traditional

drumming and dancing is learnt through the community. Religious practice is divided between traditional customs and Christianity. Shrines to family ancestors are evident in a number of compounds; God is worshipped through ancestors since they are felt to be closer to God, and their constant (though invisible) presence ensures vital protection. The Christian scriptures, however, have a great relevance to villagers and there is a real understanding of biblical descriptions such as fetching water, farming, and dusty feet - this part of Ghana is most like Palestine. Traditional beliefs -never wish evil on anyone, strive for good- have parallels with Christianity and church leaders are trying to encourage traditional believers to embrace Christianity more fully. It is a patriarchal society with male dominance in virtually all matters affecting family life, land and the development of the village as a whole. This position, however, is gradually changing and women -who lead a hard life- are taking part much more in the decision making process. During the growing season men are hard at work on the farms but for much of the year, younger men are away seeking work in other parts of the country and so leave women and families behind together with village elders and 'key' public figures. This state of affairs led to the establishing of a WDC. The idea of a women's development centre in Yelwoko started through an Anglican sister who had been working with women in nearby villages and who came to realise the serious need for training. Funded by a private donor, the WDC was from the outset planned and developed by the women of Yelwoko and the surrounding villages. Its purpose is to provide women with the opportunity to train in skills and to be able to earn money for the household while their menfolk are away in the dry season. The centre provides short residential courses and women bring their children and contribute food in-lieu of fees. A wide range of subjects is taught from basic cooking, dressmaking, sewing and craftwork to health, farming, awareness of womens issues and rights, and the management of income generating projects. The centre has been successful in its training programme and several of its students have started small businesses. The primary school which consists of a number of well ventilated classrooms around a courtyard was built in 1980 and was the first school the village had ever had, previously a few children walked the three miles to the Gbantongo school.

Although built by 'outsiders', villagers rebuilt the roof after it blew off in a storm with the result that since this incident village people now regard the school as theirs, and a resource for everyone. Frequent talks, meetings and courses including adult literacy campaigns have resulted in school no longer being regarded as only for

children. To run the school successfully is not easy. Absenteeism -especially during the rainy season when children are expected to help with the crops- is a problem. Government policy is to conduct lessons in English which many children have difficulty with and teaching staff do not always speak the local language. A further difficulty is the range of mixed ability in classes. Although there are supposed to be textbooks available locally, there is a shortage of them because of a lack of funds from central government and pupils often cannot afford to buy paper and pencils. Each classroom, however, does have basic furniture and a wall blackboard. School assemblies take place outside in the open which is neatly demarcated -as are paths- by Page carefully placed whitewashed pebbles. A large flat area next to the school is the 'sports' field where football is played by children and adults and matches take place between village teams.

Through the initiative of the American Peace Corps a small community school library building was recently built and stocked with a good basic collection of books (donated and shipped by an American charity). Facilities are managed by the village school teaching staff. The library is well used and people come from surrounding villages to take advantage of a scarce facility. GSA has recently allocated £500 to the school which will be used to purchase cows so that each year one or two cows can be sold and the money used to register final year pupils and to enable them to write the entrance examination to senior secondary school.

Some of the money will also be used to purchase more basic books for the community school library. Life is hard and simple in Yelwoko but despite harsh conditions its people are remarkably cheerful and friendly, and there is always a warm welcome for strangers.

FOOTNOTE : Copies of the booklet about Yelwoko titled 'Portrait of a village in Northern Ghana' will be on sale at the next GSA annual luncheon in London.

## NEWS ABOUT GHANA

As usual, very sparse in the UK press, which prefers to concentrate on African disasters rather than any good news. So naturally enough there was not as much coverage of the peaceful and successful recent elections, the first fully constitutional change of Government since Independence, as of the bizarre proceedings in the USA! Members of the Committee were presented with copies of West Africa (whose offices are now in the Universities of Ghana building) for 15-20 January, which has a cover photo of President John Agyeman Kufuor

and the headline "Ghana Celebrating Democracy". Kofi Ohene has also sent me a Daily Graphic with details of some of the new Ministers (as well as a report of the formal presentation of our grant to the University primary school). In addition, there was a letter recently in the Independent from Alison Harvey who wrote "With the recent election of John A. Kufuor as President of Ghana my father, the Rev. Aubrey D. Lewis, has now seen two of his former pupils elected president in different countries. He was Headmaster of Prempeh College Kumasi from 1957 to 1961 when President Kufuor was a student. Before that he had been Principal of Tiger Kloof in South Africa from 1945 to 1956 where one of the students was Quett Masire, President of Botswana from 1980 to 1997". Quite a record! Aubrey Lewis and his wife are long-standing supporters of GSA.

The following quotes, supplied by Margaret Turner from the follow-on Jubilee 2000 organisation (which ended on 31 December after a remarkable campaign) add to the picture:

**1. Accra Mail, 23 January** : After decades of structural adjustment, Ghana is saddled with the same problems that existed at the beginning of the experiment ... a large proportion of aid that poured in has gone to generate employment and contracts for donor countries. Some of the loans cannot be accounted for or have been misapplied.

**2. WallStreet Journal, 24 January**: Poor pay and conditions drive nurses from Africa. In Ghana, nurses earn about £80 a month and departures have tripled since 1999. Hospitals in Holland recruit nurses from South Africa which in turn hires replacements from Ghana - so the shortage of nurses in Ghana is indirectly linked to cutting down the waiting list for care in Holland! The global flow of nurses from poor to rich lands rewards talented people but adds to the problems of health-care in the poor countries. (An aspect of globalisation which has not been widely reported).

**3. The Times on 29 January** reported Kofi Annan's warning about the unequal distribution of benefits and the imbalances in global rule-making. Further evidence that the new President and government have much to do.

