

Ghana School - Aid



December 2004



Dear Members / Supporters of GSA,

It will not have escaped your notice that the last newsletter was dated April 2003 so you have had a long wait for further news of GSA activity, apart from the two-page bulletin in March which enclosed the booking form for the 2004 Reunion and the 2003 AGM minutes. I did express the hope then that the newsletter would be ready in June but this in the event was not possible. So with profuse apologies for delay here is the 2004 edition.

We shall be reporting on two Reunion Lunches: last year's at John Adams Hall where we had met since 1987 so this was the seventeenth event there; and this year's at the Ghana High Commission in Belgrave Square on the kind invitation of H.E. Isaac Osei, the High Commissioner - a most enjoyable, informal occasion, attended by some 70 members and guests. [see p. 3]

A major event in 2003 was the visit by our Ghana Representative, Michael Asiedu (Nana Atta Nuamah III), reported on briefly in my March letter. As well as attending the Reunion and speaking both at the AGM and the Lunch, Michael carried out a most exacting tour, meeting GSA friends in York, Guildford, Chichester, Bath, Exeter, Cheltenham and Leamington Spa and visiting a number of schools where useful contacts were made. Renewed thanks to those who provided hospitality for Michael and arranged his travel. He has produced a most interesting and detailed report running to some 100 pages which we hope to make available to members through a summary to be placed on the GSA website. Anyone wishing to receive a full copy could order one at cost.

In the course of his visit, Michael was able to help us plan the next major project, following "Schools On The Line": packages of aid for 15 schools on the Two degrees West" line, on which I reported briefly in March. This project has now been completed thanks to an enormous amount of detailed planning and organisation by Michael [see p.5]

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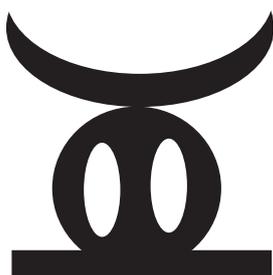
Page 14 - Kuapa Kokoo

Page 15 - Treasurers Report

Providing help in this way is of course the main raison d'etre of Ghana School Aid. In addition to these "major" projects we have also provided assistance to a number of other schools, some of which are reported on elsewhere in this newsletter (eg Nadowli, via Rachel Davis, a VSO volunteer who was put in touch with us by Mary Anderson; two schools near Bolgatanga through the work of Jo Hallett). The Treasurer's report (p.x) shows funds raised and disbursed in the past year; we have now collected since 1987 over £94,000, mainly from all (or most) of you! The more sensitive may note the subtle hint here: if your bank statement (or your conscience) tells you that you have not contributed recently, please hasten to repair the omission; and don't forget Gift Aid. A number of supporters contribute very generously indeed - do join that happy band. And perhaps I should remind you that we don't have an annual subscription and so are dependent on your reasonably regular generosity, if only to help meet the cost of newsletters and postage. I hope you will agree that the Committee have been spending your money wisely; to date, some £75,000 has been spent on school books / equipment / grants to schools, over 300 to date.

Memories Project

Aid and delivery of it by various routes, the most important of which is via our Ghana Representative as noted above, is our main purpose and the forward-looking aspect of our role as friends of Ghana. But I think we may be allowed a little nostalgia and looking back at our life and work in Ghana, many (in most cases) years ago; which after all is the reason why we support GSA. So in this issue we have some items on the last days of Empire and the transition to Independence in the 50s and 60s, the time when a great many of us were in Ghana. There is now a growing bookshelf in this area: some of it relating to Rhodes House and the pioneering work of Tony Kirk-Greene; the Oxford Colonial/Development Records Project which produced a number of monographs; the growing activities of the Empire and Commonwealth Museum in Bristol; the growing list of auto/biographies/memoirs, many of them reviewed in the Overseas Pensioner which many of us receive as members of OSPA (and others can now join as Associate Members); and so on.



In this connection, we have our own "Memories" project on which Eric Cunningham has been working for some years, now approaching completion as I mentioned in March. It was not in fact ready in time for the June meeting but I am hopeful that it will be available before long. Eric was ill in the earlier part of the year but his health is now improving. In June a number of people expressed interest and we should soon be in a position to take orders for copies. Meanwhile, this issue contains a review by Barbara Roddick of Francis Bartels' splendid book (p.8), as well as a number of other reviews and articles including E. D Roberts (Robbie) on "Colonial Educators" and David Bradshaw on W.E.F.Ward, our first Patron.

'Re-joining the village...'

Sadly, in this area of "looking back", we have to record the passing of some old friends - in Michael's phrase, quoting Ghanaian customary usage about a chief, they have gone to their villages, joining Brice Bending, Tom Southern and Warren Shaw from among our "founding" group. In that context I must make special mention of Madge Claxton, one of the original Trustees of GSA and, like Brice, Tom and Warren, had a distinguished career in the British Council. Michael Asiedu worked with her in Accra in the 1960s and has provided a fine tribute to her. (Obituaries on p.13)

In this context, I can report a number of bequests from former members: Dr. Joyce Abel, who worked in the office of the Government Statistician, left GSA £5000 in her will and the Rev. Aubrey Lewis, former Headmaster of Prempeh College, Kumasi left us £250. In addition, as reported in March, relatives and friends have made donations in memory of: Joyce Trott, Eelin Page and Norton Goldie-Scot. Members of the annual Ashanti Reunion donated £100 in memory of David Allen who organised their annual lunch for many years. And, I say thank you again to Bert and Joyce Perry for their generous gesture on the occasion of their golden wedding. I commend all these procedures to members for further thought!

School Linking

Among the articles and reports which follow is one by Alan Mayhew on Links between schools which may become one of GSA's major interests, with a new sub-committee doing a lot of work on it. This also provides a peg on which to hang a warm tribute to Alan for all his excellent work for GSA since he and Elizabeth joined us a few years ago. Not only is he an indefatigable Secretary (and everyone knows the Secretary does all the work in any organisation) but he does a huge amount of additional work in, eg, compiling the master list, with map, of the schools we have assisted, as well as his more

recent involvement with the Links project. Thank you , Alan. A warm thank you too to Stanley Anthony for his work as Treasurer and Planned Giving Administrator; once again, a lot of work, very efficiently done. And finally, thank you to Ted Mayne (who as well as being Vice-Chairman deals with the printing and distribution of the newsletters); to Judith Smith for her calm and efficient organising of the Annual Reunion, especially the last one in a new location and with (then) unknown caterers; and the other members of the Committee who all lend valuable support in various ways through the year and make our meetings very easy to chair.

We were very pleased to see Kofi Ohene on his summer visit, here also to attend his daughter Sheila's graduation ceremony at Leicester University; he and Floria came to lunch in Guildford. I received a warm letter from Kobby Yebo-Okrah who has now returned to Ghana after 5 years at the Universities of Ghana office in London where he continued Kofi's hospitality to the Committee.

Reunion Date

Please make a note of the proposed date (2 June) for next year's Reunion (see p. 4), to be held at the High Commission again on H.E.'s invitation, but probably at Highgate not Belgrave Square (we hope to avoid a clash with the General Election date!). This will enable you to make a note in your diaries well ahead and avoid that week for your holiday travel; some members last year commented that they had already made plans to be away (although the attendance was considerably up on the previous year). We shall send out details and booking form around March / April.

Commission for Africa

The topic of Third World Debt has been much in the news this autumn: the Prime Minister's Commission for Africa, the involvement of popular public figures like Bob Geldof and Bono, Gordon Brown's announcement about cancellation. So I am very pleased to draw your attention to the articles by Margaret Turner and Bill Peters (Bill was one of the founding figures of Jubilee 2000).

Feedback please...

