



# The Four Corners

The quarterly Alumni Association newsletter

Issue 45: September 2018

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## EDITORIAL

### Message from the chairman



I hope you had a good summer break.

The news from DFID in this latest edition shows that the pressures do not let up for new initiatives and actions to respond to challenges from around the world. And the Disability Summit was an important occasion to highlight what has been a relatively neglected area for many development organisations. We hope you find this material interesting and useful.

Since the summer break we have been working with DFID to put flesh on the Memorandum of Understanding signed with them in June. Besides improving our database and how it works and giving more information on the Alumni Association to staff when they leave DFID, we are working on ways to link members better into DFID's networks and mentoring schemes so that those who wish to can engage more directly. We also hope to improve the flow of information on DFID staff moves. We will keep you posted.

On personal news, congratulations to Naomi Good on her 100th birthday and we welcome Jan Ketelaar to the Committee with his particularly interesting experience across Africa, Europe and Asia.

We look forward to your stories and reflections for future editions.

Thanks as always to our editor

Kind regards,

*Simon Ray*  
Chair

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### The Prime Minister visited Africa

At the end of August the Prime Minister visited South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya. Theresa May is the first British Prime Minister to visit Sub-Saharan Africa since 2013, and the first to go to Kenya for over 30 years.

The Prime Minister's central message was to renew a partnership between the UK and Africa, to maximise shared opportunities and tackle common challenges in a continent that is growing at a rapid pace. She was joined by Trade Minister George Hollingbery, Minister for Africa Harriett Baldwin and a business delegation made up of 29 representatives from UK business from across all regions of the UK and its devolved administrations.

DFID made related announcements in September and the Prime Minister followed up with meetings at the UN General Assembly.

## DIARY

### EVENTS AND MEETINGS

TBA – Alumni seminar on disability and development  
10 December – Christmas party in the Palace Lounge at the Rubens Hotel (39 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PS) from 19.00

## EDITOR NEEDED!

You could edit – or help to edit - The Four Corners.

Marc Taylor has been its editor since 2013. After five years, it is time for a change.

We need a new editor who can bring new ideas and new interests to keep the Association's quarterly newsletter relevant to alumni around the world.

Please contact Marc ([c.marc.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:c.marc.taylor@gmail.com)) or another member of the DFID Alumni Committee to find out more.

### In this edition:

- DFID Alumni trip to Greenwich
- Global Disability Summit
- Earthquake in Indonesia
- DFID's new education policy
- Naomi Good is 100 years old
- Introducing Jan Ketelaar
- Sad news: Les Dawes passed away
- September committee meeting
- 100 Club

### And in The Back Pages

- Prime Minister in Africa and at UNGA
- Modern slavery
- New equipment to clear land mines
- Connecting UK schools with classrooms round the world

### Delivering Humanitarian Aid if there's No Brexit Deal

In August DFID published a [notice](#) setting out the UK government's offer to UK humanitarian aid organisations in response to EU no deal planning.

It describes how the UK government will help UK humanitarian aid organisations to continue to bid for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) programmes prior to the UK's withdrawal by underwriting their commitments under specific conditions.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DFID IN JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2018

### July

- UK allocated £1.5m to fight Ebola after an outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- The Darwin-plus scheme was re-opened and given a grant for plastic reduction on St Helena
- International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt MP attended spoke at the Global Disability Summit. She was also the first UK minister to use sign language in Parliament
- The UK government decided to more than double the support for economic development in Palestine in an attempt to help create lasting peace with Israel.

### August

- UK announced plans to eliminate illegal wildlife trade with £31.5million funding
- International Development Secretary outlined the UK's commitment to protect Britain's aid NGOs in case of a no-deal Brexit
- Prime minister Theresa May made a three-nation trip to Africa in order to underline her message of a continued partnership between the UK and Africa
- British expertise is boosting innovative solar technology, to help 11 million people living off the grid in Africa to access clean energy
- UK aid is to help farmers in Africa tackle killer cattle diseases and help grow their businesses.

### September

- The UK government announced aid to stop modern day slavery in Nigeria through innovative prevention work
- The UK will fund new technology to help remove landmines across Africa and Asia, to protect more than 820,000 vulnerable people
- UK aid is to connect schools all around the world with British classrooms to raise awareness.
- UK led calls to give marginalised girls quality education – over the last three years the UK has spent nearly £700 million a year on worldwide education
- UK provided emergency aid to some of the world's poorest people following the deadly heatwave – and also supported 'Beat the Heat'
- Africa Minister Harriett Baldwin MP spoke at the Private Equity Africa Investment summit
- The UK supported the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees and will also help UNICEF to ensure 2 million Palestinians in Gaza have safe drinking water.

