



The Four Corners

The quarterly Alumni Association newsletter

Issue 38: December 2016

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EDITORIAL

Message from the chairman

Welcome to the Winter edition of The Four Corners.

Firstly, our congratulations go to those who received awards announced in the New Year's Honours and to Mark Lowcock for his knighthood.

As we are all aware, British aid has been the subject of new and growing interest from the public, media and politicians over the last few months, much of it critical and revisiting old arguments about the effectiveness of different forms of aid and worries about abuse and corruption. This newsletter gives you the latest round-up of news and information on DFID activities and policies.

We will continue to try to give members the opportunity to debate and discuss these latest developments both between alumni and with DFID. We are looking to organise a lunchtime session with the Chair of the ICAI and I think there is scope for a further event on multilateral aid, to focus on the UN and EC, to follow the seminar which we organised last year on the multilaterals. We would welcome your ideas on how you would like us to support this continued exchange.

As always we would welcome personal news and stories from alumni around the world, to share with the membership. Jill Hanna's article about the exotic charms of Lamu will have stimulated memories for those of us, including me, who worked in East Africa and in Nairobi. Keep the stories coming!

Best wishes for 2017.

Thanks to Marc for putting this edition together.

Simon Ray



NEWS IN BRIEF

In December, the Secretary of State for International Development launched reviews of bilateral and multilateral aid.

The Prime Minister made a statement to Parliament about migration, security, Syria and the UK's intention to leave the European Union.

DFID announced more aid for Syrians displaced by civil war and for displaced Iraqis.

DFID announced new support for the development of antimalarial treatments.

The Secretary of State for International Development announced a review of suppliers' practices and then wrote to them about standards and safeguards following her appearance before the House of Commons International Development Committee.

For details, see pages 2 to 4 and The Back Pages.

DIARY

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Possible lunchtime talk by the Chair of the Independent Commission for Aid Impact.

2017 Annual General Meeting and the DFID Alumni London summer party - week of 16 June.

Seminar on Health Partnerships.

Discussion of the role of NGOs in delivering development assistance.

Dates and venues to be confirmed

Clean water, food, medical care and blankets for displaced Syrians

Britain will provide clean water, food, medical care and blankets to millions of Syrians, including those who have fled Aleppo, been caught up in the current fighting and displaced in neighbouring Jordan, International Development Secretary Priti Patel announced in December.

As temperatures in Aleppo fell below freezing, hundreds of people were killed and more than 30,000 forced out of their homes following renewed fighting as regime forces and their allies retook the city.

Food supplies inside the city were exhausted, residential areas were hit by barrel bombs and reported chlorine gas attacks, schools were shelled and no functioning hospitals remain.

The new British aid will be delivered by trusted humanitarian partners who are working on the front line in some of the hardest to reach places in Syria, including besieged areas such as Aleppo. It will include:

- food parcels for nearly half a million people and basic supplies including blankets and mattresses for more than 100,000 people
- essential medical supplies like antibiotics and measles vaccines, equipment for safe childbirth and maternity care and basic surgical supplies like sutures and pain medications to treat traumas, and repairs to key health facilities
- the evacuation of civilians in need of urgent medical care and the transfer of disabled and vulnerable elderly people to safe areas
- clean drinking water and improved sanitation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DFID IN OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2016

October

- The UK challenged the World Bank to do more to end aid dependency
- The UK sent experts and help for victims of Hurricane Matthew

November

- DFID published [Statistics on International Development 2016](#)
- Secretary of State Priti Patel visited Sierra Leone one year after the Ebola outbreak ended
- Minister James Wharton visited Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Minister Rory Stewart presented medals to individuals involved in responding to Ebola
- DFID increased support for action to eradicate violence against women and girls
- Secretary of State Priti Patel presented a Bill to increase funding through the CD

December

- DFID published reviews of multilateral and bilateral aid: see The Back Pages for details
- Minister Rory Stewart visited Iraq and announced more support for displaced Iraqis
- Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond visited South Africa
- Baroness Anelay hosted a celebration of UK action on universal human rights.
- Secretary of State Priti Patel announced new help for displaced Syrians
- The UK confirmed it will continue funding the Palestinian Authority
- Secretary of State Priti Patel announced support for the development of anti-malarial drugs
- Prime Minister Theresa May met the foreign affairs adviser to the President of China.

Aid for Syrians

In December, the Syrian Government regained control over Aleppo, which before the Syrian civil war was the largest city in Syria, with over 2 million people – more than 10 per cent of the country's pre-war population.

Announcing new assistance for Syrians (see the box on page 2) International Development Secretary Priti Patel said:

“After more than 5 years of fighting in Syria, we have seen daily examples of brutality and human suffering used as weapons of war. The fall of Aleppo has taken these horrors to a new low.

Russia must take responsibility for its actions. People must also be allowed to leave the city safely without risk to life or limb or gross violations of their human rights, and in accordance with international law.

Britain is urgently sending blankets, medical kit, clean water and food that will mean the difference between life and death for those fleeing Aleppo and those caught in freezing conditions in the city after being systematically bombed from their homes by the Syrian regime and its Russian allies.

Protecting innocent civilians must be an absolute priority. It is paramount that aid agencies now get the unfettered, secure access they need to save lives inside East Aleppo.”