One further point, which I have mentioned before: it would be very good to have feed-back from you on any of the matters covered in this newsletter, so please produce some "letters to the editor" / exhortations to the Committee / suggestions for the Website (have you seen it?) / proposals for future action. The AGM provides for some of this interaction but if you feel inspired to break into print (or even handwriting), please do.

Finally a word of thanks to Rod Earle without whose

work it would not have been possible to produce it. Being over six months late at least provides me with the opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy (and hopefully less fraught on the world scene) New Year 2005 -

On behalf of the Committee, Eric Earle

The Annual Reunions 2003 and 2004

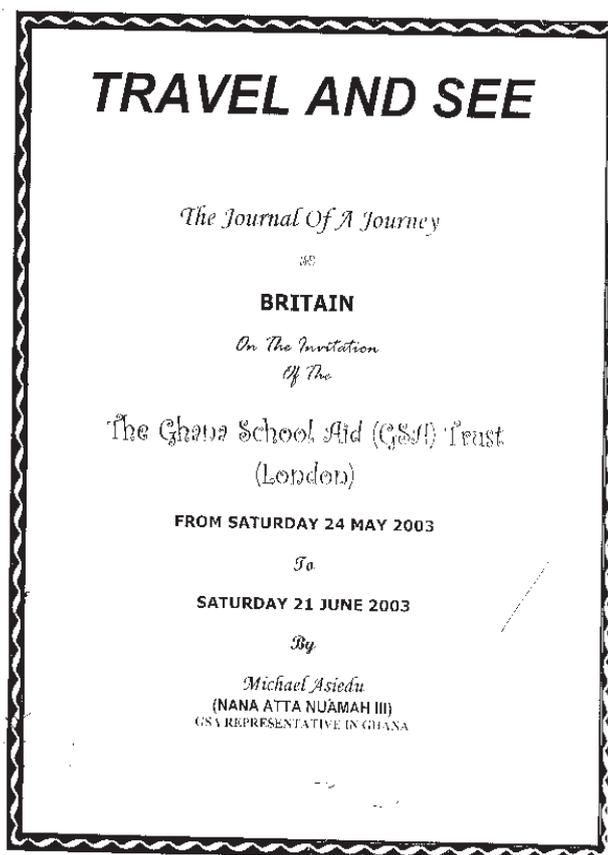
About 50 members and guests attended the Lunch at John Adams Hall on 29 May 2003 - the seventeenth successive one held there. As mentioned in the last newsletter, we had been warned about possible closure of the Hall for renovation and at the lunch the High Commissioner kindly invited us to hold the following year's gathering at the High Commission in Belgrave Square, which we duly did. So 2003 became the last in a long sequence at JAH, where all but the first reunion in 1986 had taken place. The main feature of 2003 was, as already mentioned and referred to in my March letter, the visit of our Ghana Representative, Nana Michael Asiedu who spoke both at the AGM (minutes have been circulated) and at the Lunch, where HE Isaac Osei also addressed us. It was a great pleasure to have Michael with us and he was able to contribute usefully to all the discussions. In the afternoon session, we had an excellent presentation about the Polesworth-Pampawie Link from its Coordinator, Sharon Simons (Leftwich); and an interesting account of the Powerstock-Gbullung link by two of the leading activists. Dr. Mary Talabie talked about the Mo-Dega project which we join with John Kibble in assisting; Wendy Spratling spoke of her work in schools near Cape Coast and Jane Scott (representing Lynne Symonds) brought us up to date on the Wulugu Project.

For our 19th gathering this year we were, as already mentioned, at the new venue in Belgrave Square where we received a warm welcome from HE the High Commissioner and Mrs. Osei, and the High Commission staff. We had an attendance of over 70, a tribute to the attractions of the new venue! (About 20 of these applied very late and Judith Smith has asked me to stress the importance of applying by the date requested. Fortunately the caterer, who provided excellent Ghanaian food, was able to cope on this occasion). Of our Patrons, HE the High Commissioner was of course our host; Paul Boateng sent apologies and good wishes; Lady Chalker had hoped to attend but was delayed at a previous meeting. It was a very pleasant, informal occasion, held in the High Commission's large meeting-room, with adjoining room where the food for lunch

was served. After the AGM , we broke for lunch at which we were able to mingle informally; Mr.Osei then addressed us, made us all feel very welcome and spoke about a number of current issues. There then followed a very pleasant ceremony: the presentation by Henrietta Tufuor and Vivian Korley of a cheque for £800 raised at the Dinner Dance referred to below. We then had the afternoon speakers: Lynne Symonds told us about recent developments in the Wulugu Project, Dr. Noah Karley gave us a very interesting talk about aspects of the Mo-Dega project, David Bradshaw spoke about WEF Ward and Nick O'Neill, supported by Letitia Boateng and Wendy Spratling, talked about developments in School Links, with particular reference to the Sandema Educational Resource Centre. Warm thanks to Judith Gillespie Smith who organised it all with great efficiency and resource.

"Travel and See"

The visit of Michael Asiedu



This is the title page of Nana Michael's detailed account of his month's travels around England last year, with details of his visits to schools and commentary on what he saw generally on his travels. It is too costly to reproduce in full but if you would like to borrow it and browse through it please contact Eric Earle (01483 562690); and, as noted above, we hope to have a summary on our website.

School Links

(Alan Mayhew)

Early in September last year, my wife Elisabeth and I spent a thoroughly enjoyable week-end in York at the UKOWLA Ghana Linking Conference. It was well organised and run by an impressive chairman. The delegates were from varied backgrounds and it was heartwarming to meet and talk to so many like minded people. Both of us came away feeling enthused about the whole process of linking and it is worth high-lighting a few key messages to emerge from the conference.

Linking is happening all around us and at a pace, all made much more possible now through the advances in communications technology. Institutions such as schools and local authorities, church groups, youth groups and whole communities such as the city of York have established links with Ghana. The worldwide north-south linking process now has active support at parliamentary level through an all parliamentary group at Westminster.

Many speakers reiterated one theme: linking is about, and must be, a two way process between north and south partners if it is to be really successful. One young speaker, Amy, spoke well about the youth exchange as part of the York-Fanteakwa link. She and other teenagers visited Ghana followed by a return visit by Ghanaian youngsters to York. Participants raised their own funds and although a cultural shock, the exchange was clearly a great success which has given them a different perspective on life. They also came to realise that teenagers are much the same everywhere. Linking is very much about meeting face to face.

The linking between schools takes the process much deeper. It can be of great benefit to both partners. A crucial aspect is that links become sustainable as part of a process of building a world community. It is important for different generations of pupils and teachers to participate and gain from the process. It is clearly important that there is freedom and flexibility within partnerships to enable it to flourish and to be able to respond to root issues such as 'what can I learn from it?', 'what do I want out of the link?', and 'what can I contribute?'

A Ghanaian perspective on linking was presented by Letitia Boateng, who has since become a member of GSA and chaired an all Ghanaian group. They were happy with the direction of linkages and wanted to participate more. A problem in Ghana is funding. The group are well aware of the need to involve community associations and organisations much more.

Following on from that conference, the Executive Committee discussed at some length the subject of school links, at its September 2003 meeting. It was



GSA Two Degrees West Longitude Project

Report by Michael Asiedu

The GSA Educational Project in Ghana for the years 2003/ 2004 was based on the principle of selecting schools located on the Two degrees west longitude passing through the country from north to south. This programme followed the successful completion of a similar project entitled SCHOOLS ON THE LINE (SOTL) based on schools located on the Greenwich Meridian longitude which was carried out during the previous years 2002-2003. The GSA decided to cover 14 schools on the Two degrees West longitude program at the rate of £350 per school.