## EVENTS

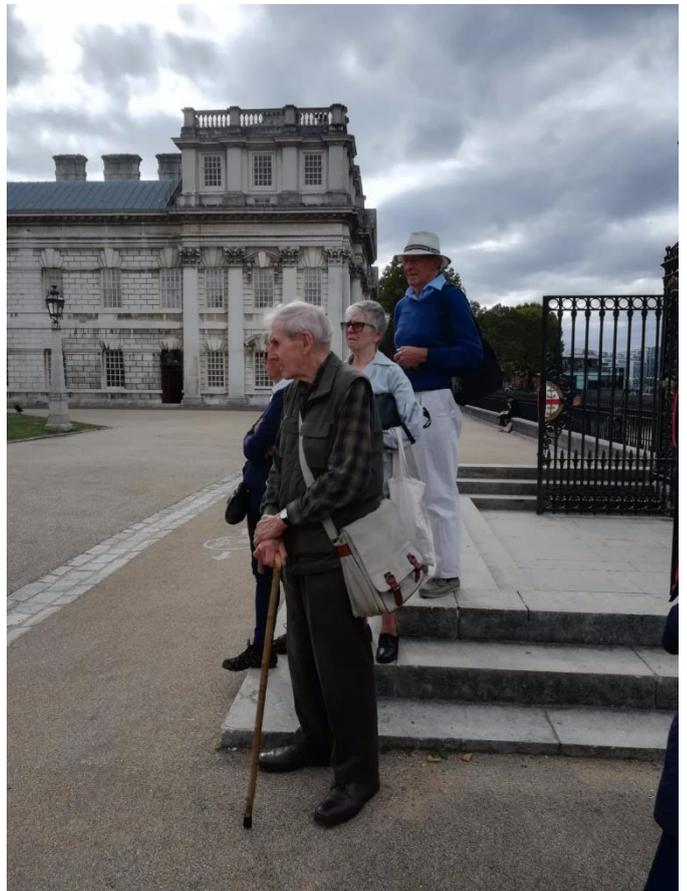
### DFID Alumni Outing to Greenwich on 18 September

The latest in the series of Alumni social trips to places of interest was an afternoon guided tour of Greenwich.

The group travelled from Westminster to Greenwich on the Thames Clipper and were met there by our secretary, John Stuppel and his dog Honey.

It was a lovely afternoon, topped off by refreshments in the Old Brewery, part of the Greenwich heritage site.

*Our Secretary John Stuppel brought his dog Honey*





## Global Disability Summit 2018

On 24 July 2018 the UK government co-hosted its first ever Global Disability Summit with the [International Disability Alliance](#) and the [Government of Kenya](#). The summit took place at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London bringing together delegates from governments, donors, private sector organisations, charities and organisations of persons with disabilities.

National governments and other organisations made 170 sets of commitments around the 4 central themes of the Summit (ensuring dignity and respect for all, inclusive education, routes to economic empowerment and harnessing technology and innovation), as well as the 2 cross-cutting themes (women and girls with disabilities and conflict and humanitarian contexts), and data disaggregation. DFID published them in a [Summary of Commitments](#) on 3 August. It also published [policy papers](#) setting out commitments from seventeen multilateral organisations.

On 7 August DFID published [papers on measuring and monitoring disability](#) using the Washington Group's approach. The Washington Group was set up by the United Nations Statistical Commission. It works with countries to produce better information about people with disabilities. The Washington Group has developed useful questions for countries to use to help find out whether a person has a disability, and to help collect data and information on what the differences are between people with disabilities and people without disabilities.

## UK sends team to Indonesia following earthquake and tsunami

Five humanitarian experts deployed to help co-ordinate the international response following the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia.



Map showing the area most affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia

Announcing £2m of UK aid in response to the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia, International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

*The UK offers its deepest condolences to those affected by the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia which has left hundreds of people dead and thousands more homeless and in need of urgent help.*

*Following a request from the Government of Indonesia this morning, we are deploying a team of UK aid humanitarian advisers to the region who will use their disaster response expertise to help co-ordinate efforts on the ground.*

*I have made an initial £2 million of UK aid support available to help meet immediate needs of the most vulnerable people.*

By 2 October, over 1200 were known to have died, and many more were still missing.

### On DFID's new Education Policy

*By alumnus Don Taylor, a member of the Executive Committee of UKFIET (the UK Forum for International Education and Training)*

DFID has released a new Education Policy paper, entitled *Get Children Learning*. It sets out DFID's current priorities in education and its vision for change in the future. It is a hugely ambitious agenda, full of good intentions and 'we will ....' commitments.

In seeking to tackle the global learning crisis, DFID 'will focus on three priorities':

1. Invest in good teaching, as the most critical factor affecting learning in schools
2. Back system reform which delivers results in the classroom
3. Step up targeted support to the most marginalised (children with disabilities, children affected by conflict and crisis, and hard-to-reach girls).

The 'vision for change' includes commitments for DFID to hold itself, as well as other governments and partners, accountable for improving the quality of teaching and learning. Nowhere is there a timeframe in the document to indicate when all the commitments will be fulfilled. Nor is there any promise to increase allocations of UK aid to education, either in amount or as a share of total UK aid. In this respect, the new policy paper is not a direct response to the International Development Committee's report on DFID's work in education, published in November.

This new paper was commissioned by the then Secretary of State, Priti Patel, much earlier last year. It has been many months in gestation within DFID, and subject to limited external consultation in draft form. The new policy does respond more directly to the call from the IDC for a strong focus on the most marginalised children, including refugees and displaced children. It includes a very ambitious commitment to ensure that hard-to-

reach girls learn the basics and progress through 12 years of quality education and learning.

The analysis underlying these new policy priorities is presented in a section on 'the case for action', drawing on recent experience and research evidence, with a very extensive set of references. DFID's approach is described as one of 'tackling the learning crisis at its root' through a strong focus on the training, motivation and performance of teachers in primary and junior secondary schools, to ensure that children acquire basic foundational skills.

