



The Four Corners

The DFID Alumni Association newsletter

Issue 50: April 2020

EDITORIAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

PEOPLE

EDITORIAL

When I took over from Jim as Acting Chair in January, he reminded me that my tasks included producing an editorial piece. For many weeks I pondered what to write about. Then a global pandemic arrived which made the choice of topic slightly simpler.



No one has been left untouched by the COVID-19 crisis – we are all grappling with huge changes in our lives wherever we are. My husband and I are very fortunate to live in the countryside, with a farm shop nearby keeping us supplied with fresh food - and so we can help a local small business survive financially as well. We can also keep in touch with family and friends thanks to amazing technology. But for so many others around the world life is far more difficult.

This crisis has been making me think about how some of my experiences with DFID are helping me now. Back in 2002 all UK based staff were evacuated from India when the Pakistani and Indian governments were threatening to nuke each other. The large Delhi office was torn in two almost overnight – with UK based staff (and their families) in temporary work and home premises in London, while the SAIC remained in-country. Life stayed like that for two months in the end. It was the same for DFID Pakistan. The first couple of weeks were inevitably chaotic. Maintaining staff morale in all locations and trying to keep programmes going were all major challenges. Connectivity was much more limited then as well. Yet we coped - and when we were all finally reunited life went back to normal very quickly. It was as if the previous two months had been a bad dream.

In Afghanistan, numerous security incidents and threats in Kabul and Helmand would result in instant compound lockdowns and regular work disruptions. Food shortages were not uncommon and, worse – drink supplies! Staff morale would go up and down like a yo-yo at times, while each incident would lead to a further tightening of security measures. Deciding whether and when to relax those measures was always a difficult call. What kept everyone going (as with the India evacuation) was a huge sense of camaraderie and good humour despite everything.

I am now a trustee with two international NGOs, like many other Alumni. Both NGOs have gone through massive upheaval over the last few weeks and the space for programme activity is closing as the virus starts to grip so many countries. Virtual meetings between trustees and senior staff are becoming increasingly downbeat and the coming months are clearly going to be difficult financially as well. Yet through it all that camaraderie shines through once again, while the determination of staff at both NGOs to keep programmes going is truly humbling.

Wherever you are, I sincerely hope that you, your family and friends will see through the COVID-19 crisis safely, and that we can all look back on this time as a bad dream soon. And in some small way I hope the Alumni Association can play its part in helping us all to keep in touch.

Pauline

PS Most items in this newsletter were produced before the crisis worsened. **For the next edition we very much welcome articles from members on how they have been coping with the crisis, particularly from overseas.**

**Please send your reflections to:
Paulinehayes08@gmail.com**



Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP has replaced Alok Sharma MP as Secretary of State for International Development.

Mr Sharma was appointed Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in the government reshuffle on 13 February 2020.

Ms Trevelyan was Minister of State for the Armed Forces from December 2019 to February 2020, and Minister for Defence Procurement from 27 July 2019 to December 2019. She was first elected MP for the Berwick-upon-Tweed constituency in 2015.

Ms Trevelyan is a chartered accountant. She sat on the Public Accounts Committee from July 2015 to May 2017 and December 2018 to July 2019. She also served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence. She is a member of the European Research Group of Conservative MPs.

All the DFID Ministers and Parliamentary Under Secretaries hold joint appointments in DFID and the FCO. Three of them have their main office in DFID.

There are four joint Ministers of State.

- James Cleverly MP is Minister for Middle East and North Africa.
- The Rt Hon Lord Zac Goldsmith is Minister of State for the Pacific and the Environment (a joint appointment with DEFRA as well as the FCO and DFID).
- Nigel Adams MP is Minister for Asia.
- Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon is Minister for South Asia and the Commonwealth.

There are three Parliamentary Under Secretaries. James Duddridge MP is Minister for Africa. Wendy Morton MP is Minister for European Neighbourhood and the Americas. Baroness Sugg is Minister for the Overseas Territories and Sustainable Development.

The photo was taken when Matthew Rycroft (centre of back row) was DFID's Permanent Secretary. He has since moved to the Home Office.