LIST OF APPROVED SCHOOLS

The final list of 15 schools accepted for the program after Michael's on- the- spot- review of the original list on his return home to Ghana was as follows:

UPPER WEST REGION

SORBELLE DA PRIMARY

SAKAI DA PRIMARY

DUSSIE DA PRIMAY

NORTHERN REGION

KABAMPE DA PRIMARY

JUGBOI ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY

BAMBOI DA PRIMARY

BRONG AHAFO REGION

NEW LONGORO JSS

BUOYEM SDA PRIMARY

OFFUMAN LA PRIMARY

ASANTI REGION

MANSOMAN SSS

ABORE DA JSS

WESTERN REGION

TAMSO ANGLICAN PRIMARY

DOMPEM CATHOLIC PRAMARY

NSUAEM METHODIST PRIMARY

PRINCE'S TOWN CATHOLIC PRIMARY

MATERIALS SUPPLIED TO THE SCHOOLS

The materials supplied to each school were recommended text books, supplementary readers, exercises books, bic pens and pencils as well as a wall clock and sports materials comprising football, volley ball, football pump, and table tennis set. Each school also received a three- piece locally made school band instrument consisting of one big drum, two small drums, a set of drum sticks and a spanner. The list of materials have been sent to the Chairman Eric.

4 PACKAGE AND DISTRIBUTION

i All the materials for each school except the music band instruments were packed in a durable carrier bag provided with a padlock and key. The set of band

acknowledged that linking had considerable potential for GSA and that it is a natural additional activity to our present work - especially important in that it involves young people, the future.

There are many different issues to grapple with in setting up and sustaining a link between a Ghanaian and a UK school and it takes time; but when successful it is rewarding and satisfying. As none of the Committee members have any direct experience of establishing school links, it was decided to form a working party of those who have; five GSA members have decided to take part: Catherine Batten, Letitia Boateng, Jo Hallett, Sue Hewlett and Wendy Spratling.

In February this year the Committee and most of the Working Party members were able to meet to explore the way forward. After an absorbing session which high-lighted many important issues, it was agreed that a paper setting out criteria for school links should be produced. The Working Party met at the end of May and also included Nick O'Neill (who spoke at the AGM) and Kate Regan who is involved in setting up a link between a community technical college at Hungerford and the Aseeso-Aboase JSS in Eastern Region. The group reported back to the Executive Committee in October: further news in next issue

To support our work in making contact with young people, the **Morel Trust** has given us a grant of £1000 (in addition to previous generous support) and we plan to use this in developing Link contacts.

instruments were collected separately.

ii The carrier bags and the music band instruments were collected from Michael's Labone Accra residence by Members of Parliament including two Deputy Ministers and a retired Diplomat in whose areas the schools are located. This was after several contacts with these VIPs in Parliament House, Accra and in their offices. Michael was pleased with their willingness and in fact enthusiasm in helping to get the materials sent to the schools. Michael thanked these VIPs for their services on behalf of the GSA.

FINANCES - INCOME

a. On the bases of £350 per school as stated earlier, the total budget for the project came to £5250. The amount was transferred to Michael's dollar account in Ghana Accra in two tranches that is £3000 in April 2004 and the remaining £2250 in June 2004

b. The amount of £5250 reached Michael in Ghana in the sum of \$9635.87. This was, I am told, at the bank rate of one British pound sterling to 1.84 dollars

c. At the prevailing bank rate of ¢ 8870 to \$1 the \$9635.87 would yield an amount of ¢85,470,166

d. One could therefore say that the GSA financial assistance to Ghana on this particular program was about ¢85,000,000

FINANCES – EXPENDITURE

Michael's expenditure on the program came up as follows

i Books and other educational materials to SEDCO PUBLISHING COMPANY ACCRA. By bank draft cheque ¢64,497,600

ii Sports materials to UNIVERSAL SPORTS ENTERPRISE, ACCRA ¢8,100,000

iii Musical band instruments to BUABENG BAND INSTRUMENT WORKS MANKERSIM CENTRAL REGION by bank draft c ¢6,750,000

iv Wall clocks to NOMAH RISINS STARS LTD ACCRA including batteries by cash. ¢1,050,000

v Carrier bags with padlocks and keys from local vendors by cash ¢600,000

vi Michael's overhead expenses by cash ¢950,000

vii Total expenditure ¢ 81,947,600

CONCLUSION

Michael would like on behalf of the school children and teachers in the 15 schools as well as their parents to thank the GSA for the materials donated to the schools.

Michael wishes the GSA continued success and increased financial assets to enable them to pursue their programs in Ghana.

Submitted as above with love and greetings from

Your Very Good Friend

NANA ATTA NUAMAH 111

(MICHAEL ASIEDU)

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Michael has now proposed a new programme to follow the successful completion of 'Two Degrees West': this, which was discussed in outline on his visit last year, is for a programme to provide similar packages of books, teaching materials, school band and sports equipment to schools in the fishing villages along the coast of Ghana. The Committee considered this plan at the last meeting and agreed to allocate £3500 to serve

OTHER PROJECTS

The main project in the past year has been the Two degrees West plan reported on above. In addition we have approved some other small projects including:

- *a £500 building grant for the Nuru Islam school near Yendi (see Sue Hewlett's visit report, March 2003 newsletter);
- *a £500 grant towards a new teachers' resource centre at Nadowli, Upper West (in response to an application from Rachel Davis, a VSO volunteer teacher at the school, following contact with Mary Anderson);
- *a £500 grant to the Sandema Educational Resource Centre;
- *a £500 grant in support of the Polesworth-Pampawie link;
- *£200 for books for Nkanfoa Primary School, Cape Coast (Wendy Spratling);
- *a grant of £1000 in support of a new resource centre at Jama, Mo-Dega, added to John Kibble's donation of £1600, (the subject of Dr.Karley's talk at the Lunch)

Feedback on two other projects is given in the letters which follow from **Jo Hallett** and **Humphrey Barclay**.

"Dear Eric

I have just returned from a three week visit to Bolgatanga on a Technical Assistance placement with Link Community Development.

As last year, I was working with Headteachers in the Upper East Region. Last year, I involved all the lower primary teachers and heads in Bolgatanga District in a series of one-day work shops on the use of phonics and interactive strategies. This year, I repeated the workshops with teachers in the Kassena-Nankana District, based at Navrongo. Over 400 teachers participated in the sessions!

I have close links with two primary schools in Bolga District - Nyogbare and Sekoti. My own school, Southfields Primary in Coventry is linked to Nyogbare, and I worked with Sekoti School as a Global Teacher in 2001. Both are very remote and poorly resourced. I enclose letters of application to Ghana School Aid

for specific projects to help these two schools.
I have seen steady improvements in both schools over the 3 years.

Yours sincerely

Jo Hallett"

[we gave grants to both schools and these have been acknowledged E.E]

Letter from Humphrey Barclay, Chair of Friends of Tafo.

Dear Mr Mayhew

I am delighted to be sending you today four photographs of the grand occasion when the Ghana School Aid donation of exercise books was presented in Kwahu-Tafo on August 31st

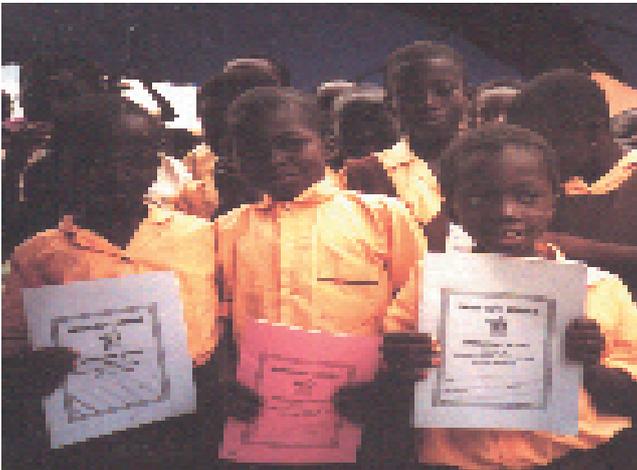
The event was celebrated with a great turn-out: we had a donation of text books from the British and Foreign School Society to present as well, and the occasion commanded a lot of interest. The Minister of Education himself attended, along with the regional MP and the District Chief Executive, and we earned a five minute report on Ghana Television's national news.