There are two brief references to SDG4 in the document but no mention of climate change or environmental sustainability, or even of science in the secondary school curriculum. Nor is there any mention of the unfinished business from the MDGs - some countries still have a long way to go before achieving universal access and enrolment in primary education and gender parity at all levels.

Each of the three main priorities is elaborated in a separate section, and the paper ends with a section on Britain's role on the world stage. This boldly claims that the UK 'leads the world on international development' and that 'DFID will take on global leadership on education for children with disabilities'. One paragraph calls for more and better spending on education by national governments and international partners, and for an increased share of donor funding to be allocated to education, without any such commitment on the part of DFID itself or the UK government. There is surprisingly little emphasis on Value for Money in education, given DFID's emphasis on this issue since 2010.

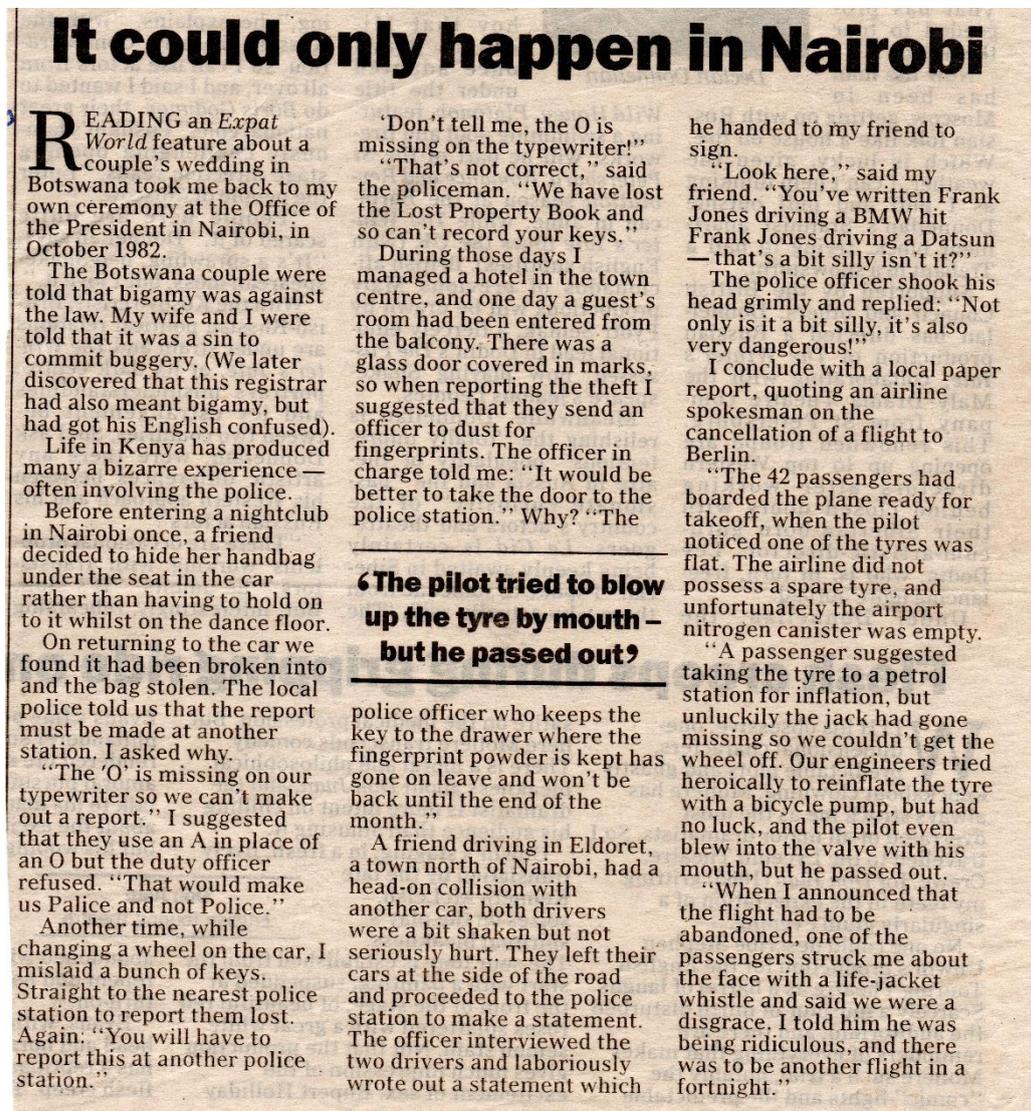
DFID wants to help national governments to reform their education systems, including the systems for recruitment, training, deployment, and management of teachers. It wants to strengthen tax systems to increase domestic investment in education and to challenge the disproportionate amount spent on higher education in many countries. Whether DFID has the authority and capacity to deliver such reforms, however laudable they would be, must be doubted and remains to be seen.

The new document does acknowledge that when and where there is no national leadership to turn things round, then DFID will 'look beyond stagnant public sectors' and seek to invest 'through alternative channels', including 'non-state providers'. But this is not a blanket endorsement of private schools and there is also recognition of the need for strong regulatory and accountability mechanisms.

There are very few references to particular countries in the new policy, apart from examples in text boxes, but the distribution of UK aid for education 'by benefiting country' over recent years is shown on a map as an Annex to the document. This reveals that 34 countries have received DFID funding for education, suggesting that such spending is now more widely and more thinly

spread than it was in the past, but perhaps more highly targeted to fragile states and priority groups of children.