The UK will also provide new support for Syrian refugees and people in Jordan who are hosting them. This will include:

- life-saving aid to the approximately 70,000 Syrians in the unofficial settlement at ‘the berm’ on Jordan’s border with Syria. This includes provision of clean water; health services at a 24/7 clinic, including the treatment of malnutrition; and distribution of basics such as soap and toothbrushes to meet every day needs and reduce the risk of disease
- building new and repairing existing water pipes and infrastructure, to provide clean water to hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees in camps and urban areas across Jordan, as well as people in the communities hosting them
- protecting children, working with the Jordanian authorities and through community centres to provide wellbeing support to refugee children, improving the legislative protection for them, and ensuring their rights are upheld and they have

access to the services they need, such as counselling or enrolling in school.

Along with the new support announced in December, the UK is already providing basic life-saving support to thousands of civilians entering west Aleppo city from the east, through UN and NGO partner agencies working in and around Aleppo. This includes:

- hot meals and basic shelter, blankets and cold-weather clothes including shoes, coats and woolly hats to help cope with the onset of winter
- emergency health care including mobile health teams, medicines, and immunisation campaigns among newly-displaced, reducing the spread of disease
- care, counselling and protection for children, including those who have been separated from their families, plus specialist nutrition services for under-5s
- support to existing water-pumping stations, trucking in drinking water to shelters and schools, and repairing and installing water tanks, as well as providing hygiene kits and waste disposal; and
- basic schooling support so displaced children don’t miss out on an education, including community learning centres and self-learning programmes.

The new £10 million funding for Syria is to be channelled through trusted partners with a presence on the ground and a proven ability to deliver aid to those in need. DFID is not identifying these organisations for security reasons and at their request. The £10 million funding for Syrian refugees in Jordan will be delivered through UNICEF.

The UK is at the forefront of the response to the Syria crisis, with life-saving humanitarian support reaching millions of people inside Syria and in neighbouring countries. The UK has pledged more than £2.3 billion to support those affected by the conflict, our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis. In 2016 the UK is the third largest bilateral contributor to the humanitarian response in Syria, and the second largest overall since the start of the response in 2012.

For more information on the UK’s humanitarian response, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/factsheet-the-uks-humanitarian-aid-response-to-the-syria-crisis>

New support for the development of antimalarial drugs

Speaking to health professionals, industry experts, NGOs and parliamentarians at the launch of the [World Malaria Report 2016](#) on 13 December 2016, Priti Patel set out how the UK will continue to take a leading role in the global fight against malaria.

Ms Patel announced new support from the Department for International Development (DFID) for advancing antimalarial drugs that can combat resistant strains of the disease, including for the treatment of malaria during pregnancy, as well as new insecticides to strengthen the life-saving protection that bed nets and house-sprays can bring.

The International Development Secretary said:

“Britain is at the forefront of the global fight against malaria – helping achieve extraordinary progress with death rates in the world’s poorest countries dropping by nearly two-thirds since 2000. But we cannot be complacent, which is why the UK is investing in new anti-malarial drugs to beat resistant strains of the disease. In our increasingly interconnected world it is in the UK’s interests to take on global health threats and push others to step up so we can end malaria for good.”

The new DFID investments to help tackle this global health threat include:

- up to £50million in the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), to support critical work developing and delivering new antimalarial drugs. The MMV has assembled the largest pipeline of potential antimalarial drugs in history.
- up to £25million for the Innovative Vector Control Consortium (IVCC) to develop new insecticides. Long-lasting insecticide treated nets and indoor spraying of homes have had a major impact in the fight against malaria, but their increasing use has now resulted in insecticide resistance throughout Africa. With

UK support, the IVCC are on track to deliver new active ingredients to the market by 2022.

These allocations are from the UK’s £357 million investment with the Ross Fund, which aims to develop medicines, tests and insecticides to limit the threat of diseases.

The World Malaria Report showed that malaria parasites which are resistant to the main drug combinations for treating malaria are now spreading across South East Asia and beyond.

Ms Patel warned that the international community cannot afford to be complacent, and called on others to keep up the momentum, address the urgent need more for more investment in malaria control and support the development of new drugs, diagnostics and insecticides to help tackle the disease.

Since 2011, DFID has distributed 49.7 million long-lasting, insecticide-treated bed nets - saving up to 808,000 lives. In September, the International Development Secretary Priti Patel announced the UK pledge of £1.1 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria over the next 3 years. This will fund a further 40 million bed nets to tackle malaria. UK funded research that supported the development of child-friendly malaria drugs has now been used for 300 million treatments in malaria-endemic countries.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) World Malaria Report 2016 shows that there has been continuing progress in the battle against malaria. Deaths have declined by 60% between 2000 and 2015 - averting more than 6 million malaria related deaths. The report also shows that last year there were an estimated 212 million cases of malaria worldwide and an estimated 429,000 deaths. The biggest victims were the most vulnerable: the poorest, pregnant women, and children under 5. Malaria is claiming the life of a child every 2 minutes.

The launch of the World Malaria Report 2016 took place at the London at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (13 December 2016).