I have been asked to convey the sincerest gratitude of the Chief, Elders, Development Council and Head Teachers on behalf of all the children you have benefitted. They are quite overcome that good people so far away should be thinking of their educational welfare, and have asked me to say 'Medaase pii'.

With our very best wishes

Yours very sincerely

Humphrey Barclay



Fundraising by 2Four Events

Management.

This organisation, headed by Henrietta Tufuor, offered to raise funds for GSA at their annual Dinner Dance on 20 March. Alison Southern (daughter of the late Tom, one of our founding group, represented GSA). As stated in the report on the Lunch, they presented us with a cheque for £800. This action on the part of members of the Ghanaian community in London is very much appreciated. (pic: New books provided to Kwahu schools)

Vice Chairman's visit to Ghana

I was in Ghana for a few days last February and my very short stay did allow me time to visit Ola Girls Secondary School in Ho and the British Airways sponsored school at Kasoa. With regard to education in Ghana, I was very impressed with the way the Ola Girls Secondary School has launched itself into the the 21st Century. My visit coincided with the schools fiftieth anniversary. The First Lady, who is an old girl, was the guest of honour at the celebrations and we were amused by an interesting programme of events which was related to the school's history. The school has up to date laboratories, comfortable boarding accommodation, a very happy atmosphere and a dedicated group of teaching personnel. Numerous old girls attended the celebrations and I was able to spend some time in the school library with well stocked shelves thanks to Rotary Ho. There are schemes to provide schooling to deprived children which are financed by the Ghana Cocoa Board and the Volta River Authority. This I found most encouraging. The Headmistress is a very competent woman who knows all the girls in the school and is responsible for the very happy environment which prevails throughout.

The British Airways School at Kasoa is very different to Ola Girls in that it is a day school and was only recently set up. Within the next few years it will cover the full range of junior and secondary schooling and more classrooms are planned. Unlike Ho it does need finances and last year we did donate £500 to this project. The school has a number of retail outlets in that clothes and pottery and small items of furniture all made by the students go on sale. The school has its own electricity gnerator because power cuts are all too regular. This means that their computer studies can carry on uninterrupted,. The school is run on a shoe string but money does come in regularly through the regular giving of British Airways staff. The school has not sought assistance from the British High Commission or other local fund raising organisations in Ghana, but it is in receipt of funds from a Rotary Club near Heathrow. I was very impressed with this educational establishment and hope Ghana School Aid will continue to support this growing and much needed venture. I shall certainly visit the school again on my next visit.

Ted Mayne.



'The Persistence of Paradox. Memoirs of F.L. Bartels'

Ghana Universities Press, 2003.

Those of us who had the privilege of serving with Dr Bartels during his headship of Mfantispim School have looked forward with eager anticipation to the publication of his memoirs. *The Persistence of Paradox* certainly lives up to our expectations.

A "must" for all interested in education, particularly African education, the book has an even wider appeal as the life record of a remarkable human being.

Beginning with a vivid account of the author's childhood and education, *The Persistence of Paradox* goes on to tell how Dr Bartels returned to his old school of Mfantispim initially as a teacher and then as its first African headmaster.

There is a fascinating analysis of the politics of the Nkrumah era during the period which many consider to be "the great years of Ghana education" and in which the author himself played so significant a role.

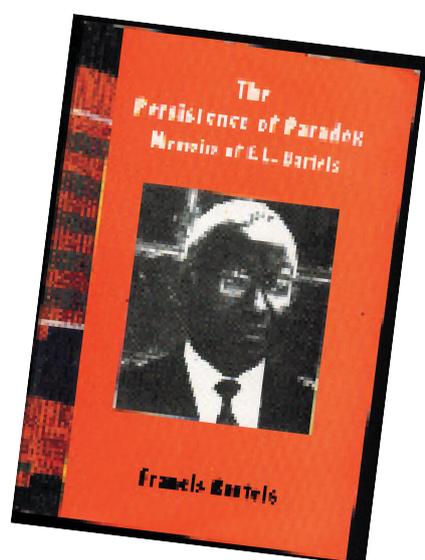
The latter part of the book traces the career of Dr Bartels as Ghana Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, Lecturer at the University College of Nairobi and with UNESCO.

Dr Bartels (FLB) numbers many distinguished men amongst his former pupils and one of them, Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, pays tribute to the author's perspicacity and wisdom in the foreword. It may truly be said of FLB that, like another great headmaster, Dr Arnold of Rugby, "He knows better than anyone when to look and when to see nothing", when to speak and when to be silent.

This is a compelling account of a rich and varied life lived out against the background of an international scene acutely observed and wisely reported.

Through all the detailed descriptions of the writer's "triumphs and disasters" there breathes a warm humanity which must commend it to all thoughtful readers.

Barbara Roddick. August 2004



COLONIAL EDUCATORS:

The British Indian and Colonial Education Service 1858 - 1983

CLIVE WHITEHEAD (foreword by Anthony Kirk Greene). Publisher: I.B. Tauris, London, 2003.

This book is to be welcomed as the first of its kind, bringing prosopography into the history of education in the British Empire and Commonwealth. Clive Whitehead is a pioneer from the Graduate School of the University of Western Australia, who has spent much time in the past ten or fifteen years pursuing his research during frequent and lengthy visits to this country where most of his sources were to be found. Readers of the *Journal of Educational Administration and History* have savoured some of the fruits of his research - in 1989 a study of Sir Christopher Cox whose Colonial Office papers he catalogued for the Public Record Office (now National Archive) at Kew; in 1992 an essay on Miss Freda Gwilliam (1907 - 1987): A portrait of the "Great Aunt" of British Colonial Education"; in 1993 "The Admirable Ward: a portrait of W.E.F. (Frank) Ward C.M.G. colonial educator, administrator, diplomat and scholar", and in 1997 "The Nestor of British Colonial Education: a portrait of Arthur Mayhew CIE, CMG (1878 - 1948)". These are reprinted and supplemented by chapters on "The origins and Nature of the Colonial Education Service", "Eric R.J. Hussey; Olympian and Colonial Educator: one of the blues who united the blacks" who was the first Director of Education in Nigeria and father of Lord Hussey, once Chairman of the BBC, "Margaret Read: Social Anthropologist turned Colonial Educator" who became Professor of the expanding Colonial Department at the University of London Institute of Education and "William A Dodd, Colonial and Post Colonial Educator" who served in Tanganyika, became Chief Education Advisor to Overseas Development and later was on the staff of the Institute. All of this follows 78 pages on the Indian Education Service and is supplemented by an excellent contribution by Dr. Sonia Parkinson on "Sir Hans Vischer, Champion of African Cultures: a portrait of an advisor on colonial education".

This is well worth reading. Vischer, a Swiss missionary with the CMS was told by Lord Lugard that he "could apply to and join the British Colonial Service once he had become a British national, obtained the Royal Geographical Society's surveying diploma, learned the Hausa language and acquired a working knowledge of Moslem law". This he achieved within a year and became Assistant Resident, Northern Nigeria; much more followed.