## END OF EMPIRE

I referred in the last newsletter to the commemoration of the formal ending of HM Overseas Civil Service: the Service in Westminster Abbey in May 1999 which some of us attended and the Conference at London University. The latter has now been followed by an impressive publication "Administering Empire" edited by John Smith, the convenor of the conference. It contains

the papers given at the two-day meeting, two of them of particular interest to those who served in Ghana: "The Colonial Service and the transfer of power in Ghana" by Professor Richard Rathbone (SOAS) and "The Gold Coast and the First World War" by Dr. Elizabeth Wrangham (U of Surrey, Roehampton) - published by the University of London Press. Arising from this conference on mainly administrative matters, John Smith (he and I were colleagues in London University) has suggested to me that a similar conference should be organised about issues relating to Colonial Education policy; a very appropriate project to be "led" from a Gold Coast/Ghana background, bearing in mind too our late Patron WEF Ward who, 20 years or so ago, would have been a leading participant! But alas, it seems that very few scholars are at present researching this field; contemporary practitioners in the field of education in Third World countries are more concerned (rightly) with current problems and practice than with pre-independence events; and the former participants are now getting a bit long in the tooth to produce papers for an academic conference. Perhaps one of these days, scholars from some of the countries concerned will wish to research in this field, which is well worth writing about. Meanwhile if any of you have any bright ideas on the subject, please let me know.

On a personal note: inspired by the 1999 conference publication (and a special offer via the Corona Club) I have recently joined the Royal African Society and find in a recent issue of their Journal an article on the Ghana elections of 1996. Also on the books front (nostalgia department), "Travels in the White Man's Grave" by Donald Mackintosh (a former Forestry officer) has some very entertaining anecdotes about life "on the Coast" in former days (Published by Abacus).

## LINKS / EXCHANGES

We have had a number of approaches about possible links between a school in Ghana and one in UK; if you would be interested in arranging such a link, or know of any schools which would like to be involved, please get in touch with a Committee member. Caroline Johnston would like to arrange to twin Havilah Academy near Winneba, where she taught (and spoke about at last year's Lunch), children ages 2 to 14, with an English school and will welcome suggestions.

## INTERMUNDIA

I have received details about a project called **INTERMUNDIA** based in Brighton, set up recently to link with organisations and communities in Ghana. It is funded by the On The Line organisation and plans links between about 15 Accra-based groups and groups in

Brighton. Details from David Sunderland, Oxfam Bookshop, 30 Kensington Gardens, Brighton BN1 4AL, Email: david@intermundia.org



*Caroline Johnston takes a class at Havilah Academy*

## LINK AFRICA

A recent article in the **TES** by Bob Doe describes a Cambridge-based organisation "Link Africa" which links schools in the UK and South Africa and has now been asked to work with the Education Service in Ghana. It is looking for primary schools to link with schools in the Upper East Region where only 42% of primary-aged children are in school (free elementary education for all was promised in 1987 - some of us remember the Accelerated Development Plan for Education 1951!). The following extract from the article will stimulate some memories:

Even in the barest of classrooms in Ghana, teachers manage constantly to reinforce and encourage pupil success and maintain enthusiasm and concentration by drawing on a resource that is entirely free and in endless supply - applause. With few other classroom aids, most lessons are whole-class and chalk-and-talk. But when a child responds to a teacher's satisfaction, the other pupils are told to clap ..... Schools ring to the sound of regular rewards delivered at top volume and in crisp, perfect unison ... a short, sharp, six-note rhythm universal in Ghanaian schools: clap, clap, clap-clap-clap, clap. It seems to keep the whole class alert and involved. Asked why pupils do it so enthusiastically, 14-year-old Nabil from a secondary school in Bolgatanga said "You clap loudly because one day they will be clapping you". (*TES* Sept.29 2000. [www.tes.co.uk](http://www.tes.co.uk)).

## JUBILEE 2000

JUBILEE 2000's campaign for debt reduction for the poorest countries has now been completed with considerable though not complete success. The final letter from the Director, Ann Pettifor, refers to the G7 promise

to cancel \$110 billion of debt "but we all know that this is not nearly enough. We also know that the spirit of Jubilee 2000 is unstoppable and that supporters want to carry on fighting for debt cancellation and for justice into the new millenium. People around the world will carry on campaigning ..." Margaret Turner is in touch with successor activities. Congratulations to an amazing campaign - initiated originally by "our own" Bill Peters and a few other determined campaigners.

## Finally....

Finally, and perhaps you will forgive me for indulging in another slice of nostalgia : I am indebted to Eric Cunningham for an article from "Oxford" describing the hey-day of the "colonial outfitter" - where are the FP Bakers and Griffith Mcallisters of yesteryear? Anthony Kirk-Greene recalls Walters of Oxford, Ten the Turl, whose records have miraculously survived. One or to quotes: "Kitting out" prior to embarkation was as integral part of starting on an overseas career then as having the required hepatitis and tetanus jabs is today. ....it is hard to credit the huge amount of tropical kit that one was recommended to buy before sailing. The Colonial Service cadet, with his outfit allowance of £60, would be given a catalogue of items: camp-bed and mosquito net, Tilley lamp, camp-chair, mosquito boots, bush shorts, linen suit plus the zinc-lined tin trunk and sheet-metal bath and of course, the Chop-box. Happy days ..... !

And so to bed with this screed, some of which at least I hope you will enjoy. Here's hoping to meet many of you on 7 June - and if you can't make the Lunch it would be nice to hear from you.

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Guildown Road,  
Guildford



**WALTERS of OXFORD**  
*for*  
**VARSITY TASTES & PREFERENCES**  
*in*  
**OVERSEAS OUTFITS**