The outcome of the DFID education 'policy refresh' is reflected in this new document. It replaces the Education Position Paper of 2013 which itself stated that it stopped short of being 'a full education strategy' and did 'not contain new policy'. The new 2018 paper is a more comprehensive and formal statement of DFID Education Policy. Its release on 2 February was timed to coincide with the replenishment conference of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) last week, at which the UK pledged to increase support for education in partner countries through the GPE.



Thanks to Peter Davies for this cutting from the 1980s

### Congratulations to Naomi Good

Naomi Good, who retired from ODA/DFID in 1982, recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Naomi was born in Bombay (as it was) in 1918 and finished her education in the UK at St. Hilda's, Oxford. She worked at Chatham House before joining the Colonial Office in 1948 as an information officer, where, as part of her schedule, she worked with Information Department's contact in Cyprus, Lawrence Durrell. She recalls him being a very personable young man and she enjoyed the recent TV series "The Durrells."

She moved to ODA when the Colonial Office closed down, first in Information Department and later in Social Affairs Department as a principal – following the introduction of a unified grading system. Here, she worked on an idea by Judith Hart, Minister of State at the then Ministry of Overseas Development (ODM), for a partnership with British NGOs in small scale development projects. This became the Joint Funding Scheme and it lasted nearly 25 years before falling victim to changes in styles of aid delivery.



Naomi enjoyed her work on the JFS and after retirement she spent some years working as a volunteer at the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD). She also wrote two Indian recipe books for Sainsbury's both of which sold out. Naomi freelanced for publishers of books on wine, preparing indexes for Ossie Clarke books among others before finally becoming a lady of leisure in her eighties.

She spent her 100th birthday with family and friends and was delighted to receive a beautiful card from HM The Queen and a rather strange one from the Secretary of State for Works and Pensions which was a total surprise. She was especially thrilled to receive cards and messages from old colleagues. She sends her warmest thanks to everyone.

*Pat Scutt*

#### **What are you doing and thinking now?**

**Do you have a new role, interest or achievement?**

**Do you remember a curious incident or experience that enlivened your life with DFID?**

**Do you have an insight on development policy or practice that could be the focus of a seminar?**

**Share them with fellow DFID Alumni.**

*Please send your news and views for the next edition of The Four Corners to Marc Taylor by 30 December: [c.marc.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:c.marc.taylor@gmail.com).*



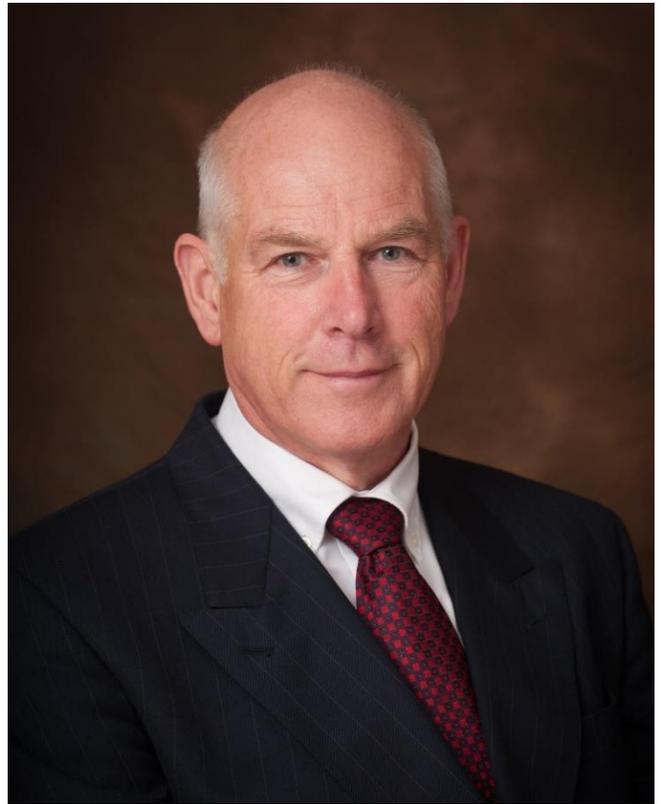
## Jan Ketelaar:

### Our new committee member introduces himself

I was born in the Netherlands in a small village close to Haarlem in the centre of one of the major bulb growing areas. I moved to the UK with my parents in the early 1960's and went to school in Croydon, South London and Berkshire. My main interests were aviation, geography and geology. I joined the Air Training Corps age 13 and was able to fly in various types of aircraft before going to college. I developed an early interest in international affairs after being caught up in the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 while on a canoeing holiday on the river Vltava near Ceske Budejovice. In spite of being within walking distance of the Austrian border had to go back to the Prague to get my passport. I eventually managed to leave by train for Germany some ten days later.

After graduating from the Camborne School of Mines, I worked in one of Cornwall's last surviving tin mines. This was followed by a period in North Wales, during the construction of the Dinorwig Hydro Electric power station. This project enabled me to combine my training as a mining engineer on shaft sinking and tunnelling with my enthusiasm for flying; I frequently flew home from work on a hang-glider at the end of the day. The company I worked for were very understanding and helpful. Towards the end of the tunnelling contract I was told that they had done everything they could to find another contract near some mountains I could fly from, but that the best they could offer was work on the runway extension at Gatwick.