EVENTS

Seminar on multilateral aid

On 31 October alumni met at DFID Whitehall to discuss the future of the multilateral aid system.

Sir Suma Chakrabarti, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) spoke of the challenges for the multilateral development system in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals, especially against the difficult backdrop of attacks on internationalism and on multilateral as opposed to bilateral solutions to the world's problems.

Stressing that the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) had a more important role than ever to play in future, Suma highlighted three key priorities and how the EBRD was approaching them: the need to respond faster and be more demand-driven, how to leverage more private sector finance (the gap between investment needs and investment flows in just the one field of sustainable infrastructure was already enormous) and how to work more closely together to leverage the strengths of the different MDBs.

He highlighted the need of governments as shareholders to understand and support ways to help the MDBs work as one system, with adequate resources, leveraging expertise from each other, acting more nimbly and raising more private finance.

Nilima Gulrajani described the key messages from her research on the relative strengths of the multilateral and bilateral aid systems (see her report "Bilateral versus multilateral aid channels: strategic choices for donors" at www.odi.org).

Lively debate focussed largely on the MDB system and the issues raised by Suma, on the need for strong leadership of multilateral institutions and the need for donors to be able to judge between multilateral and bilateral channels of assistance on the basis of the evidence available. Kevin

Andrews and Gwen Hines of DFID were not able to comment in detail on the Government's multilateral aid review as it had yet to be published (now available: see The Back Pages "Raising the standard: the multilateral development review 2016" at www.gov.uk) and there was limited focus on the EC and UN systems. Some participants thought this a suitable subject for a future seminar.

Simon Ray

DFID Alumni London Christmas Party



The 2016 London party was held at the on 13 December at the Marylebone Hotel. Despite a rail strike, members had an enjoyable evening with old friends.

The guest of honour was Clare Short, who was Secretary of State for International Development in 1997 to 2003. In her remarks, Clare congratulated those present on the high reputation of the Department and its predecessors among partner countries and development agencies around the world. Lord Malcolm Bruce also took part.

In his welcoming speech, Simon Ray told members about DFID Alumni plans and activities, including planned activities in Scotland and the US. He thanked our sponsors St James's Place Wealth Management and Oxford HR.



Simon thanked our Secretary John Stuppel and Treasurer John Burton for organising the draw for the 100 Club, which after prizes added £310 to the Association's funds.

Clare Short drew the winning tickets from the Christmas hat. The winners this time were:

1st – Janet Seeley (£130)

2nd – Graham Stegmann (£90)

3rd – Michael Mosselmans (£50)

3rd – Robert Stone (£50)

To join the 100 Club, please ask John Stuppel, who will be glad to explain how it works.



Financial seminar

St. James's Place Wealth Management are our sponsors. They organise events once a year exclusively for members of the DFID Alumni Association to share information about financial planning. The latest was on Wednesday 9 November. It included a visit to the Churchill War Rooms, Whitehall London.

UK-India Year of Culture

To mark the start of the UK-India year of culture 2017, the UK Parliament's Artwork of the Month depicts the reception of the first British diplomatic representative on the Indian subcontinent.

The painting shows the English politician and diplomat Sir Thomas Roe MP (1581-1644) being received by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir in 1616. Painted by the distinguished artist William Rothenstein (1872-1945), it was unveiled 90 years ago this year as part of The Building of Britain series in St Stephen's Hall. This programme of large mural paintings charts British history through eight important events painted by eight leading artists. Roe's reception at the Mughal court was chosen because the Jacobean diplomat succeeded 'by his courtesy and firmness at the Court of Ajmir in laying the foundation of British influence in India'.

- [View the painting](#)

Sir Thomas Roe's embassy

Roe was sent to India by King James I in 1614 to establish diplomatic relations with the Mughal Empire, which ruled over 70% of the subcontinent. The East India Company had recently established England's first presence in India with a factory at Surat. Roe's main task was to seek Jahangir's support for this venture and negotiate a treaty enabling further trade. By the end of his period as ambassador in 1618, Roe had secured English commercial access to Jahangir's dominions, though a formal treaty was never signed.

UK/India 2017

UK/India 2017 is a year-long programme that will mark the 70th anniversary of Indian independence by celebrating the historical and cultural ties between the UK and India. Throughout 2017, a series of cultural events and activities will take place in both countries.

- [Find out more on the British Council website](#)

This item is from the UK Parliament web site.

SPOTLIGHT

Jill Hanna returned to Mandalay, the house David Turner built in Lamu, Kenya

The UN Environment Assembly met in Nairobi in May 2016

After Nairobi and despite the advice of the European Commission's security staff and the Foreign Office I decided I couldn't say good bye to Kenya without going back to Lamu to try to find the house that David Turner, my last ODA boss, had built on a beach we had sailed to years before, after an earlier UNEP meeting.

Having been the recipient of an extraordinarily generous bequest under his will I wanted to make sure that his Kenyan property had been disposed of as he wanted.

In Lamu I stayed in a guesthouse in the middle of the World Heritage Site run by a Swedish couple in their late 70s who had arrived with the first wave of hippies and kept a foot on the island ever since.

Any trepidation I might have felt after the security advice evaporated as they welcomed me and assured me that nothing bad had ever happened in Lamu Town but only very occasionally and years ago in the surrounding islands.