DFID's future

Jim Drummond

In the last edition we reported on the uncertainty about whether DFID would remain an independent UK government department or would be merged into the FCO - the position for most of the time before 1997. The uncertainty continues.

The government restates its commitment to spending 0.7% of gross national income on overseas development assistance, but not who will spend it. DFID spent 75% of it in 2018, the last year of published figures.

The government made some minor structural changes during the February reshuffle, but opted not to change DFID's status. Instead it launched a major Foreign and Defence Policy Review (here's what it said about it <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-outlines-new-review-to-define-britains-place-in-the-world>) which seems certain to focus on strong cross government working and could lead to changes in DFID's status.

The review was due to conclude in the autumn at the same time as the Comprehensive Spending Review which should set spending targets for the next three years. DFID is fully engaged in the FDPR, with one of its senior officials leading one of the four work strands.

Of course, February was a long time ago. COVID 19 is changing the focus of government and its spending plans in ways that are still very difficult to predict, but it seems very likely to delay and change the scope and outcome of the review.

The uncertainty and frequent changes of leadership play badly for DFID staff. The 2019 People Survey ("Civil Service People Survey") shows a continuing very strong commitment to the department's mission but declining confidence in its strategic direction and more staff expecting to leave - though there is now more general movement between government departments than there used to be.

The Alumni Association retains strong links to DFID but we have to accept, with everything else going on, there will be fewer opportunities for now to engage directly on policy issues.

DIARY

Events

DFID Alumni Committee meeting

The committee met by Zoom video conference on 2nd April and discussed the impact of COVID-19 on Alumni business and on our schedule of events this year.

Summer gathering

We have reluctantly concluded that it won't be feasible to hold a summer party this year, especially as we had secured a great venue - Admiralty House in Whitehall. We hope to hold our next event there.

Christmas event

We have booked Admiralty House for our Christmas party which we hope to hold on Wednesday 9th December. More about this nearer the time.

2020 Annual General Meeting

Rather than delay the AGM from June until who knows when, we will circulate the agenda to members and seek comments/agreement/discussion by email. It's not ideal, but we concluded that this is better than letting key business decisions lapse e.g. approval of our annual accounts and election of committee members.

Social outings

If anyone has any suggestions for events we can set up when life returns to normal, or better still is willing to help organise an outing or event, please contact Pam Jenkins, who for the moment (until DFID can provide a working email address), can be found on:

pamjenkins@outlook.com.

News - links to 'interesting' international development sites

Here are some more articles that may (or may not) be of interest. The first five are on the theme of the moment.

With the news dominated by COVID -19, here is news of DFID-funded work to stop the spread of fake news:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-tackle-global-spread-of-coronavirus-fake-news>

Some US lessons learned and unlearned for COVID-19 from the 2014 Ebola crisis, where DFID was a leader of the response

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2020-03-28/ebola-should-have-immunized-united-states-coronavirus>

The WHO has a portal at www.who.int/ictrp where you can search for clinical trials on registries around the world, about COVID-19 and many other health issues.

Former DFID Permanent Secretary Mark Lowcock, now UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, is often on Twitter @UNReliefChief about the impact of COVID-19 on humanitarian crises around the world.

Now some examples of other diseases that hop between animals and humans

<https://www.livescience.com/12951-10-infectious-diseases-ebola-plague-influenza.html>

One on how pastoralists cope with similar pressures, by Ian Scoones of IDS, whose work on land reform in Zimbabwe is familiar to some of us

<https://pastres.org/2020/03/27/living-with-coronavirus-uncertainties-four-lessons-from-pastoralists/>

And a plea from Masood Ahmed, former DFID Director General and now President of the Centre for Global Development, to provide resources for developing countries to get through the crisis

<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/spend-what-it-takes-respond-covid-19-poor-countries-too>

Now some other subjects.