From Wales I went to South Africa where I obtained operational mining experience and my Mine Manager qualifications. The downturn in the mining industry in the early 1980s caused me to return to the UK where I spent several years working towards a PhD at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne on the efficiency and design of longwall coal mining equipment. After graduating I continued to work in the Department of Mining Engineering as a lecturer. The terminal



*Jan Ketelaar*

decline of the coal mining industry in the UK eventually led to the closure of the Department. I opted to stay in Newcastle and found work with a company that manufactured coalmining machinery. The final round of UK pit closures in the early 1990s required me to make yet another change in direction.

In 1994, I was fortunate to start work on coal projects in India for the Overseas Development Administration. This included the management of coal projects for Coal India Limited and the Singareni Collieries Company Limited. This was interesting work given the long relationship these companies had with the UK in terms of both technical co-operation and the amount of British equipment that was in use in the coalfields.

Coal had been used to fuel the early expansion of the Indian railways and was also used for power generation. Starting as the Coal Sector Field Manager for India I progressed to become an Advisor and later Senior Mining Advisor. The creation of the Department for International Development in 1997 coincided with a move onto coal related projects in Ukraine.



*Diamond exporter Kasim Basma with International Development Secretary Hillary Benn, High Commissioner John Mitchiner and Julie Koenen Grant of USAID in Koidu, April 2004*

In 2002, I was appointed as an Advisor to the President of Sierra Leone on the diamond industry, the same element (carbon) but in a much more interesting and valuable form. The project in Sierra Leone was aimed at removing the sanctions on diamond exports that had been imposed by the UN in response to the use of 'blood diamonds' in funding the conflict. The lifting of sanctions led to the design of a wide-ranging project to improve the capacity of the Government for managing the mining industry. This work continued until 2006 when the focus of DFID shifted and I went back into the operational side of the mining industry as a mine manager.

In 2008, I started work on coal and gold mining projects in Tajikistan. This once again combined work and flying, mining anthracite, steam coal and working on a prospective gold project in the mountains of Tajikistan with some occasional paragliding activity. The mountain scenery surrounding all of these operations was amazing.

From 2012 I worked as an associate on projects ranging from the far north of Russia through Central Asia and eventually back to Africa. My most recent experience was working with a gold exploration company in Sierra Leone throughout the period of the Ebola crisis.

I remain interested in the social and economic development of the countries where I have worked and during 2018 visited both Tajikistan and Sierra Leone. The progress each country has made since



*International Development Secretary Hillary Benn flying to Koidu with Brian Thompson April 2004*

the ending of their wars is striking. In spite of the continuing simmering unrest in each country, Tajikistan has made some clear progress while in Sierra Leone the economy appears to have gone into reverse.

This is most clearly illustrated by the efforts each country has taken in developing opportunities for its younger citizens. Tajikistan has built numerous sporting, academic and leisure facilities while in Sierra Leone little has been done to create or improve sporting and academic facilities.

I am presently 'retired' and live close to the Cairngorms where I still manage to combine work and play.

*Loch Ericht from 23,000 feet*



## Sad News: Leslie Dawes

Leslie (Les) Dawes, formerly Senior Principal with the Ministry of Overseas Development/ODA in London and East Kilbride until 1984, passed away at the age of 94 on 16 August 2018. We recognise that many people on this forum may have started AND finished their careers with DFID in the 34 years since his retirement!! But some will remember him, as he remembered them as their names came up on this forum and in 'Four Corners'.

Leslie transferred to the newly formed Ministry of Overseas Development (ODM) in London in 1965, after 18 years in the Inland Revenue. He served first in the Finance Division as an HEO, followed by a much-enjoyed first stint at SEO level in 'Establishments', supporting staff, switching them to new roles and running promotion boards.

Later, at Principal level he was responsible for ODM programmes variously in Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho and Malawi, in between times heading the management team that devolved ODM's Training Division to the British Council. He

enjoyed his meetings with the various Ministers of the time – particularly Barbara Castle, Judith Hart and, later, Lord Peter Carrington, to whom he bore a more than passing resemblance.

In 1980 he was promoted to head up the new office being constructed at Abercrombie House, East Kilbride. Moving from London to Eaglesham, he led the Establishments Group, recruiting staff for the new office and specialists for aid programmes overseas, and relishing the employee relations work with the representatives of the local Scottish trade unions, including a combative and soon-to-be famous footballer.

Retiring in April 1984 with his wife Joyce to Cornwall, and in 1996 to Hertfordshire, Leslie enjoyed a long and active retirement working with the Samaritans, a 12 year stint leading his church's Meal-a-Day charity's work in Africa, and being a wise and much-loved grandad to their five grandchildren. Joyce predeceased him in December 2014.

Gordon and Martin Dawes

### September committee meeting

The Alumni Association Committee met on 25 September. We reviewed with DFID how we take forward the provisions of the MOU signed with them in June.

We agreed to seek the views of members on what they would like in terms of future social outings. The arrangements for the Christmas party on 10 December were confirmed.

While agreeing to continue plans for a seminar on disability and development, we would invite views of members on what other topics they would like to explore in future lunchtime seminars.

The Committee reiterated its wish to balance personal and development news in future newsletters and would continue to encourage members to offer their stories and reflections.

### New Members of the Association

We welcome our new members who joined the DFID Alumni in July to September 2018.