Indeed trepidation was replaced by tranquillity as I wandered through the alleyways admiring the carved doors and answering questions from the children who were not a nuisance even though I seemed to be one of only four pale white obvious tourists in the whole place.

Then the mood turned to frustration as I realised that during my hurried packing in Brussels I had forgotten to pick up a copy of David's will which contained the names of the recipient and of the property.

However, even 6 years after his death it only took one conversation with the guide at the guest house to lead me to Somo, David's major domo and a visit to Mandalay, the traditional thatched roofed house David had had built on an idyllic beach on an island overlooking Lamu.





Somo was anxious to tell me that he had kept his promise to David and refused repeated offers of considerable sums for the land from a Nairobi-based owner of a hotel some 200 metres down the beach who wanted to buy all the land to a point the other side of Mandalay to create an exclusive resort with no access for the local families who picnicked there at weekends.

While David had kept four staff all the time and eight when in residence (even water had to be fetched from Lamu Town), Somo could only afford a single watchman whose job was to prevent the neighbours from encroaching. Fortunately I was able to make an arrangement with Somo which should ensure that the watchman remains on guard for years.

I had two fascinating evenings with Somo who told me about the annual dhow races that David had organised and the celebrations afterwards when two cows would be spit-roasted and 500 or so locals were invited to the party. There have been no dhow races since David's death although the traditional craft are still widely used.

He also told me how much he had enjoyed the NERDs who had come with David during his annual February visits and at other times. For those who are unaware of the Never Ever Really Drunk offshoot of the Natural Resources and Environment Department, suffice it to say that it was a venerable ODA institution born in the

desperate days of Mrs Thatcher's butchery of the aid programme.

To all old NERDs may I extend Somo's invitation to visit Mandalay though in fairness I must warn that there was a kidnapping from two houses down at the height of the Somali raids so I would suggest staying in Lamu and simply visiting in the day.

Jill Hanna

Jill Hanna shared this glad moment with us

In May I went to my last ever UNEP Environment Assembly which was memorable in itself since the Swiss were kind enough to hold a farewell dinner for me during which my Chinese colleague and friend took a short break from negotiating a Resolution on chemicals and wastes to make a lovely speech to his "mentor". I don't think that I have ever felt so proud in my professional life.

Eric Hanley: Living Through a New Zealand Earthquake

On the Pacific Ring of Fire, New Zealand is prone to earthquakes – about 20,000 a year, of which 250 are felt. The one in November 2016 was special – as big as any in the last century and the same size as the one that demolished Napier in 1931. At 7.8 it was much larger than the ones that severely damaged Christchurch in 2010/11 – the Richter Scale is logarithmic.

This was the third major quake I had experienced in my nine years in New Zealand, and by far the scariest. I live in a high-spec modern apartment building in the centre of Wellington. My building has base isolators – a Kiwi invention that are effectively springs on which the building sits. So in a quake it rocks like a jelly – alarming but safe.

This event went on much longer than others – most are over in 30 seconds, but this rumbled on for 90 seconds or more. Not only was the swaying more violent, but the noise too was much greater: creaking and groaning as the building swayed, but also banging and crashing as objects fell. Cupboards burst open and objects shot out across rooms, drawers flew out and deposited their contents over the floor, most of my books fell off their shelves and my fridge deposited its contents on the kitchen floor. All free-standing furniture is screwed to the wall – a standard practice, so it was mainly glassware and ornaments that were damaged – including a bottle of gin that I hope will do wonders for my carpet.

A glass wall panel cracked and various joins in the plaster board covering of walls split – all of them non-structural. Overall I got off lightly, as was predicted. New Zealand has long had an Earth Quake Commission that pays up to \$100k for structural damage and up to \$20k for effects as of right, whilst private insurance covers the rest. Already I have been inundated with emails about

Bushra Zulfiqar sent us his news and Christmas greetings

I had previously worked with DFID Pakistan as an Education Advisor. It was a wonderful experience. In July of 2016, I moved to Dhaka, Bangladesh as the Director for Education at Save the Children. New organisation, new posting in a new country and new set of opportunities! This move has been my highlight of the year.

Merry Xmas,

Bushra

how to make a claim. My building's Body Corporate will make a claim for all the building damage and it will be sorted in due course and I will learn if I have to make a top-up contribution.

The epicentre was at the north end of the South Island and the most badly affected town was Kaikoura, the centre of the whale-watching industry, which is a huge Maori business success story that has brought great prosperity to a previously depressed area. Whole mountainsides slid into the sea there, taking both the main road and railway with them. The town was initially completely cut off, though a military vehicle route has been opened. It will take months, if not years, to re-open the main road – there are lots of images online showing the scale of the slips. However, the economy is in good shape and Government's ability to borrow is high, so the long term effects are not likely to be severe.

Fortunately only one person died directly as a result of the quake, though hundreds of tourists were stranded in Kaikoura. Military helicopters and private hire planes took out many and a couple of days later Navy ships, including visiting foreign Navy ships, took off the rest. A bizarre note was struck by the fact that most people in the town had to eat mainly crayfish for days, as the loss of electricity meant the commercial catch could not be refrigerated....