A new ODI study on empowerment of women in Cuba

<https://www.odi.org/publications/16681-woman-house-man-street-young-women-s-economic-empowerment-and-social-norms-cuba>

ICAI's latest report on the UK government's anti-corruption work

<https://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/ICAI-Anticorruption-and-illicit-financial-flows.pdf>

Paul Collier and Neil Gregory on pioneering firms in conflict and fragile states

<https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2019-04/BSG-WP-2019-028.pdf>

And lastly a plea by CGD for Global Health to feature in the UK's Defence and Security Review. This seems more relevant by the day.

<https://www.cgdev.org/publication/why-global-health-missing-uks-integrated-review>

Chair and Committee of the DFID Alumni Association

Are you interested in joining the Committee, or in chairing the Association? The Secretary will soon invite nominations for election at the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

Could you take on one of these roles? Pauline Hayes, Jim Drummond or Pam Jenkins can tell you more.

The Four Corners

Our newsletter The Four Corners has appeared since 2007. Marc Taylor stood down as editor in June 2018 and is now one of a small editorial team. Please continue to send in items and articles to help keep the newsletter relevant and interesting for alumni around the world. We welcome all feedback as well.

Send your contributions to Pam Jenkins, Jim Drummond or Pauline Hayes.

Life Before DFID

Bob Carlisle



I was a grammar school boy, groomed for a career in the public sector, insurance or banking. Even at that age I knew that some sort of public service appealed more than the private sector and so I found myself in the Civil Service. I was posted to Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO), working in retail accounts in Cornwall House. That was in 1966; steam trains still ran in and out of nearby Waterloo Station.

Back then, if you wanted a Government publication, HMSO would trustingly post it to you with an invoice. In retail accounts we matched up the incoming payments with the outgoing goods. We spent a lot of time chasing those who forgot to pay. I worked in a large room full of clerical and executive officers. A higher executive officer (HEO) was in charge, an important figure with a room of his own.

We worked a 41 hour week from 8.30am to 4.30pm or 5.00pm. We signed on and off and were allowed five minutes grace in the morning. If arriving after 8.35am we summoned our courage, entered the HEO's room and, under his watchful gaze, signed on in red ink. Repeated late arrival was frowned upon. We were paid monthly, those without a bank account receiving a payable order and half-an-hour's leave of absence to go to the bank and cash it.

Every so often we did the weekly pay run for HMSO's industrial staff. On a Thursday afternoon we would go to Atlantic House in Holborn putting cash into what seemed like hundreds of brown envelopes with purple writing detailing each individual's pay. At the end of the process we reconciled the cash enveloped with the substantial sum we had started out with hoping that everything tallied.

If it didn't, as sometimes happened, we did it all over again; and again, if need be. On Friday morning, we bundled into a security van and were driven to one or another of HMSO's warehouses (Alperton was one) where the pay was distributed to the workers.

I grew up in the staid, sober world of southern suburbia, a narrow society then as it sometimes still seems now. It was a revelation that even in the

humble offices of HMSO I was to meet people not just from elsewhere in Britain (school leavers from all over the country were coming to work in London) but from much of the Commonwealth: Africa, Asia, the Caribbean. It was a good time, on the whole.

I was 17 and the Civil Service very decently gave me a day off each week to study for my 'A' levels at Westminster College. The college environment was more conducive to learning than I had ever experienced at school. Passing the exams enabled me to enter the open competition for executive officers.

Applicants were invited to list, I think, four government departments in which they might like to work. At this remove, I cannot recall all my choices but the Ministry of Overseas Development (ODM), later to become DFID, was certainly one of them and the one to which, in 1970, I had the good fortune to be posted - an appropriate point to draw a line under these reflections.

Postscript. I started in the ODM Finance Department and ended in DFID's Central Research Department, retiring in 2005. Much happened in between, of course. Happily, much still happens.

Martin Dawson takes

A Trip Down Memory Lane.....

I have spent most of the last 30 years overseas and 31 October 2019 marked my last day in Kabul, after a little over two years. When I first worked in Afghanistan 12 years ago, decompression leave was not even a twinkle in the eye. Since then, the office has come to appreciate the need for staff to relax after time spent in a fragile and hostile environment. So, as luck would have it, I was faced with a few weeks off. Marvellous!