Who are the educators remembered as having contributed most to the development of Ghana? Whitehead mentions three members of the CES who served in the Gold Coast

- Gordon Rodger, Sidney Hogben, and a person said to be "Emma Clarke".

E Phyllis Clark OBE merits much more than getting her name right. Sidney Hogben CBE who introduced Eton fives to Northern Nigeria came to the Gold Coast in 1951 and soon produced the "Plan for the Accelerated Development of Education" which affected the work of many during the following decade. But what of Jack Marshall, OBE, Wilma Gladstone MBE, Ida Travis, John Wilson who retired to the ULIE and recruited A.J. Loveridge CMG from the Gold Coast Administration to join him on the Institute staff?

Nor did the CES alone provide outstanding educators. What about officers of the Administrative Service; the Local Government School in Accra; or Medical Service (e.g. Dr Chenard de la Girandait at Saltpond,) training staff for rural clinics or Agricultural Service. There is no mention of David Balme and his colleagues at the University (College) in Accra, David Kimble and his staff of the Extra-Mural Department helping to establish the Peoples Educational Association. W.W. Sawyer, author of "Mathematician's Delight", Kofi Busia (Professor of Sociology and briefly Prime Minister), Eve Evans CBE, Chief Librarian; Harold and Doreen Ingrams of the NTT, Alec Dickson, (founder of VSO and CSV). H.O.A MacWilliam SEO and historian of Gold Coast Education. Outside Government Service there were the staff of Achimota (just mentioned by Whitehead,) Cox turning down the headship! Mfantsipim (Francis Bartels) and other schools. Some of our members taught Kofi Annan at Mfantsipim.

Clearly there is much more work, along the way Whitehead has led, remaining to be done and the sooner a start is made by young historians, while reliable witnesses are still alive, the better. It is odd that a NZ/Australian academic makes no mention of Lord Ashby, whose 1960 report on "Investment in Education" provided Nigeria with a comprehensive plan for higher schools and universities. Parkinson refers to him; not Whitehead.

Despite a few blemishes I found this to be a fascinating collection of mini-biographies and portraits of people to whom Ghana owes much, indirectly if not directly. At our last annual luncheon, David Bradshaw spoke movingly about Frank Ward who used to join us on these occasions. The twenty six pages of Chapter 11 might be a good place to begin reading this book, although much more could be said, as in Ward's own book "My Africa". Ward used to produce cyclostyled letters each term when he was teaching at Achimota; one of my professors passed them on to me and later recommended me to join the CES. I owe much to Frank Ward.

I hope that Whitehead will proceed to collate the researches of himself and other and perhaps produce a

history of colonial education such as we have not had for over thirty years. Of the great Namier it was said by GM Trevelyan "great researcher; no historian" - may that not be the fate of Clive Whitehead!

E.D. Roberts

Third World Debt

Jubilee 2000 campaigners for Third World debt cancellation had a vision that in 2000, the year named in Martin Dent's inspirational title for the movement, all the debt slates would be wiped. The IMF shifted from its hitherto adamant refusal to consider cancelling any multilateral debt; this led the World Bank's HIPC Initiative of September 1996, reluctantly endorsed by the IMF. At the Cologne G8 meeting in June 1999 creditor governments made commitments to cancel \$100 billion of bilateral debt and vague assurances about \$50 billion of multilateral debt. The attention of the G8 and the world at large was firmly fixed on debt cancellation as a continuing active issue on the wider development agenda where the still greater issue of the vast prosperity gap between the rich creditor countries and the poorest, seldom acknowledged, loomed largest. Our signed-up support, attested by the 24+ million world-wide petition presented in 2000, was the strategic clincher.

Alas, in 2004 the outcome is meagre, the prospect still uncertain. Every relevant device in the HIPC Memorandum has been used by the IFIs to delay completion. J2K's cancellation target of \$350 billion is still far beyond reach. As of April only 14 countries reached completion, 13 decision point and 7 the pre-decision process. Eight are not expected to reach decision point, 4 because their debt is "sustainable". The total cancelled is around a third of that promised in 1999. In addition 11 countries recognised by J2K as HIPCs but not accepted as such by the IFIs had not been considered; these included four of the biggest and most problematic: Bangladesh, Nigeria, the Philippines and Zimbabwe.

A few recent developments in the long trail of events affecting the debt issue encourage hope for slight further advances and progress. At the G8 Sea Island meeting last month attention was focussed by the host government on Iraq's debt, not the HIPCs'. So far as can be deduced from the communique this occupied the greater part of the high-level discussion, driven by the US anxiety to settle as much of the Iraq problem as possible before November's Presidential Election. From this came no direct benefit for HIPCs but possible collateral benefit for S Africa. Their case for cancellation of debts from the apartheid era distinguishes some debts as odious since they were incurred by an odious apartheid-based regime; Saddam Hussein's regime is similarly described

so that the concession to the USA over Iraq's debt may be collaterally relevant for S Africa.

Benefit for HIPC's at Sea Island was limited to three points: it was agreed that the HIPC operation would be extended by 2 years to 2006; a proposal from the preceding Finance Ministers Meeting to allocate \$1 billion for HIV control was endorsed; a further \$1 billion was allocated to allow topping up of some debt cancellation for all HIPC countries deemed to need it (ie for further eligible indebtedness incurred since their original claims). These are "elastoplast" measures.

Gordon Brown's meeting with the Pope at his summer retreat on 9 July reveals a little more. His Government's intention to increase its allocation for development aid by \$1.5 billion has now been confirmed and pressure is being maintained on the EU to relax bureaucratic obstacles to supplying African countries with HIV drugs at generic prices. At the meeting Catholic n.g.o.s were asked about the case put by all n.g.o.s to the G8 for 100% cancellation of unpayable debt and meeting the Millennium Development targets by 2015; they were told that finance ministers might be working on a fully costed proposal for 100% write-off. This may be linked to the Chancellor's International Financial Facility of January 2003 related to the Millennium targets which is still under consideration by the G8. The Chancellor got the Pope's endorsement of this important proposal; it envisages using the bond Market as source for an international fund to underwrite the targets for 2015. Agreement by the other G8 members, notably Germany, France and the USA has not yet been obtained perhaps because of the larger commitments they would have to make. In Washington a new "Jubilee Act" is to come before Congress: it would allow for 100% cancellation.

Other options open to the Chancellor and others seeking to identify funding for debt cancellation and the Millennium targets are revaluation of some of the IMF's gold reserves (price of gold being currently high enough to make such a move once more worth consideration), the Tobin Tax and global commons. Although the Chancellor is reticent on these he has not excluded them.

Meanwhile in 2005, when the UK holds the Presidency of the G8 and the EU and a general election is likely, unique opportunities occur for mobilisation to achieve specific policy reforms in development during the year and lay foundations for more far-reaching reforms beyond 2005. Success depends on demonstrating popular support for development in 2005, so securing a very great number of committed British development activists. This is planned to take place within an international framework; an international meeting has

already convened, and remains connected on the internet, harmonising such matters as timetables, slogans and messages. The UK Mobilisation Coordination Team is active; two Assemblies of the wider support group have been held, while various tasked sub groups are at work. "Making poverty history", wider debt relief, more trade justice and greater aid inputs are the main themes to which can be added a variety of sub-themes including the environment, human rights, profits from arms sales and, most recently, the politically sensitive subject of migration and development after DfID's Report "Migration and Development : how to make Migration work for poverty reduction".

