

The Four Corners

The quarterly Alumni Association newsletter



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EDITORIAL



Message from the chairman

Dramatic events unfolding round the world, reflected in this latest newsletter, highlight once again the complex interaction of political, economic and social factors that make promotion of long-term sustainable development such a complex challenge.

Development agencies can never stay still. Yet in the constant need to review and revise strategies and instruments, sight should not be lost of the lessons of past experience and the importance of acting on the basis of evidence of what works.

These issues are themselves a subject of lively debate, to which a number of you are contributing. I hope the Alumni Association can continue to provide a link between those with past experience and those responsible for dealing with today's programmes.

I expect the forthcoming debate on security sector reform to be very stimulating and invite members' suggestions for future seminars on topical development issues.

Welcome also to our new members who may have fresh comments and suggestions for our future programme. .

Thank you to our contributors and to Marc for bringing the newsletter together.

With best wishes

Simon Ray

NEWS IN BRIEF

Defeating Ebola conference



On 2 October DFID and the Foreign Office co-hosted a conference in London that brought together more than 20 governments, a dozen charities and NGOs, the UN, World Bank, health experts and the private sector to pledge funds, equipment and health workers for Sierra Leone. A full list of pledges can be found on Gov.UK.

West Africa is facing an unprecedented outbreak of Ebola and at the request of the Government of Sierra Leone Britain is coordinating the international mission to control, contain and ultimately defeat Ebola in Sierra Leone. [WHO](#) has confirmed that over 3,000 people have already died from Ebola and without immediate action the US Centers for Disease Control predict that the number of cases could reach 1.4 million people by the end of January 2015.

The UK government has already committed [£125 million](#). This includes supporting 700 treatment beds to help up to 8,800 patients over six months as well as shoring up the country's stretched public health services to help contain the disease. The Secretary of State announced how Britain is taking further steps to reduce the spread of Ebola across Sierra Leone.

Post-2015 goals: an overarching HMG priority at the UN General Assembly



DFID announced that the Prime Minister led a major push for simple, inspiring and relevant post-2015 goals, with a specific goal on honest and responsive government. He co-hosted a flagship event with President Mahama of Ghana and Transparency International, and was joined by the Secretary of State, youth and business representatives, Mexico and UNDP.



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DFID IN JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2014

July

- World Bank reforms
- Understanding Risk Forum
- Secretary of State speech on child marriage
- Beyond aid: development priorities from 2015
- DFID's annual report and accounts
- Alan Duncan's resignation as Minister of State
- Desmond Swayne's appointment as Minister of State
- Sustainable development goals report published
- The Girl Summit 2014

August

- "One HMG": DFID India joined the High Commission
- UN Watercourses Convention
- Global research programme on women & child health
- Emergency research call to combat Ebola
- Assistance for refugees in Iraq
- Funding finder launched on GOV.UK

September

- Secretary of State's visit to Iraq
- EU Development and Humanitarian Commissioners
- DFID won Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply award
- Secretary of State at UN General Assembly
- New Climate Economy report launched
- UN Summit on Climate Change
- DFID announces partnership with Unilever
- Post-2015 goals at UN General Assembly.
- UK terror threat raised to "severe"

There will be a cross-Whitehall effort, including through country offices and Embassies, to convince other Member States and the Secretary-General that the new goals must be inspiring and workable, focused on poverty eradication, and include goals on peace and governance.

Minister of State in Jordan and Lebanon

Reinforcing the UK's commitment to their security and stability

The Minister of State for International Development Desmond Swayne visited Jordan and Lebanon in September.



In Jordan he met with the Prime Minister, the Minister for Municipal Affairs, the Minister for Education, and the Minister for Planning and International Cooperation.

He visited UK funded projects at Zaatari refugee camp and UK interventions to support Jordanian host communities in the Zaatari and Mansheyeh areas. He also visited a UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) camp.

Before his departure, the Minister of State said:

"I'd like to pay tribute to the generous hospitality that Jordan has extended to refugees fleeing Syria. I can assure you all, that the British people and the British Government stand with the Jordanian people and their Government with a shared determination to address these challenges and support Jordan in the face of current regional instability and insecurity".