I have a son and daughter in law living in Kuala Lumpur so made that my base and from there, made short hops to other regional destinations. My first week in KL included a visit to the botanical gardens and the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM). When I first worked in SEADD Bangkok in the early 1990's, ODA still had a small bilateral programme in Malaysia, including support to FRIM. I recall our Natural Resources and Forestry Advisers (David Trotman and Dick Jenkin) making regular trips to FRIM at the time. It was nice to see it for myself and remember former colleagues from that period.

My next stop was to Bangkok. I decided to stay in Jim's Lodge hotel in Soi Ruam Rudee, where I had stayed in November 1990. On my second day there, 29 years ago, my wife got knocked over by a man who came off his motorcycle whilst transporting pig carcasses. A friendly Tuk-Tuk driver took her to the Bangkok Christian Hospital for treatment, where I received a call from a desperately unhappy spouse. I thought we would be on the next plane home and this would be the shortest posting in history. Thankfully she recovered fully and we spent the next 4.5 years there.

The highlight of the Bangkok visit was a charming dinner with two ladies who I used to help with their English Language. One now a successful auditor and the other a successful restaurateur. They hadn't changed at all and were very kind not to dwell on my thickening girth and thinning mullet.



Beautiful Phuket next. I based myself in the south and spent most days cruising around on a borrowed motorbike and eating lots of mango, sticky rice and durian ice-cream. I knew that Patong had come off badly in the 2004 Tsunami and it was good to see it bustling and already full of tourists, even though the season had only just started. I had never been to see the Big Buddha before so thought I should make amends and my word, what a Big Buddha he is. A huge, marble tiled gem, sitting majestically above Chalong Bay smiling warmly out to sea. Four days of topping up the tan went all too quickly and it was time to return briefly to KL, then on to Jakarta.

I left Jakarta at the end of 2006 after six wonderful years. My first three years had been managing the Multi-stakeholder Forestry Programme Phase 1 led by Yvan Biot. Originally the brainchild of Dr Penny Davies, MFP was my first and only opportunity to manage a DFID programme and what a huge privilege that was. Now in its 4th iteration, through the magic of WhatsApp, I was recently invited to join the MFP 1 group chat. This gave me a perfect excuse to pay a visit and try and meet up with current and former colleagues, including from the British Embassy.

Jakarta had grown so much since I left. Gigantic three storey flyovers in some areas and a very impressive metro system running across the capital. There was a lot less pollution than I remember and it was great to see the hills of the Puncak from the city.

I spent the last few days of my trip back in KL with the family. They were working whilst I was lying around by the pool, generally doing nothing. Highly recommended. Now back to UK and Whitehall, ha ha.



DFID then and now....

Andrew Ockenden, Head, DFID Uganda

Pauline asked me to write something about what it is like to be a head of office in DFID nowadays, and what might be different compared with the past. It did get me thinking that a lot has changed even since I joined DFID in 2001 – as a fast stream economist, based in Delhi and covering Madhya Pradesh state. William Kingsmill told me that if I left the Bank of England and joined DFID then I could go to India for two years. I jumped at the opportunity – and have never looked back (many thanks William!). I'm now the Head of DFID in Uganda.

One of the biggest practical changes has been driven by improvements in the internet and communications more generally. On my first posting I used to sit under the stairs in the High Commission in Delhi to make the weekly phone call home via the FTN system. Now I have an ever flowing WhatsApp conversation across the broader family – with video calls that mean I can see first-hand the important things in life (generally my sister's cats doing something stupid).

On the work front, better connectivity means a constant flow of messages and information. I remember one of the Alumni telling me that when they were a head of office they received and sent just one fax to London each week. There are, of course, times when I get very jealous of that approach. But actually, DFID culture has resisted any long screwdriver approach to managing overseas offices – and so there is still a significant amount of freedom to manage the way that we think is best.

Improved communications and awareness of global issues have also led to much more external interest in DFID and its work. Very few DFID or aid-related stories made the media early on in my career. Now it is common for DFID to feature several times a week – and with additional scrutiny from the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI). It's of course right that we are held accountable to high standards, as well as challenged on how we use the aid budget – and constructive challenge that helps us to learn lessons and do things better is welcome. At the same time, we have become a lot more pro-active in directly rebutting false or misleading allegations in the media.