Finally, a theme which I have worked on for the past year; the need to correct systemic faults in the international economic and financial systems which continuously widen the rich/poor gap as interventions in economic cycles help the rich to stabilise but almost invariably (without compensatory benefits) produce adverse consequences for the poor and keep the global economy working below its potential (Ajit Singh, Cambridge Professor of Economics). Bob Geldof has called for attention to the "global financial architecture". Organisations like 50 Years is Enough specifically urge fundamental reform of the WB and IMF (as does the Meltzer Report before the US Congress), encouraged by expert insiders like James Stiglitz. WDM's paper "Growing old disgracefully" calls for radical reform.

The scene for 2005 takes shape and offers stirring

WHY IS GHANA STILL POOR?

Debt repayment is only part of the problem.

Christian Aid's recent booklet "Taking liberties: Poor people, free trade and trade justice" begins with quotations from statements made by Tony Blair and the Irish government (draft) which promote "openness" (of markets) as a benefit or an opportunity. The third quotation "We have opened our economy. That's why we are flat on our back." Is from Sam Mpasu, Malawi's commerce and industry minister.

The publication then gives many examples of the adverse effects on poor countries of opening their markets. Four examples from Ghana are summarised here.

Agatha Yumbia is a small scale chicken farmer. She set up her business in the south west of Ghana two years ago with the aid of a loan from her local church. She now faces competition from imports from most European countries. In 2002 more than 27 000 tonnes of chicken were imported. She has consequently lost her urban markets but still supplies local customers.

Zakaria Abu has similar problems as a rice farmer 600 miles north of Agatha. Ghana now imports more than 300 000 tonnes of rice from the US every year. In 2003

the government decided to increase the tariffs on these imports but after intervention from the IMF and the World Bank, these plans were dropped.

(A photograph shows two children by the roadside trying to sell local rice in the traditional way whilst a large bill poster behind them advertises rice imported from the US.)

"De-industrialisation": Since opening its markets to imports of cheap consumer goods, local factories have been closed. The number of people employed in manufacturing dropped from 78,700 in 1987 to 28,000 in 1993. Many of these were skilled artisans and engineers. The new jobs that were supposed to be created have not emerged.

Kofi Eliasa used to have a tomato farm; Ghana was forced by the IMF and the World Bank to cut tariffs on imports of tomato products and he now works in a quarry breaking rocks. Not far from the areas where a few farmers still grow tomatoes, cheap tomato paste from Southern Europe is sold.

The Trade Justice Movement is a group of NGOs which urges people to lobby the government on trade justice issues. It has organised mass demonstrations for the last three years in which several thousands of people take part. These are peaceful demonstrations and are not well reported. This year's event was "Ballot on the Beach" in Brighton on 26th September, the day before the opening of the labour party conference. Gordon Brown made a heart-warming speech about promises of debt cancellation but did not mention "trade liberalisation".

Margaret Turner

Council for Education in the Commonwealth (CEC)

The CEC is a voluntary body with charitable status, founded in 1959 at the time of the first Commonwealth Education Conference. Its base is the UK Parliament from which it draws three parliamentary chairs from the House of Commons, and three patrons in the House of Lords (in both cases one from each of the three principal political parties). It has accredited status as an observer at Conferences of Commonwealth Education Ministers and Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings.

The purpose of the CEC is to provide a forum for activating interest in and support for education in the Commonwealth. It seeks to mobilise opinion and action in the UK and elsewhere on behalf of Commonwealth education co-operation. It does this through Parliamentary lobbying, delegations to Ministers, working group reports, memoranda and submissions to the UK and other governments, public

meetings, an Annual Conference and Annual Lecture, and issue of a quarterly Newsletter.

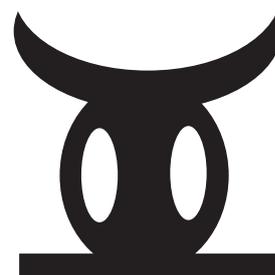
Recent themes addressed through these activities have been the forthcoming International Education Strategy to be issued by the Department for Education and Skills in November, recruitment of Commonwealth teachers (a Protocol was recently agreed by Commonwealth Ministers), education development in small states, the Africa Commission chaired by the Prime Minister, and student mobility within the Commonwealth. Speakers last year included Tom Bediako (the Ghanaian Africa Co-ordinator for Education International), Paula Cox (Minister of Education Bermuda), Vincent Cable MP, Tony Colman MP, Valerie Davey MP, Sir Edward George (Governor of the Bank of England), Don McKinnon (Commonwealth Secretary General), David Miliband (Minister of State DfES), Colin Power (former Deputy Director General, UNESCO), Steve Sinnott (now General Secretary NUT).

The Council has invited Professor Akilagpa Sawyerr, the Ghanaian Secretary-General of the Association of African Universities (and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana at Legon) to give its Annual Lecture in November 2004.

Membership of the Council is open to individuals or organisations on payment of an annual subscription. This is £25 per annum for individuals. Membership of CEC allows them to get a concessionary rate for membership of the Royal Commonwealth Society and its Commonwealth Club facilities on Northumberland Avenue. For CEC members the RCS subscription of £53 per annum to join the Society is about a third of the normal rate and CEC members pay no entrance fee - a real 'steal', as they say! Free use of the Institute of Education Library is also available to CEC members.

Peter Williams

Those wishing to join CEC should write to the Membership Secretary, CEC, Commonwealth House, 7 Lion Yard, Tremadoc Road, London SW4 7NQ, UK. One of our own GSA members, Peter Williams, has agreed to help GSA members to join CEC if they wish to contact him (01306 501788 or email peterwilliams@onetel.com).



Frank Ward Remembered

W.E.F. (Frank) Ward was a Patron of Ghana School Aid from its start in 1987 to his death at the age of 96 in 1997; he spoke at the first Reunion of "Ghana exiles" in 1986 and was an unfailing source of advice and support, based as it was on his 16 years on the staff of Achimota and his last book "My Africa" which was published in 1991. Dr. Clive Whitehead of the University of Western Australia has described these in the context of Ward's other achievements in two publications (including the history of "Overseas Education" which some may remember) and most recently with a chapter in "Colonial Educators" (see ED Roberts' review on p.8).

Frank had a strong Christian faith. So when Alec Fraser, Principal-designate of the new Achimota College met him on a visit to Oxford and offered him a post at the new school, he saw it as a divine intention for him, gave up his plans to join the Church Missionary Society in India, and accepted. There were many roles to fill when he arrived with the advance party in 1924. While Achimota's buildings were being completed Frank worked as methods master in the Government Training College Accra (Rowe Road, subsequently the HQ of the Education Department and later still housed the District Education Office) and, in 1927, spent six months in charge of education in the Northern Territories. He was a talented musician and when Achimota opened Fraser directed him to teach music. Three years later he became senior history master in the secondary school, also teaching some English and RE. By this time he had learned Twi (in which he was still fluent in 1986!) and began to collect the tribal histories that make his History of the Gold Coast (1948) and History of Ghana (1958) uniquely distinguished.

Fraser knew Ward as a gifted teacher and a natural scholar but also recognised his potential for other work and suggested he should apply for transfer to the Colonial Education Service; his appointment as Director of Education in Mauritius followed in 1940. The challenges were daunting. The education service there was backward-looking and failing, mired in complacency and endemic corruption; vested interests obstructed progress. He developed comprehensive reforming policies but it needed all his determination and persuasive powers, backed by the Governor and the Colonial Office, to secure their implementation. Trust in him and his policies grew and his four and a half years in Mauritius brought immense improvements throughout the education system.

Success brought his transfer to the Colonial Office where he began work as Deputy Educational Adviser in October 1945. Apart from the daily routines of the office, Frank was responsible for links with the United Nations and its cultural Arm UNESCO where he won

great respect for his deep knowledge of education in Africa and established a fine reputation for his skills as a diplomat and in analysing the difficulties involved in forming and implementing policies in the new post-colonial age.