The UK has provided around \$240 million in support to Jordan since the start of the Syrian crisis to help meet the challenges of hosting large refugee communities and to support Jordan's development and growth.

Lebanon

During his visit the Minister met with the Prime Minister, the Education Minister and the Social Affairs Minister where he reiterated the UK's continued support and commitment to Lebanon's security and stability. He visited a UNHCR registration centre in Beirut where he saw first-hand the impact of UK funded operations in delivering humanitarian aid to refugees in Lebanon. He also discussed the UK-funded municipalities Host Communities Programme which UNDP is implementing.

The Minister of State said: "I am glad to be in Lebanon to see for myself the front-line of Lebanese generosity towards refugees. The UK will continue its support to Lebanon and has set out longer term development interventions that will help Lebanese host communities and refugees. I'm glad to have been able to reiterate to the Lebanese government and Lebanese people the UK's commitment to supporting Lebanon's security, stability and humanitarian efforts in dealing with the Syria crisis. I call on international donors to deliver concrete commitments at the UN General Assembly meeting scheduled to take place this month."

The UK already provided over \$250 million since the start of the Syrian crisis and will continue to help Lebanon and the Lebanese people. The UK continues to be at the forefront of education, giving tens of thousands of students an opportunity and a sense of hope for the future. The UK has spent £17.4 million so far in support of Lebanon's education sector.



The BEAM exchange: building effective and accessible markets

New community for market systems development launched

DFID announced that Building effective and accessible markets (BEAM) is at the heart of its strategy to support economic development and sustained poverty reduction. September saw the launch of a BEAM exchange.

BEAM is a one-stop shop for knowledge sharing and learning about market systems approaches to development programming. Co-funded by DFID and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the BEAM exchange offers a lively and engaged forum, access to the latest research and evidence, as well as practical guidance to support implementation.

[Better functioning market systems have the potential to transform the lives of the poor](#)

They can mean access to fairer-priced goods and services of better quality, and more economic opportunities. By understanding and working with the incentives that shape the market system, market-based approaches contribute to change that is scaleable and sustainable.

Whilst there is a growing convergence around the importance, principles and characteristics of systemic approaches (also referred to as M4P), more work is needed to build the evidence on impact, increase confidence in our monitoring and evaluation systems and be able to demonstrate that longer term, and sustainable change, is good value for money.

[Resources to support programme design, implementation and evaluation](#)

The BEAM exchange aims to improve and expand the way that market system approaches are developed and applied. The exchange will provide resources to support programme design, implementation and evaluation that will improve the effectiveness of programmes that seek to support systemic change.

DFID has a growing market systems development portfolio of more than 40 programmes, with a value of over £650 million. Across the department, teams are also looking to apply these approaches to new areas, including the delivery of health and education services to low income households and to better understand how to reach excluded groups.

New Climate Economy report launched ahead of UN Summit

Economic growth and action on climate change can be achieved together

Ahead of the UN Secretary General's Climate Summit, a major report on the economic opportunities arising from climate change was published on Monday 15 September by the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate.

The report emphasised there is no need to choose between economic growth and tackling climate change - countries at all income levels can do both at the same time.

[Building momentum ahead of the 2015 deadline](#)

The UK was one of seven countries that commissioned the report in 2013 and the Commission was chaired by former Mexican President Felipe Calderon, and advised by Lord Stern. It seeks to build momentum for action on climate change ahead of the 2015 deadline for achieving a global climate agreement, emulating the impact achieved by the Stern Review in 2006.

The report makes clear that the next 15 years will be critical. The global economy will undergo a profound structural transformation characterised by rapid growth, technological advances and increasing urbanisation. Without strong action average warming will exceed the 2 degree level the international community has agreed not to cross, with extreme and potentially irreversible impacts.

[Future economic growth does not have to follow the previous high-carbon model](#)

There are major opportunities to achieve strong growth with lower emissions in three key sectors: Cities; Land use; and Energy. To achieve this growth, governments and businesses need to improve resource efficiency, invest in good-quality infrastructure, and stimulate technological and business innovation.