The other big change has been how we work across government. When I was working in Delhi, I think I saw the High Commissioner twice during my posting (at two Christmas carol concerts). The High Commissioner in Uganda is Peter West. I speak with him and his team almost every day. Our economic and governance teams are co-located, and our approach to economic growth, politics and governance is entirely cross-mission. I think we and they benefit from this engagement, really bringing together the UK capability to get stuff done.

Looking out from DFID offices, the urban centres we are based in have been transformed in many countries. Coffee shops, supermarkets and shopping malls. But on field visits to understand the challenges facing rural areas it's often harder to see the progress. The data are clear - there are many fewer poor people overall. A lot of the work that was done to reduce poverty – whether aid driven, or otherwise - has been massively successful.

But where poverty exists it feels a lot more “sticky” than it did when I was working in Madhya Pradesh. Maybe it was my optimism – but the poverty there always felt kind of temporary. And so it has largely proved to be. Whereas in some places I have visited recently, for example rural Zambia or refugee settlements in Uganda, it is less obvious to me how we move beyond sticking plasters. So as an organisation we are putting a lot more effort into how we reach those that are hardest to help, including in countries affected by conflict.

Overall though, I'm not sure that DFID is fundamentally that different. Some things have remained very much the same. First, the characters in DFID who are deeply committed to our mission – but who also manage to brighten those days when nothing is going well. In that context I'd just like to record how I do miss Young Liam Docherty, and always smile when I think of him. Second, the team spirit. DFID does some amazingly interesting work in extraordinary places. I am lucky to count DFID staff and Alumni as some of my closest friends, and am rarely happier than spending time hearing about their experiences.

Very much looking forward to re-joining the Alumni in due course (I left DFID for five years in 2008 and worked as a development consultant), and hearing many more of my colleagues' and friends' experiences. But not just yet!

Life after DFID - running for Parliament

Alistair Fernie

I was one of a handful of DFID alumni who ran for Parliament as Liberal Democrat candidates at the UK General Election in December 2019. None of us were elected but we all flew the flag for internationalism and respect for the views of others. Those values feel under attack. I ran in Oxford East, where I was a student 30 years ago. It's been a safe Labour seat for 32 years, it has a competent MP (Anneliese Dodds, recently appointed to the new Shadow Cabinet), and I was selected only three months before the election. So I had no realistic chance of winning.

I ran on a pitch of "Stop Brexit, tackle the climate". I wanted to make the case publicly for the UK staying in the EU (having felt I didn't do enough in 2016), and for all the political, civil service, business, media and public attention that Brexit has consumed to be re-focused instead on the climate crisis, the biggest issue facing our country and the world.

I also wanted to contribute to doing politics differently, by trying to reduce the hostility that has seeped into British political culture. I ran a positive campaign, not attacking my opponents and agreeing with them when I could, as well as actively listening to the concerns of EU leavers (32% of Oxford East voters). My civil service values of honesty and integrity played well. Objectivity and impartiality are less common attributes in politicians but perhaps we could do with a bit more of them. I was scrupulously

politically neutral during my 18 years at DFID, serving ministers from three parties. I'm proudly not neutral now - which has been liberating. But I'm still not tribal.

My team and I enjoyed modest success - we increased the LibDem vote share for the first time since 2005, from 9.1% to 13.9% (slightly better than the national average). But both local and national results were disappointing if you think Brexit is a terrible idea and the climate crisis needs decisive senior leadership.

Oxford East is a great place to run if you have an international development background. It's awash with people working in the sector (Oxfam HQ is based there, as are several other NGOs, lots of freelance consultants and academics, and DFID staff commuting to London), plus many more who are strong supporters including diaspora communities from developing countries. That leads to some great conversations on the doorstep. But this was not an election about the Sustainable Development Goals.