There have been lots of after-shocks, many of them 5+ quakes in their own right. Scientists warn that there is a 40% chance of a 7+ scale quake in the next six months – some buildings in Christchurch were damaged soon afterwards by a 5.7 quake that was an after-shock of the 2011 event. We all remember that in the initial 2010 Christchurch quake nobody died, but the one that came five months later killed 186 people.

Wellington was the nearest large city to the epicentre and seemed to have escaped without significant damage. However, over time a more complex picture has emerged. An ugly 1970s office block near me, empty whilst awaiting strengthening, has structural faults and is being demolished. A multi-story car park, closed for a year after the last event has more damage and is likely to be demolished. The Statistics building, a new building on reclaimed land in the harbour has structural damage and will be shut for a year. Several of the modern Ministry buildings around mine are still closed whilst internal damage is investigated – they are not expected to be structurally damaged but we still do not know what has happened.

One thing that has puzzled a lot of people is that modern buildings appear to have suffered whereas historic and damage-prone structures did not – my daughter and family, in their 100 year old wooden house, did not have a single item that fell, for instance. One theory is that this

was an unusual quake that generated unexpectedly high pressures above the fifth floor of tall buildings – I am on the sixth floor, which may account for my higher level of damage.

Government has launched an official enquiry into how Wellington buildings performed - I will be most interested in the outcome. My building performed well, but I would like to know whether this was because of good design and superior build – or merely luck.....

As if the quake excitement was not enough, the next day a passing cold front deposited a month's rain in 6 hours, leading to land slips and flooding. As a result, both of the main roads out of the city

were closed for part of the day, effectively cutting us off from the rest of the country.

Quake, land slips, floods..... We are all wondering when we will be seeing the locusts..... Life can be exciting in the Shaky Isles. However, summer is coming and the tourist industry (which almost doubles the population over a year) is not expected to suffer much, apart from Kaikoura.

Most areas are not affected and the country really does look like the pictures. Furthermore, the Lonely Planet's titling of Wellington as The Coolest Little Capital In The World still rings true.....

Eric Hanley

John Cook

John Cook passed away on Sunday 11 December.

John's son Trevor wrote that he had been unwell for over a year and very unwell for the last couple of months. In true J Cook style, John decided that he'd had enough and took to his bed, where despite all efforts to get him up, he gently faded away.

What are they doing now?

Do you have a new role, interest or achievement?

Share it with fellow DFID Alumni.

Please send your news for the next edition of The Four Corners to Marc Taylor by 30 March: c.marc.taylor@gmail.com.

Trevor said, "Dad was a man of passions and for a long time the NERDs were one of them. Latterly he and Mum felt a bit too frail to join in the fun but NERDs continued to come up in conversation. Dad's was a life well and vigorously lived so although his departure at 87 is sad we have lots of good times to remember. Mum is taking things in her stride and is still as fit as a fiddle even if her memory has started playing tricks on her."

John's funeral took place at 12.15 pm on Tuesday 10 January at the West Chapel of Eltham Crematorium. It was be a celebration reflecting John's passion for life and his determination to make the best of every opportunity that presented itself. The family suggest a donation to Macmillan Cancer Support.

New Year's Honours

Congratulations to everyone whose work was recognised in the honours list.

KCB: Mark Lowcock

For outstanding Public Service

CB: Joy Hutcheon

For services to International Development

CBE: Chris Austin

For services to International Development

OBE: Natasha Mesko

For services to Humanitarian Relief

OBE: Keith Thompson

For services to Humanitarian Relief

Tony Gravenor

Our sympathy goes to John Stuppel, the Association's Secretary, who was Tony's partner for over twenty years. Tony died in his sleep on 28/29 October 2016, only a day after they had both enjoyed a month long cruise on the seas around, Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore.

Whilst Tony was only known to some of you through the Christmas and Summer Parties, John much appreciates all the kind thoughts and the support given to him over the last few months of 2016. Tony's funeral took place 21 November 2016 at Barham Crematorium, Kent.

Instead of flowers John asked that donations be made to the Wildlife Heritage Foundation to commemorate Tony's life. So if you wish to make a donation you can do so via their website: www.whf.org.uk.

OBE: Colum Wilson

For services to Humanitarian Relief

MBE: Kate Newton

For services to Emergency and Humanitarian Relief

MBE: Angela Cameron

For services to International Development Audit

MBE: Riffat Young

For services to International Emergency Response

BEM: Pat Slavin

For services to Human Resources

DFID ALUMNI IN SCOTLAND

Message from Jackie Creighton, Helen Darling and Isobel Doig

Introduction

As most of you will know, Helen and Isobel were elected to the Alumni Committee in the Summer, and thus have joined Jackie as the "Scottish Contingent".

Again most folk will know two of us (Jackie and Isobel) from both London and AH, so a brief word about Helen. She hails from Goa, worked for the UN, DFID (India) and is now with Edinburgh City Council.

What we would like to do is gauge your interest in participating in Alumni events and following up a few ideas for next year and beyond, which are outlined below; and, at the same time invite you to offer your own suggestions.

The list is by no means exhaustive; nor is it definitive; indeed we would very much value your input.