The report fits in well with the UK government's vision to eradicate poverty and transform economies by helping poorer countries exit poverty through economic development. It provides strong evidence that climate change will make it more difficult to maintain high growth over the long term and that even in the short term, climate and economic objectives are mutually reinforcing. The most effective policies and investments will be ones that encourage

inclusive, broad-based economic growth and are founded on sustainable and more efficient use of natural resources. The report's findings fit well also with the objectives of the International Climate Fund, which is investing to support both economic growth and reduce the risks of climate change by helping developing countries to seize opportunities to adapt, take up low carbon development and tackle deforestation.

Girl Summit 2014



On Tuesday 22 July, the UK Government and UNICEF co-hosted Girl Summit 2014. The aim was to help rally a global movement to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) for all girls everywhere within a generation.

Over 700 people attended the event from over 50 countries. Participants included civil society, faith representatives, government ministers, private sector, survivors and young people. Planning for the Summit was led by a team from across DFID, working closely with Home Office, UNICEF and Nike Foundation, who helped fund the event.

The combining of the international and the domestic was a critical component of the event, and the UK Government announced a wide-ranging package of commitments to tackle FGM and CEFM in the UK and overseas. The Summit had three main objectives:

- sharing what works;
- learning; and
- celebrating success.

Over 70 speakers from governments, communities and professional groups came together to share examples of good practice - and over 20 organisations and researchers signed a commitment to work together to advance the evidence base.

Agreeing an agenda for change: securing commitment to action

The Charter outlined an agenda for change and has been agreed by more than 450 signatories to date, including 36 governments.

Over 140 governments, organisations and individuals have made commitments to new actions. These include a commitment by the Government of Ethiopia to eliminate FGM and CEFM by 2025, and by the Government of Nepal to end child marriage by 2020. Work is starting on developing the framework to monitor these commitments and ensure they are implemented. 290 faith representatives in the UK signed an inter-faith declaration condemning FGM.

Engaging people and inspiring a generation to declare support to end CEFM and FGM

The social media campaign has generated almost 12,400 online pledges to end CEFM and FGM, and more than 130,000 social media posts - creating close to one billion chances to see Girl Summit messages. The campaign included the world's first Instagram documentary (viewed 126,000 times) and satellite events in Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, India and Guinea-Bissau.



EU Development and Humanitarian Commissioners announced

In September, the EU Commission President-elect Jean-Claude Juncker announced Neven Mimica (from Croatia) and Christos Stylianides (from Cyprus) as his nominees for Commissioner for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid respectively. They will be confirmed as commissioners subject to formal hearings with the European Parliament. The nominees will assume control of the world's third largest aid budget after the UK. The Commission is one of the UK's most important multilateral partners.

Secretary of State's visit to Iraq

Witnessing the impact of DFID's urgent Iraq response and announcing further UK humanitarian support were among the highlights of the Secretary of State's visit in September week to Baghdad and Erbil.

The visit saw the Secretary of State meet Iraqi President Fuad Masum, Iraqi Prime Minister Designate Haidar al-Abadi and Iraqi Speaker Salim al-Jibouri to underline the UK's calls for the creation of a genuinely inclusive Iraqi government and signal Britain's determination to assist the Iraqi people during the current crisis.

Bakhara transit camp



On her visit to Erbil, she saw the Bakhara transit camp where thousands are staying in UK-supported UNHCR shelters and met ordinary Iraqis displaced by the fighting, humanitarian workers with Handicap International and UN

agencies, and the new UN Deputy Coordinator Kevin Kennedy.

She also met Catholic and Orthodox bishops to understand the impact of the conflict on Christians in particular and visited Erbil airport where UK-branded tents, water filtration kits and cook sets had arrived earlier in the day on DFID's eighth humanitarian cargo flight.

Additional £10 million of emergency humanitarian relief

She also held meetings with Kurdistan Region President Masoud Barzani and Cabinet members of the regional government including Deputy Prime Minister Quabad Talabani. She was accompanied on the trip by the new FCO minister for the Middle East [Tobias Ellwood](#). During the visit to Bakhara camp she announced an additional £10 million of emergency humanitarian relief, bringing the total UK support for those displaced in Iraq to £23 million.