One of the downsides of running was that I couldn't justify going to the Alumni Association Christmas party just three days before the election. Upsides included meeting DFID alumni in the local area - Vel Gnanendran (who I stayed with a couple of times - though he lives in Oxford West), Sam Bickersteth (now running Opportunity International) and Phil Marker. I won't mention the DFID staff who assured me they were voting for me - or those who clearly weren't!

The last edition of Four Corners mentioned that four DFID alumni had run as LibDems. I heard that a fifth - Julia Aglionby, who I don't know - worked for DFID in Indonesia. But as far as I'm aware, the only former DFID staff member (of sorts) to be elected to Parliament remains Caroline Lucas from the Green Party, who was seconded from Oxfam to DFID in 1998-99. Perhaps the switch from civil servant to politician is not that easy.



Life after DFID - working for the Stabilisation Unit

Jackie Charlton

We have a lot to offer as former civil servants – finding something rewarding is more of a challenge. Many do amazing work with charities, often connected with development. But if you want to continue working for HMG, it's good to know that there are opportunities. Since retiring from DFID in 2015 as a senior governance adviser I have been part of a cadre of advisers working for the Stabilisation Unit (SU).

I am not alone - many former colleagues are also contributing their expertise. The SU, as many of you will know, is HMG's response to the many global security and stability challenges which also impact on the UK. It was set up in the aftermath of the Iraq conflict and is a great example of cross-departmental working - a key lesson from the Chilcot report. By setting up a cadre of advisers to help deliver its objectives, the SU has captured a wealth of multi-disciplinary and overseas experience from current and former civil servants, the police and the military, who can seamlessly work with British missions as well as governments across the world. Importantly, retirees will usually have a high level of security clearance already and the SU ensures that this continues.

Each SU assignment, short or long term, is advertised across the network and those shortlisted are usually interviewed. The SU keeps our knowledge and learning up to date with regular one day seminars and access to on-line resources. The SU has produced excellent research and guidance as well which is available on its website.

Much of the SU's work is financed through the cross-government Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF) which I was already familiar with – but some things have changed. Most interestingly, DFID now works in countries where it did not previously have programmes (or not in the last 20 years). DFID has also been re-engaging with countries that it exited from because they were no longer low income.

My own experience illustrates this. My final posting in DFID involved re-establishing a programme in Ukraine following the political revolution in 2014. By then many staff who had strong experience of Soviet systems had already left or retired. I was fortunate in



having recently spent two years as a governance adviser in Central Asia covering Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, followed by two years in Washington with USAID covering the wider region. Since joining the SU cadre, I have continued to work in Ukraine, including with FCO on the design of an international conference in London in 2018 when Boris Johnson was Foreign Secretary. Last year the Canadians asked me to help with a repeat event in Toronto.

Over the last year I have been fortunate to have an amazing job working with the British Embassy in Morocco on their CSSF programme, advising on a wide range of governance issues including civil society strengthening, parliamentary reform and setting up a new regional government system. The assignment has given me a rare opportunity to work with a quasi-constitutional monarchy - as well as attempt to improve my French.

How suddenly things change! Now the Morocco team is immersed in the COVID-19 crisis and, as always, we need to respond quickly – you will all remember these challenges. This has meant looking at the relevance of existing projects and re-prioritising work to support local efforts to fight the disease and come out the other side. Key issues so far include how will the ordinary citizen survive and who risks being excluded? Will the state be able to manage the crisis effectively? How can donors best help and ensure good coordination? And, in the context of the CSSF, assessing the impact of the crisis on the stability of the country in a region which is increasingly fragile. Only time will tell.

Welcome and Farewell

We are very pleased to have welcomed 3 new members to the Association over the last 3 months:

Liz Davis

Clive Martlew

Egi Yugini Umar

Very sadly, we lost a loyal and energetic committee member. Isobel Doig died on 29 March. We are enormously grateful for the support she gave to the DFID Alumni Association up until the last months of her life.

Brian Foy died in February.

Professor Tecwyn Jones CMG, formerly Deputy Director at the ODNRI, died in November 2019. His obituary is in the [Richmond and Twickenham Times](#).

Our condolences to their families and friends. Members have shared fond memories of them by email.