His third responsibility was to edit Overseas Education. This had begun publication in 1929 to share experience between the colonial education services. The first editor, Arthur Mayhew, established its character with a wide range of topics and balanced immediately practical matters of teaching the large range of subjects then in the curriculum with general issues. Whether curricula to serve the needs of agricultural economies or follow the liberal humanist and scientific tradition of Europe was an on-going discussion. When they came to power almost all African governments were to choose the second option. The journal survived the war but change was needed when Frank succeeded Mayhew in 1946. He replaced anonymous with signed articles, introduced editorials and his style was forthright, often provocative. Material provided from the African continent had always tended to predominate but his challenge to other regions to contribute more went unheeded and the bias remained to the end. As the colonial era drew to a close so the purpose of Overseas Education withered and he signed off with characteristic clarity: "This station is now closing down - over and out".

In both of Clive Whitehead's publications, Frank Ward's untiring energy and commitment, and his intelligent pursuit of practical solutions to problems are clearly apparent, and his well-known modesty can be inferred. These well-researched and lucidly written pieces do Frank justice and the author's affection for this great man is something we can share with him.

David Bradshaw.

(Note: details available from David Bradshaw, 5 Trippet Court, Graham Road, Sheffield, S10 3DY. Email dpbradwang@aol.com)

Obituaries

Madge Claxton

"Your email of 3rd September was collected on Thursday 23rd of September conveying the shattering news of the passing away of our Sister and friend MADGE CLAXTON

I was lucky to have met her at the lunch organized by the GSA at the HIGHLAND RESTAURANT 43 CANNON HIL LONDON on Friday 30th May 2003 in the company of Eric, Margaret and Pamela. I also helped to conduct her to her OLD PEOPLE'S HOME at SOUTH GATE BEAUMONT in her wheelchair.

From her weak and slow comportment with difficult speech coupled with her faint smiles, she exhibited some characteristics which were quite alien to her former well known vivacious and energetic personality. It was not difficult to guess that she was very unwell and in great pain. My only prayer at that moment was that she would recover as soon as possible to resume her active life and rejoin her colleagues and friends within the GSA. But alas, Providence has willed otherwise.

Now that Sister Madge has finally "gone to her village" Michael and Victoria would want to wish her Farewell and safe arrival home. We also want to convey our sincere condolences to her bereaved family and friends including members of the GSA.

I first met Madge in Ghana in the early 60s during her tenure of duty at the British Council Accra. She was then the English Language Officer with the responsibility for organizing courses and workshops for Ghanaian English teachers.

Operating then as the Principal Education officer of the Ministry of Education responsible for Teacher Training (TT) and also as a Member of the Ghana Association of Teachers of English (GATE) Michael had quite an intensive interaction with Madge. We often met at Courses and Seminars which she organized for the Teachers of English. At these courses Madge demonstrated a high level of competence in the handling of her Subject and in the control of the course Members. She was very much admired by the teachers most of whom indicated that they had benefited immensely from her teaching and organizational ability.

I am not quite sure what other assignment she had in the British Council office Accra but I used to see her at British Council activities including evening parties, receptions and conferences always helping to get things going. She went to great lengths to ensure that guests were well at ease and fully participating of whatever was available. I am sure the present and past British Council offers and especially her immediate boss Mr. Cawson, wherever he may be, have suffered a great loss and would miss her dearly

Apart from these personal and official contacts, Victoria and Michael have enjoyed Madge's hospitality in her London Flat NO3 14 PRIORY PLACE during our stop over periods in London whilst in transit from other places. Madge was certainly a kind and hospitable companion.

By her passing away Victoria and Michael as well as numerous Ghanaian English teachers and school children who benefited from her services have lost a great friend and efficient teacher.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE "MADGE DA YIE" RIP

I remain yours sincerely

Your Good Friend

NANA ATTA NUAMAH III

MICHAEL ASIEDU

GSA REP IN GHANA"

Madge's family came from Suffolk. Her father's special field of study was English language and this later became Madge's field also. She had no brothers or sisters; her mother died when she was 14 but her father's second marriage some time later provided her with relatives. Until recently, she was spending Christmas with her aunt in Ipswich; the cousin who collected her from the station helped to manage her affairs during the last couple of years.

Madge's career with the British Council lasted 35 years; she joined soon after the war ended in 1945 at the age of 24 and retired in 1979. She had previously spent a year in Finland and some time in France; she was skilled in languages. Her service with the Council included periods in Ghana, Singapore (where she was the English Language Officer) and Uganda (which she had to leave at six hours notice during Idi Amin's regime). She also served for a time at the Council HQ and was awarded the MBE; after retirement, she was an active member (Hon Sec for a time) of the Retirement Association.

Madge's name became familiar to me as the efficient organiser of GSA lunches following the first Ghana reunion week-end in 1986. Later, as committee members, friendship developed. Pam Lewis, Madge and I on many occasions after committee meetings allowed rush hour to pass by eating drinking and talking at a nearby restaurant. Madge was a lively talker and we heard stories about her time in other countries, but never anything about her personal achievements there. It was only at her cremation that I learned a few details of her life; about early life, her MBE, her language skills, her keen interest in Sibelius' music, possibly related to the time she spent in Finland. Her cousin and his wife spoke affectionately about her as also did friends from the British Council who were able to attend.

Margaret Turner.

The Rev Aubrey D. Lewis

A minister of the Congregational Church, Mr. Lewis came to Prempeh College as Assistant Headmaster in 1957. He had previously been the Principal of Tiger Kloof School in South Africa but had left his post in protest against the Apartheid regime. He was a tall man of imposing presence with a clear voice and a sharp eye. When Clifford Sims retired as Headmaster in December 1958, Lewis took his place. This was a crucial time for Prempeh's development and the school benefited greatly from Mr. Lewis' initiative and experience. He emphasised the importance of getting able teachers, for whom suitable housing was vital, so extra staff houses were built. Improved examination results soon followed. Discipline and regular time-keeping were required; sport was encouraged and travelling teams and expeditions enjoyed the use of a new minibus. The farm was developed with the help of a tractor and Saturday volunteers planted citrus groves. The school at this time numbered 640 boys, all boarders in houses of 80 and there was keen competition to win points. The Christian ethos of the school was always clear with staff members leading daily morning assemblies. The teaching staff numbered around 30, half Ghanaian and half expatriate. Aubrey Lewis returned to the UK in July 1961 and had a distinguished career in educational administration in Yorkshire and London before he and Mrs. Lewis retired to Felixstowe. They were regular attenders at the annual lunch where he will be much missed.

**(contributed by Arthur Clark,
former Deputy Head)**

Bernard Silk

Bernard was another regular at the Reunions. He was educated at Sydenham Grammar School and Wye College, University of London, where he obtained a degree in Agriculture. After a Diploma in Tropical Agriculture he joined the Colonial Agriculture Service in the Gold Coast in 1948 and worked mainly in Kumasi at the Agricultural Training School. There he met his wife Joan who was a nursing sister at the hospital and they married in 1949. He retired in 1956 and took a lecturing post at Cambridge University. In 1959 he joined the British Council and was posted to Newcastle, later serving in Brighton, Nottingham and Birmingham, from where he retired as Area Officer in 1980. Bernard and Joan retired to Ferring in Sussex where they had an active life until Joan's death in 1996; Bernard remained active and very committed to his family; he died on 9 March 2004.

KUAPA KOKOO LTD

Imagine if every time you enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee or indulged in some chocolate it could improve the lives of others. It can! If you choose fairly traded products then that is exactly what happens. Fair trade is not about charity, it's about giving people the dignity of working their way out of poverty and providing opportunity and hope for the future.