- Bellahouston Park - Charles Rennie Mackintosh's House - for an Art Lover
- Scottish Parliament
- Palace of Holyroodhouse and/or The Queen's Gallery
- Arbroath Abbey and/or Sea Safari - for the **really** Adventurous
- Stirling Castle
- Dundee V&A (Scheduled to Open in 2018)
- Organised visits to National Trust Properties- Although most venues are open all the year round, April - September is probably best for anything outdoor.

- Or just a simple get together in the AH Bar - or a suitable venue in Glasgow for a blether and a cuppa - or something stronger! Jackie is back again in late February and is keen for an informal gathering of DFID folks to renew auld acquaintances.
- In addition, Isobel is a Member of Historic Scotland and in addition to receiving an Annual Guide and the Quarterly Magazine, she gets Monthly updates on forthcoming events. Isobel is more than happy to share this with you on a regular basis, if you so wish. She cannot guarantee to negotiate discounts, but nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Action

A sub group "Scotland Membership" has been created on the web site. This will facilitate follow-up communications. Members who wish to be included in this sub group should contact Isobel Doig by email: isobelmdoig@gmail.com by Tuesday 31 January.

The Chequers Group

No, this is not a reference to the Prime Minister's country residence in Buckinghamshire but to a group of ex Colonial Office, DTC, ODM and DFID staff. Started by Ernie Barnes when he retired in 1986, members of the group meet for an informal lunch three times a year.

Over the last 30 years the make-up of the group has inevitably changed as some, such as Ian Buist, pass away, and others, such as Simon Ray, join on their retirement.

Until last year the group met at the Chequers pub in Tadworth, Surrey but at the start of 2016 it has started to meet at the Grosvenor Hotel at Victoria



Station, where Simon Ray took the photo on 2 December. Can you name all those present?

If you would like more details of the group contact Nigel Hoult (nhoult@btinternet.com)

Nigel Hoult

Your Committee

The members of the Committee are:

Simon Ray Chairman
John Burton Treasurer
Jackie Creighton
Helen Darling (elected at 2016 AGM)
Isobel Doig (elected at 2016 AGM)
Jim Drummond
Janet Grimshaw
Kathy Marshall
Amisha Patel
John Stuppel Secretary
Marc Taylor Editor of The Four Corners

The next Committee meeting will be in March.

Our web site is www.dfid-alumni.org

Follow us on Twitter: @DFID_Alumni

Our Facebook page is @dfidaa.

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New Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews set out UK's vision for global development that will tackle the challenges of the 21st century

The UK will champion an open, modern and innovative approach to development that will effectively tackle the global challenges of the 21st century while delivering the best results for the world's poorest which is in our national interest, said the International Development Secretary Priti Patel when she launched two reviews on 1 December 2016. She announced them in a [Statement to Parliament](#).

Raising the standard: The Multilateral Development Review 2016 and Rising to the challenge of ending poverty: The Bilateral Development Review 2016 described how the UK plans to address the global response to problems that threaten us here at home such as the migration crisis, cross-border conflict, climate change and disease pandemics.

In the reviews, the International Development Secretary made clear that Britain's aid contribution is an investment in our future security and national interest.

In an extensive and detailed look at the UK bilateral and multilateral development systems, the reviews confirmed the geographic regions of focus for the UK, which multilateral organisations the Department for International Development (DFID) will work with, and the tools that will be used to maximise our impact as we tackle poverty across the globe.

The reviews highlighted best practice in the global development system, as well as examples of poor performance that will face urgent action. The UK is clear in its demand for high performance across the board and will maintain pressure on multilateral organisations and NGOs to ensure results, value for money, transparency and accountability.

Ms Patel said:

From leading the international response to the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone to getting lifesaving humanitarian aid to millions of people in Syria, UK aid supported by the British public has had an incredible impact on helping the world's poorest people.

But the global approach to development needs to adapt and reform to keep pace with our rapidly changing world. As a world-leader, the UK will be at the forefront of these efforts: promoting pioneering investment in the most challenging and fragile countries, making greater use of cutting-edge technology, and sharing skills from the best of British institutions from the NHS to our great universities.

Improving the way the UK delivers aid along with our multilateral partners is vital to deliver the best results in fighting poverty and value for taxpayers' money. Global Britain is outward looking and we will use our aid budget to help build a more stable, more secure, and more prosperous world for us all: this is not only the right thing to do – it is firmly in our interests.

Bilateral Development Review 2016

The Bilateral Development Review 2016 focuses on how the UK can deliver the best results on the ground for the world's poorest people.

[Rising to the challenge of ending poverty: the Bilateral Development Review 2016 PDF, 2.1MB, 60 pages](#)

These are some of the features of the Bilateral Development Review.

- The UK is calling for further transparency and even stronger measures on value for money, for both the UK and its NGO partners. The international aid system as a whole must become more effective, transparent and accountable to the poorest people in the world, and to taxpayers.
- The UK's bilateral development programmes will focus on security, migration, people with disabilities, health, and ending the reprehensible practices of modern slavery and child exploitation. The UK will ensure these priority areas are consistently considered in all areas of work.
- The UK will tackle the major global challenges of the 21st century by strengthening global health security, creating job opportunities and making the best use of technology and research. As set out in the UK's Aid Strategy, 50% of DFID's spending will go to fragile states and regions, including in the Middle East and Africa.