DFID people: present and past

Matthew Rycroft moved to be Permanent Secretary at the Home Office. Priti Patel, now Home Secretary, was Secretary of State for International Development when he was appointed Permanent Secretary at DFID, though they did not work together. Nick Dyer is again temporary Permanent Secretary at DFID while a long-term replacement is found.

Vel Gnanendran returns to DFID to become its first Director for Climate Change.

Chris Austin is now Counsellor Development and Regional in the British High Commission, Pretoria.

Our best wishes to Chris Whitty, who was DFID's Chief Scientific Adviser. He is now England's Chief Medical Officer and was a regular on UK TV screens alongside the Prime Minister at daily COVID-19 briefings. Chris recently had to self-isolate because of COVID-19 symptoms but has now returned to work.

David Nabarro, formerly ODA/DFID's Chief Health and Population Adviser, is now Chair of Global Health at Imperial College and a World Health Organization Special Envoy for Coronavirus.

Tony Burdon is now CEO at Make My Money Matter. This is a new organisation. Here's a link to their manifesto.

<https://media.designersfriend.co.uk/mmmmholding/media/uploads/misc/setting/mmmm-declaration-layout-1-81114.pdf>

Our new Secretary, Pam Jenkins

John Stuppel is handing over to Pam in stages, as fast as DFID systems allow at this time.



Pam Jenkins, with Rosalia and Sudha Menon

We were two weeks into our three week trip to India and had to hastily book flights home, a day before India went into lockdown. However, I was so pleased to be able to sneak in a visit to colleagues in DFID India, who all looked just as they did 28 years ago when I was posted there.

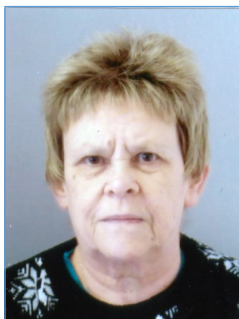
We were also able to take a look around the BHC compound where we used to live, which brought back many happy memories. Many thanks to Jeena Chhabra and Rosalia Pereira for making this visit possible. I wish all DFID friends in India and around the world well and I look forward to fully taking up my new role as secretary to the Alumni once life returns to normal later this year.



Pam and Mark Jenkins with SAIC colleagues: Anjali Sablok, Sangeeta Mehta, Ramesh Sarathy, Rosalia Perreira



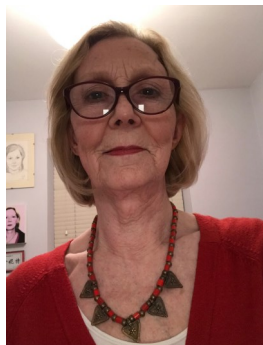
John
Burton



Isobel
Doig



Jim
Drummond
Janet
Grimshaw



Pauline
Hayes
Pam
Jenkins



Jan
Ketelaar



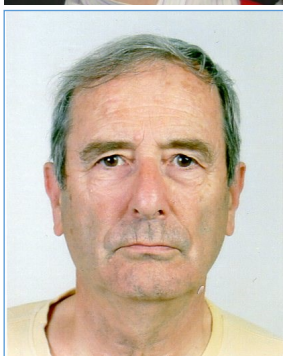
Kathy
Marshall



John
Stuppel



Carol
Norman



Marc
Taylor

Committee members

John Burton	Treasurer
Isobel Doig	died 29 March 2020
Jim Drummond	
Janet Grimshaw	
Pauline Hayes	Acting Chair
Pam Jenkins	Secretary
Jan Ketelaar	
Kathy Marshall	
Carol Norman	
John Stuppel	previous Secretary
Marc Taylor	

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

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.

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

Editions of **The Four Corners** from **December 2013** are available for anyone - member or not - to download from the Association's web site at www.dfid-alumni.org

CONTACT

This newsletter is produced by DFID's Alumni Secretariat. For any queries, please contact the Editorial Group:

Pauline Hayes, Pam Jenkins, Jim Drummond

To submit articles, items or feedback please contact the Secretary Pam Jenkins

Email: pamjenkins@outlook.com

alumni@dfid.gov.uk is out of operation at present.