**John Vincent**

**Lusungu Kanchenche**

**Peter O'Neill**

**Karen Stephenson**

**Rick Woodham**

**Pauline Hayes**

**Clare Shakya**

**Laura Kelly**

**Laura Leyser**

**Sina Odugbemi**

## Members can find previous editions of this newsletter at [dgroups.org](http://dgroups.org) and on the DFID Alumni Association web site.

The Four Corners has appeared quarterly since 2007. Members of the DFID Alumni Association can download any of the previous editions – and other documents - from the DFID Alumni [Library on dgroups](http://dgroups.org).

Dgroups (at <https://dgroups.org>) hosts a private on-line resource for our members. Members can request a password, or ask for a new password, [here](#).

Editions of The Four Corners since December 2013 are available for anyone, whether a member or not, to download from the Association's web site at [www.dfid-alumni.org](http://www.dfid-alumni.org).

## 100 Club

We are once again looking to members to contribute to the costs of the day-to-day running of the DFID Alumni Association. We do not charge a membership fee, and donations from other organisations are limited. This is in addition to contributing towards the costs of the Summer and Christmas Gatherings.

The 100 Club is a means for the DFID Alumni Association to raise money and for those who contribute to participate in a raffle at the same time. Pay your contribution of £20 in to the DFID Bank Account: Sort Code: 40-01-13 Account Number: 51705032 (alternatively send a cheque to John Stuppel c/o DFID 22 Whitehall London SW1A 2EG made payable to the DFID Alumni Association).

The £20 will be split 50/50, with £10 going towards the work of the DFID Alumni Association and the other £10 being put in a pot for the raffle. A draw for the raffle will take place at the Christmas Gathering on 10 December 2018.

If you would prefer not to take part in the 100 Club, but still wish to make a donation to the DFID Alumni Association you are welcome to do so, but please let John know when making the payment.

## Committee members

- Simon Ray (Chairman)
- John Burton (Treasurer)
- Isobel Doig
- Jim Drummond
- Janet Grimshaw
- Pauline Hayes
- Pam Jenkins
- Jan Ketelaar
- Kathy Marshall
- John Stuppel
- Marc Taylor

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Our web site is [www.dfid-alumni.org](http://www.dfid-alumni.org)

Follow us on Twitter: @DFID\_Alumni

Our Facebook page is @dfidaa.

## The Prime Minister followed up her trip to Africa at the UN General Assembly

During her visit to the UN General Assembly in September Prime Minister Theresa May called on the international community to invest in Africa in order to unlock the potential of a generation on the continent. She joined Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada, President Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana and President Paul Kagame of Rwanda to convene investors, businesses and young African business leaders. The leaders of Kenya, Sierra Leone and Benin were also expected to attend.

The PM challenged attendees to invest in Africa to create more of the jobs that transform lives as well as economies, lift people out of poverty and enable countries to move to a future beyond aid. The joint event was the next step in the approach set out on the PM's visit to Africa in August where she announced a new UK partnership with Africa, centred on investment for job creation and inclusive growth.

Africa needs 18 million new jobs each year between now and 2035 just to keep pace with population growth. The PM set out how this creates not just a challenge but an opportunity for states and investors. In 2018, five of the world's fastest-growing economies are African. By 2050, a quarter of the world's population and a quarter of the world's consumers will live there.

As the PM said in Cape Town last month, as the leader of a trading nation whose success depends on global markets, she wants to see strong African economies that British companies can do business with in a free and fair fashion. Whether through creating new customers for British exporters or opportunities for British investors, an integrated global economy means healthy African economies are good news for British people as well as African people.

To that end, in Cape Town the PM announced an additional £4 billion programme of UK investment in African economies to pave the way for at least another £4 billion of private sector financing. This included, for the first time, an ambition from the UK government's Development Finance Institution, CDC, to invest £3.5 billion in African nations over the next four years. The Prime Minister's call for fresh investment builds towards the UK-Africa investment summit to take place in London in 2019.

The PM highlighted the UK's role in working with the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation to enable them to double investment in Sub-Saharan Africa to \$10-12 billion a year by 2030, creating new jobs and helping Africa's private sector to thrive. She will also welcome a new Sustainable Development Capital Initiative launched by the City of London in response to UK leadership, encouraging greater private sector investment in developing economies. It will bring specialists together to maximise the City's contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prime Minister Theresa May said:

*Last month, I made my first official visit to Africa – meeting leaders, entrepreneurs and young people who are building an exciting future for their countries and their continent.*

*I saw a continent full of potential. One with a young population that is eager to embrace the opportunities of the 21st century – and ready to play its part in tackling the challenges we all face.*

*That is why high quality investment and job creation forms the centrepiece of the UK's new partnership with Africa.*

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

*The City of London has the global expertise to build sustainable relationships with our African partners that will see British businesses investing and trading with some of the fastest growing economies in the world. This is a win for Africa, as it will secure the investment the continent needs for a prosperous future and a win for the UK, seeing British expertise influencing the global economy.*

## Modern slavery

The UK is to help protect up to 800,000 people in fragile and conflict-affected parts of Africa by providing families with alternative livelihood opportunities and protecting children from exploitation. The Prime Minister's [Call to Action](#) has been endorsed by 77 states, increasing from 37 this time last year. The UK, US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia commit to eradicating modern slavery from global supply chains.