Five years ago we returned to Kumasi and visited the main office of Kuapa Kokoo, near the football stadium. "KK" (which means "excellent cocoa growers") is a cocoa farmers' co-operative with about 65,000 members. They produce beans that are "papa paaa..." (the best of the best"). Much of the fair trade cocoa used in this country comes from this cooperative including the Day Chocolate Company's Divine and Dubble brands, most of Traidcraft's chocolate and all of the cocoa used by The Co-op in their own brand chocolate range.

On our visit we met cocoa farmers who were very enthusiastic about fair trade. What does it mean to them?

* It means belonging to a co-operative rather than being on one's own because there is strength in numbers.

* They can borrow from the co-operative's Credit Union rather than be swindled by a moneylender.

* They are treated fairly - the scales are honest, the weights are true and the price is fair.

* They are currently guaranteed at least \$1600 a tonne for cocoa. Recently the world price was down to below half this but fair trade farmers still got the guaranteed price. If the price goes higher they get that price.

An important aspect of fair trade is a "Social Premium", an extra sum over and above the guaranteed payment. The local people decide how to use this. Elizabeth Adjei, a farmer from the Bawa Krom village society in the Dadieso area, Western Region, said "Now we've got school buildings and toilet blocks and income-generating projects. That's why we're telling people they have to buy more fair trade"

Please look out for the fair trade symbol when shopping: you can make a real difference to people's lives through

Treasurer's Report

Our income in the year 1st April 2003 - 31st March 2004 totalled £13483.60, boosted by the bequests of £5000.00 from Dr Joyce Abel and £250.00 from the Rev Aubrey Lewis. Our income has, therefore, gone beyond the £10,000 point at which the Charity Commissioners normally require accounts to be examined by professional accountants. However, because this amount of income is due to the exceptional income from the legacies, we expect that we shall be able to continue to be in the under-£10,000 category for the time being. Nevertheless we are safely over the £5,000 limit, which enables us to continue to count as a charity with a charity number.

The donation of gifts from the friends and relatives of Mr and Mrs Bert Perry to mark their golden wedding is a very welcome initiative, raising £250.00, and we hope that this will give others the same idea for similar events. The gifts in memory of friends on the occasion of their funerals (Joyce Trott and William N. Goldie-Scott) have also helped our funds by £730.00. Another boost to our funds is the £800.00 raised by Mrs Henrietta Tufuor and her Ghanaian friends in London (the 2four Events Group) through an event organised in March, with the support of the Ghana High Commissioner.

We spent £6540.00 on grants to schools in Ghana in the year to 31st March 2004, and since then a further £5850.00 has been sent to Ghana, mainly for the schools in the 20 West project. Sending these sums has cost in addition £180.00 in bank transfer charges.

Our operating costs in 2003/4 were £627.00, mainly made up of the costs of producing and sending out the Newsletter. However, we are beginning to put into practice the idea (floated last year) whereby committee members, who so far have not claimed for expenses, would start claiming them but would give what they claim back to GSA, so that those amounts could be used to recover income tax under Gift Aid. This will, of course, show in next year's accounts as increased operating costs.

Our Inland Revenue Tax Claim for the period 06/04/2003 - 05/04/2004, based on covenanted or Gift Aid donations of £4211.00, amounts to £1187.71. (Last year it was £717.82.) The last few of the old covenants are running out this year; donors giving under that scheme are being asked to change over to the Gift Aid system, and we have been getting a good response. A big advantage of the Gift Aid scheme is that once the declaration has been signed any gift from that donor counts in the reclaiming of tax, an example being the gift from Bert Perry mentioned above, and the gifts that some people make along with booking for their Reunion Lunch.

Stanley Anthony, Treasurer & Gift Aid Administrator

Letter from **Kobby Yebo-Okrah**, recently overseas representative Universities of Ghana (GSA Cttee member; he provided his office for meetings):

"It has been wonderful being initiated into the family of the Ghana School Aid and being made to enjoy the full benefits. These past five years have been a real learning process for me in witnessing the patriotism of the members of the charity to the cause of Ghana, particularly the area of education. I am enriched by your dedication and affectionate love for Ghana. These values would greatly enhance my own development as I look further into the future while returning home to Ghana at the end of my tour of duty as overseas representative of the Universities of Ghana.

Today marks the dawn of a new era as I complete my services here and contemplate the future ahead with hope and aspiration. I would be returning to Ghana late December. I hope to be in Kumasi with the University until I take up a Registraship appointment with the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons - a national postgraduate medical college in Accra, in the New Year. I hope to keep you all in touch with any new developments.

As told, the office is being re-organised and would soon take office space at the Highgate Offices of the Ghana Mission. The Mission has already been informed of the holding of meetings by the GSA at our offices. It is likely that this will continue. Mr Andy Lumor, who would be taking over from me would gladly welcome GSA at our offices and arrange for your meetings at the Mission. This way we maintain the link and together continue your good works.

I am grateful to you for the wonderful parting gift left me. It has really been wonderful sharing in the knowledge and company of GSA. I am forever indebted to all of you.

So Once again thanks for the shared experience these past five years. I hope to be able to help with your work while in Ghana. Do please keep me informed and would gladly be on hand as always

Kobby Yebo-Okrah"

"What to do with my books?"

I look along my bookshelves and ask myself: what arrangements ought I to make for the disposal of my books about Africa, and Ghana in particular? Some are out of date, others of no particular value but some may be scarce and of potential value. How do I know? Should I make some disposals now? What shall I ask my sons to do when the time comes? Might Ghana School Aid be able to advertise the titles for sale, gift or inter-member loan? What do other members think? Should we try to find an academic library with a special interest which would accept specific books with an undertaking that they would add them to their shelves? Or might we find a bookseller with a particular interest who would accept books from us?

David Bradshaw

What do you think? Observation/suggestions to David at address as above.

The Membership List

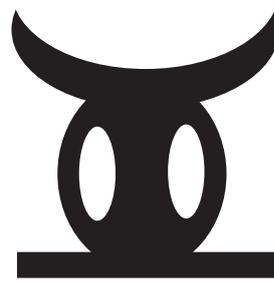
A membership list was printed and distributed for the first time last year. To comply with the Data Protection Act it contained the names only of those members who had given written permission for their names to be included. An update, with additional names and changes in details supplied by members, is included with this Newsletter and it is planned to produce an update with every newsletter. If you would like your name and details to be included in future, or have changes to report, please contact Pamela Lewis at 01591 610479.

Travel to Ghana

The travel company STATRAVEL have a tour "Kingdoms of Gold", 16 days in Ghana, Togo and Benin at a cost of £1400 not including air-fares. Details on their website: www.imtrav.com/dossiers/mtkg.pdf. Also Jonathan Longhurst has written about two friends who have recently built a house in Kumasi and would welcome visitors (3 bedrooms, air conditioning, a housekeeper and use of car). I can put anyone interested in touch with him (and see members list). There is a good new travel guide in the Bradt series, by Philip Briggs; should be available in a good bookshop.

*The next Reunion / AGM / Lunch will be on Thursday 2 June 2005
at the Highgate premises of the Ghana High Commission.
Details and booking forms will follow in the spring.*

Ghana School - Aid



Patrons

H.E. The High
Commissioner for Ghana,
Isaac Osei;
Lady Chalker, PC;
Paul Boateng MP.

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Chair: Eric Earle
Secretary: Alan Mayhew
Treasurer: Stanley Anthony
Vice Chair: Edward Mayne

Members:

Eric Cunningham; Pam Lewis; Judith
Smith; Margaret Turner; John Whit-
ingham

Representatives in Ghana:

Michael Asiedu (Nana Atta Nua-
mah III); Kofi Ohene.
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