In the foreword, the International Development Secretary sets out how the UK will continue to speak out against outrages in Syria and harness the spirit of urgency and impact that the UK showed during the Ebola crisis and apply it to the even greater task of eradicating extreme poverty.

Multilateral Development Review 2016

Britain's support to multilateral development agencies will build on work which in 2014 immunised 56 million children in some of the world's poorest countries, helped 10.4 million young people living through humanitarian emergencies to access education and provided access to clean water for 27.8 million people.

[Raising the standard: the Multilateral Development Review 2016 PDF, 2.04MB, 48 pages](#)

Key features of the Multilateral Development Review include the following.

- By encouraging multilateral agencies to collaborate, the UK has helped secure significant results while ensuring value for money. For example, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, worked with UNICEF to order vaccines in bulk, which has saved around £900 million over the past 5 years. Gavi's UK-backed vaccine programmes saved the lives of more than 4 million children between 2011 and 2015.
- Reviewing the multilateral system has real impact. For example, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was put into special measures after the 2011 Multilateral Aid Review. Since then, they have modernised their management structure and delivered over US\$100 million of efficiency savings between 2011 and 2015 and their performance is ranked as 'good' in this year's review.
- The UK government expects and insists that every penny of taxpayers' money is spent in an efficient, transparent and demonstrably effective way. DFID is therefore introducing improvement plans for poor performing agencies.

UK aid spend will continue to be reviewed and partners will be held to account to make sure the international development system is delivering the best results for the world's poorest and the best value for the UK taxpayer.

Prime Minister's statement on issues discussed at the December European Council: migration, security, Syria and the UK's intention to leave the EU.

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP gave this statement on 19 December.

With permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to make a statement on last week's European Council.

Both the UK and the rest of the EU are preparing for the negotiations that will begin when we trigger Article 50 before the end of March next year. But the main focus of this Council was rightly on how we can work together to address some of the most pressing challenges that we face. These include responding to the migration crisis; strengthening Europe's security; and helping to alleviate the suffering in Syria. As I have said, for as long as the UK is a member of the EU, we will continue to play our full part. And that is what this Council showed, with the UK making a significant contribution on each of these issues.

Migration

First, migration. From the outset, the UK has pushed for a comprehensive approach that focuses on the root causes of migration as the best way to reduce the number of people coming to Europe. I have called for more action in source and transit countries to disrupt the smuggling networks, to improve local capacity to control borders and to support sustainable livelihoods, both for people living there and for refugees. I have also said that we must better distinguish between economic migrants and refugees, swiftly returning those who have no right to remain and thereby sending out a deterrence message to others thinking of embarking on perilous journeys. The Council agreed to action in all these areas – and the UK remains fully committed to playing our part.

We have already provided training to the Libyan coastguard. The Royal Navy is providing practical support in the Mediterranean and Aegean. And we will also deploy 40 additional specialist staff to the Greek islands to accelerate the processing of claims, particularly from Iraqi, Afghan and Eritrean nationals, and to help return those who have no right to stay. But ultimately, we do need a long term, sustainable approach. For that is the best way to retain the consent of our people to provide support and sanctuary to those most in need.

Security and defence

Turning to security and defence, whether it is deterring Russian aggression, countering terrorism or fighting

organised crime, the UK remains firmly committed to the security of our European neighbours. That is true now. And it will remain true once we have left the EU. At this Council we welcomed the commitment from all member states to take greater responsibility for their security, to invest more resources and to develop more capabilities. That is the right approach. And, as the Council made clear, it should be done in a way that complements rather than duplicates NATO. A stronger EU and a stronger NATO can be mutually reinforcing – and this should be our aim. We must never lose sight of the fact that NATO will always be the bedrock of our collective defence in Europe and we must never allow anything to undermine it. Mr Speaker, we also agreed at the Council to renew Tier 3 economic sanctions on Russia for another 6 months, maintaining the pressure on Russia to implement the Minsk agreements in full.

Syria

Turning to the appalling situation in Syria, Mr Speaker, we have all seen the devastating pictures on our TV screens and heard heart-breaking stories of families struggling to get to safety. At this Council, we heard directly from the Mayor of Eastern Aleppo – a brave and courageous man who has already witnessed his city brought to rubble, his neighbours murdered, and children's lives destroyed. He had one simple plea for us – to get those that have survived through years of conflict, torture and fear to safety. Together with our European partners, we must do all we can to help.

The Council was unequivocal in its condemnation of President Assad and his backers – Russia and Iran – who must bear the responsibility for the tragedy in Aleppo. They must now allow the UN to evacuate safely the innocent people of Aleppo – Syrians who President Assad claims to represent. We have seen some progress in recent days but a few busloads is not enough when there are thousands more that must be rescued. And we cannot have these buses attacked in the way we have seen.

On Thursday afternoon my Right Hon Friend the Foreign Secretary summoned the Russian and Iranian Ambassadors to make clear that we expect them to help. Over the weekend, the UK has been working with our international partners to secure agreement on a UN Security Council Resolution that would send in UN officials to monitor the evacuation of civilians and provide unfettered humanitarian access. This has been agreed unanimously this afternoon and we now need it to be implemented in full. Mr Speaker, President Assad may be congratulating his regime forces on their actions in Aleppo, but we are in no doubt. This is no victory, it is a tragedy. One we will not forget. And last week's Council reiterated that those responsible must be held to account.