The UK will continue to lead the fight against modern slavery at the UN General Assembly (UNGA), galvanising international action to stamp out this scourge and launching a range of projects to tackle child slavery across Africa and Asia. On 24 September, International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt announced new protections for vulnerable children at risk of falling prey to traffickers. A UK backed project with UNICEF will provide up to 400,000 girls and boys in Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan at risk of slavery with birth registration documents and other measures to shelter them from forced labour and underage marriage.

The UK will commit extra support, taking UK spending to over £200 million, to help create jobs, strengthen law enforcement and improve recruitment practices so people do not become victims. It will also provide vital protections for those who do. UK aid is working to wipe out slavery, which costs the UK's economy an estimated £4.3 billion a year, and prevent onward trafficking to the UK's shores.

The UK alongside the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia will build on the success of the Prime Minister's Global Call to Action, with four new principles for governments across the globe, designed to tackle modern slavery in global supply chains. As a collective the UK along with the other countries recognise the leveraging potential of their combined purchasing power - totalling more than \$600bn - to significantly prevent forced labour in public and private sector supply chains, a crime which entraps an estimated 25 million people worldwide.

As children make up a quarter of modern slavery victims our additional support will:

- Equip up to 400,000 vulnerable people in conflict ravaged parts of Africa with skills training and alternative livelihood opportunities. Our support will improve law enforcement and assist conflict-affected families in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Tackle the worst forms of child labour through a major new programme across six countries in Asia.

Working in partnership with UNICEF, the International Labour Organisation and the Institute of Development Studies, UK support will reduce the vulnerability of children to forced labour in hazardous industries such as agriculture and clamp down on the trafficking of children into commercial sex work. Interventions that tackle the drivers of child labour will be rolled out including cash transfer support for families affected.

- Educate children against the perils of trafficking, assist social workers and help reintegrate victims back into society along dangerous trafficking and migratory routes in east Africa. As well as support to Africa and Asia to tackle trafficking at source, we are continuing to shine a spotlight on this crime domestically:
- The UK is doing more to catch and convict offenders. The UK is transforming the law enforcement and criminal justice response to these crimes, resulting in almost 900 active police investigations in 2018 compared to 188 in 2016.
- The UK is significantly increasing support for identified victims, particularly children and is rolling out Independent Child Trafficking Advocates across the UK to help them to rebuild their lives.

Thanks to our world leading legislation, thousands of businesses have published modern slavery statements and companies have changed practices that were driving demand for modern slavery. In July, the UK Government announced an independent review of its Modern Slavery Act to ensure our world-first legislation keeps in step with this evolving crime.

A year ago, the Prime Minister launched a global [Call to Action](#) to eliminate the borderless scourge of forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, while doubling the UK's aid spending on modern slavery to £150 million. So far, 77 states have endorsed this Call to Action and the UK has increased UK aid support by over a third to £200m, to tackle the root causes of slavery in key source and transit countries across Africa and Asia.

The [economic and social costs of modern slavery report](#) estimates that it costs the UK up to £4.3 billion a year. Each instance of the crime is estimated to cost around £330,000, including the cost of support, lost earnings and law enforcement but most significantly the physical and emotional harms suffered by individuals, who are often exploited over months and sometimes years.

## UK aid will protect more than 820,000 people from landmines

Pioneering technology will help eliminate landmines across Africa and Asia helping the world's most vulnerable communities access safe land. New UK aid funded technology, including radar detectors, will help trace ammunition. Remote controlled machines, such as the Mine Wolf, will help clear cluster bombs more rapidly. Manufactured in Newcastle, the eight-tonne Mine Wolf is a remote-controlled mine-clearing machine used in high risk areas. It can clear up to 12,000 square metres a day.

UK support will also help train all-female demining teams, often in areas where many of the men have died in conflict. Hundreds of women from impoverished communities are being empowered through skills training in landmine clearance, vehicle mechanics and paramedic first aid to protect their communities.

Working in partnership with local authorities, governments and through world-class UK organisations such as The HALO Trust and Mines Advisory Group (MAG), UK Aid will train local men and women to identify and remove these deadly objects. The projects will boost local employment, recruiting men and women from communities where alternative job opportunities are severely limited. UK support will also help educate a further 280,000 men, women and children about the dangers of landmines, an essential lifeline to safeguard entire communities from mutilation or death.

This latest partnership with The HALO Trust, MAG, Norwegian People's Aid and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining is part of the £100 million commitment made last year and will support demining efforts across nine countries including;

### Angola

Angola still remains one of the most heavily contaminated countries in the world. Towns remain isolated due to mine threats and people are unable to return to their homes or farm land. UK support will enable communities to build houses on safe land, provide safe passage to schools and allow land to be used productively for farming.

### Laos

Laos remains plagued by high levels of unexploded ordnance and has some of the highest landmine casualty rates in the world. More than 40 years since the Vietnam conflict ended, contamination prevents

communities from fully utilising land which they depend upon to feed their children and earn a living. UK support will help make land safe for cultivation and hand back control to these often marginalized communities.

### South Sudan

South Sudan's civil conflict has led to widespread contamination, with mines and cluster bombs blocking access to fertile land that many rely on to make a living. UK support will help ensure all hazardous areas in Terekeka State will be cleared of mines by the end of 2020. If successful it will be the first state to achieve this status. Thanks to UK taxpayers' contributions, land will be returned to impoverished local communities allowing them to farm again and feed their families.

This £46 million support from the Global Mine Action Programme 2 is a new allocation from the existing £100 million announced last year. It will be delivered through The HALO Trust, MAG, Norwegian People's Aid and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. Through DFID's support, HALO & MAG will lead mine clearance, mine risk education and capacity development in Angola, Cambodia, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Burma, South Sudan, Laos, Lebanon and Vietnam.

DFID funding to HALO and MAG will provide support to National Mine Action Authorities (NMAAs) to help affected countries better manage their own response to contaminated land. This will ensure they have the skills and knowledge to regulate, coordinate and manage mine action more effectively, with minimal outside financial support. As well as building self-sufficiency, the projects will centre on local employment, recruiting staff from affected communities where alternative employment opportunities are limited.

Of the £100 million announced last year to tackle landmines across the globe, £95 million has already been committed to projects including:

- An extension of the Global Mine Action Programme, which was delivered by The Halo Trust, MAG, Norwegian People's Aid and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining in Burma, Cambodia, South Sudan, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Laos, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.
- A programme in Afghanistan led by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).
- A programme in Iraq and another in Sudan both delivered by UNMAS.
- A programme in Yemen delivered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

## UK aid to connect UK schools with classrooms around the world

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt joined Secretary of State for Education Damian Hinds and Love Actually director Richard Curtis to launch the Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning programme on Thursday 13 September 2018 at St Joseph's School in Wandsworth, London.

To mark the launch of the programme - which is co-funded by the British Council and unites pupils in the UK with school children in Africa, Asia and the Middle East - the visitors joined in the 'World's Largest Lesson', which saw Year 6 students at St Joseph's link up with pupils at the Marka Prep Girls' School N2, in the Marka refugee camp in Jordan.

The Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning programme has been designed to build long-term partnerships between schools and communities in the UK and countries around the world. The previous Connecting Classrooms programme involved more than 5,000 schools working in partnership and reached more than 1 million children between 2015 and 2018.

DFID and British Council's new programme builds on elements of Connecting Classrooms and the Global Learning Programme. It will increase awareness and understanding of global issues and different cultures by reaching a further 3 million pupils for a period of three years. It will also train 60,000 teachers and school leaders in the UK and developing countries to equip pupils with the knowledge and skills to live and work in a global economy.

The Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning programme is part of an initiative that introduces the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals, to students and teachers in the UK and around the world. The goals are designed to deliver a more sustainable future for all and include tackling hunger, providing clean water and affordable clean energy.

During yesterday's lesson students worked together to share ideas and design the world they would like to live in by the year 2030 - the deadline set for the UN's Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved. The lesson ended with guests and students making personal pledges of action on what they could do to achieve the Goals. The partnership between St Joseph's School and Marka Girls' School N2 in Jordan shows the impact these connections can have on pupils, teachers and the local community.

*Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning builds on key elements of DFID's most recent development education programmes: the Global Learning Programme (2013-18) and Connecting Classrooms (2015-18). From the Global Learning Programme it adopts a focus on global learning and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a wide range of UK schools; a tailored approach to each of the four nations of the UK in order to align with their curricula; encouraging the formation of school clusters in order to achieve economies of scale and improve standards through peer learning; providing funding for supply cover so that teachers can access training; and encouraging local community action in line with the SDGs. From Connecting Classrooms, it retains a focus on partnerships between schools in the UK and overseas, the provision of high-quality materials through the Schools Online website, advocacy and awareness raising of key educational issues overseas, and accreditation for schools through the International Schools Award (ISA). The programme will also continue to place emphasis on strong monitoring and evaluation.*

*In addition, Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning contains a number of new elements:*

- *funding for reciprocal visits, so that overseas teachers can now visit partner schools in the UK, and help bring their country to life for UK pupils providing training to teachers on running equitable and sustainable partnerships;*
- *the creation of a virtual partnerships platform for schools that are unable to take part in face-to-face partnerships;*
- *a focus on training overseas teachers to develop their pupils' skillset for the global economy e.g. entrepreneurial skills;*
- *encouraging partnered schools to make local progress on an SDG as a shared project;*
- *teacher training overseas to be aligned with DFID's 2018 education policy, with a focus on education quality and inclusion;*
- *accreditation for teachers and mapping other relevant awards for schools (such as UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award) to the ISA framework so that schools are duly recognised for their work on development education issues;*
- *in the UK, building on local community links and utilising local resources such as local NGOs, Development Education Centres, civil society organisations, higher education institutions, businesses, Regional Centres for Expertise, and encouraging Commonwealth Scholars, DFID staff, and returnees from the International Citizen Service and Voluntary Service Overseas programmes to visit local schools and discuss their experiences with pupils; and*
- *a focus on a smaller number of priority countries, whilst adding Lesotho, given its strong links with Wales.*

Research has shown that 'school linking' can increase the quality of teaching and learning in the schools involved, improving both pupil engagement and teacher motivation. The Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning programme will offer grants to fund visits by UK and developing country teachers to the partner school. Mobile digital platforms (such as WhatsApp and Zoom) will also be used to enable classroom-to-classroom activities between teachers and pupils. The scheme is jointly funded and delivered by the British Council who will contribute £17m. DFID will contribute £21m. The programme is for children aged between 7-14 yrs. Schools can sign up by going to the British Council's website and selecting the part of the programme they are interested in, or by emailing [schools@britishcouncil.org](mailto:schools@britishcouncil.org).

It will operate in the following countries.

- Sub Saharan Africa: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, India
- MENA: Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco
- East Asia: Burma