Mr Speaker, alongside our diplomatic efforts, the UK is going to provide a further £20 million of practical support for those who are most vulnerable. This includes £10 million for trusted humanitarian partners, working on the frontline in some of the hardest to reach places in Syria, to help them deliver food parcels and medical supplies to those most in need. And an additional £10 million to UNICEF to help them provide life-saving aid supplies for Syrian refugees now massing at the Jordanian border. As the Mayor of Aleppo has said, it is sadly too late to save all those that have been lost, but it is not too late to save those who remain. That is what we must now do.

Brexit

Mr Speaker, turning to Brexit, I updated the Council on the UK's plans for leaving the European Union. I explained that 2 weeks ago this House voted by a considerable majority – almost 6 to 1 – to support the government by delivering the referendum result and invoking Article 50 before the end of March. The UK's Supreme Court is expected to rule next month on whether the government requires parliamentary legislation in order to do this. I am clear that the government will respect the verdict of our independent judiciary. But I am equally clear that whichever way the judgement goes, we will meet the timetable I have set out. At the Council, I also reaffirmed my commitment to a smooth and orderly exit – and in this spirit, I made it clear to the other EU leaders that it remains my objective that we give reassurance early on in the negotiations to EU citizens living in the UK, and UK citizens living in EU countries, that their right to stay where they have made their homes will be protected by our withdrawal. This is an issue which I would like to agree quickly but clearly that requires the agreement of the rest of the EU.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I welcomed the subsequent short discussion between the 27 other leaders on their own plans for the UK's withdrawal. My aim is to cement the UK as a close partner of the EU once we have left. As I have said before, I want the deal we negotiate to reflect the kind of mature, co-operative relationship that close friends and allies enjoy. A deal that will give our companies the maximum freedom to trade with and operate in the European market – and allow European businesses to do the same here. A deal that will deliver the deepest possible co-operation to ensure our national security and the security of our allies. But a deal that will mean when it comes to decisions about our national interest, such as how we control immigration, we can make these decisions for ourselves. And a deal that will mean our laws are once again made in Britain, not in Brussels.

With a calm and measured approach, this government will honour the will of the British people and secure the right deal that will make a success of Brexit, for the UK, for the EU and for the world.

How DFID expects to work with suppliers

On Monday 19 December the Secretary of State for International Development appeared before the International Development Committee (IDC) where she outlined the importance of driving the very best value for money for every pound of British taxpayers' money that we are spending.

Priti Patel said the Department will undertake a review of supplier practices and codes of conduct to ensure DFID holds suppliers to the highest standards.

She said during her session:

“When it comes to contractors and suppliers of DFID, what I want to see is an end to what I consider to be extensive profiteering...and that is where we need to ensure we are introducing new standards but having greater transparency, and that is why I want to look at our approach to contracting and our approach to transparency, demonstrating that due diligence is taking place through every single stage of the contracting process.”

The review of supplier practices will:

- Look into the ethical practices of suppliers and DFID's dealings with them
- Establish how to broaden the supply base to include a wider selection of businesses (including small and medium-sized enterprises)
- Set out how to accelerate a move to more open book contracting, delivering better value for money and greater transparency
- Draw on independent expertise from the private sector and across government to ensure DFID learns from commercial best practice.

Ongoing procurement and contracts in progress

Ongoing work on contracts, contract extensions and contract amendments should be progressed as normal. Given the recent procurement pause, Procurement and Commercial Department (PCD) has a backlog and will be prioritising procurements for processing in the coming weeks.

New external procurement from 3 January.

The Secretary of State issued a letter to all suppliers <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about/procurement> setting out how they need to improve along with some immediate changes to DFID's supplier practices. New external procurement activity restarted from Tuesday 3 January on this basis.

Here is an extract from the letter.

In the coming months we will be increasing our scrutiny of supplier spending, with a particular focus on:

- Full transparency of how DFID funds are spent, including ensuring fair, reasonable rewards and profits.
- Open book breakdown of salaries, expenses, profit margins, facilities, materials and rates within tenders.
- Comprehensive Supplier Governance regarding management of sub-contractors and supply chain partners.
- Supplier compliance to DFID's Code of Conduct; Statement of Priorities and Expectations.
- Demonstration of due diligence processes undertaken in connection with contractual supply chains.

- Introducing mandatory provision of full supply chain map at bidding stage and contract award/amendment.

Moreover we will be immediately strengthening a number of safeguards for all current and future procurement exercises, including:

- Greater scrutiny and detailed breakdown of fees and expenses.
- Declaration of UK tax status and compliance to all tax requirements.
- Governance arrangements including who in your organisation is responsible for any breaches in DFID's Statement of Priorities and Expectations.
- Enhanced disclosure of relationships and conflicts of interest with DFID staff.

Other requirements relate to security, to the use of confidential information, and to whistle-blowing in case suppliers become aware of fraud, unethical behaviour or breach of confidentiality.