Global research programme: women's and children's health

The first research call under the global research partnership programme (GRP) went live in August on the [Medical Research Council's website](#). The purpose of this first joint call with the [Medical Research Council](#) and the [Department of Biotechnology](#) in India was to fund global health research projects which will bring together researchers from the UK, India and low income countries (LICs).

It aims to fund work which addresses the health needs of the most disadvantaged populations globally. The scope of the call is research proposals that address major health needs of women and children in low resource settings, with a focus on issues relating to one, or combinations of, the following topics: Maternal, new born and child health (including women's and girl's sexual health); Nutrition; Infectious diseases (e.g. malaria).

The programme will fund high quality biomedical and health research and focus on translational and implementation science of relevance to low income countries, such as:

- Development and testing of health interventions, including clinical trials (early and later phases)
- Prevention, diagnosis, management and treatment of health problems
- Biomedical, nutritional, public health, behavioural, structural, community, health services and health systems interventions
- Operational and implementation science research to deliver health interventions, leading to better knowledge and understanding of service integration
- Population health sciences, clinical studies and epidemiological research which will provide data needed to conduct future interventions development work.

The global research partnership programme

GRP is a collaborative research programme in partnership with UK and Indian Research Councils and supported by DFID.

Use of evidence e-learning launched

A training package on the use of evidence went live in August. A set of interactive online training modules was launched on the Civil Service learning website. It prepares staff to determine why it is important to use evidence and how to do it effectively. The self-guided course allows them to tailor the material to suit learning needs. The package consists of five core modules.

1. Use of evidence in DFID
2. Accessing evidence
3. Research types, methods and design
4. Assessing the quality of evidence
5. Evaluation.

Economist conference

What stops economic development and what can we do to start it?



DFID reports that the 2014 economist conference, held in London at the start of September, focused on big themes in economic development: How our focus countries have arrived where they are in the global economy, and how they might progress from here.

The conference covered various types of 'trap' – geography based, technology and learning based, political-institutional including hard to spot macroeconomic-institutional traps.

The three aims of the conference were to:

- Develop economists' technical skills and knowledge to apply to our work – mainly via presentations and discussions with very senior external speakers
- Discuss corporate priorities and how economics can contribute towards them – through discussions led by two Director Generals and the Chief Economist
- Improve sharing and learning from insights gained across teams – this was achieved very directly through market place and learning spill over sessions to share experience, and indirectly by enabling networking across the cadre.

EVENTS

Book launch of

International Aid and the Making of a Better World – Reflexive Practice,

by Rosalind Eyben

(Routledge Rethinking Development series, 2014)

20 DFID Alumni and three members of DFID staff took part in a stimulating discussion of Rosalind's book at DFID, 22 Whitehall, on 16th September.

Bob Ainscow, former Deputy Secretary in the Overseas Development Administration, introduced Rosalind Eyben to the meeting, as having joined ODA when there were only a few Social Development Advisers – their numbers having grown rapidly during the 1990s when Rosalind became Chief Social Development Adviser.

Rosalind described *International Aid and the Making of a Better World – Reflexive Practice* as “a partial, personal and political history of international aid”, drawing on her experiences of what was happening in international development. Against the backdrop of the big picture, or broad sweep of the contested ideals and politics of aid operations from the 1960s to the present day, the book provides a critical examination of her experiences and behaviour in order to explore what happens when trying to improve people's lives in other countries.

Reflecting on her journey from a childhood in a communist household, she said that her starting point as an ‘aid wife’, married to a Belgian WFP official working in Zambia, Zaire (DRC) and Benin was ‘partial’ in that she was initially at the margins. This changed in 1977 when she began to discover the significance of the interaction between private and professional experiences through working as a development consultant in Sudan.

In the book she contrasts her personal history with the big picture of what was happening in the wider world, identifying the end of colonialism

DFID Alumni Association Seminar, 14:00, 16th October 2014, room K 1.1, DFID London

Security Sector Support in Sierra Leone: The Key Success Factors and Wider Aid Implications.

Seminar Objectives

1. To identify the key factors in British support to the Sierra Leone Security Sector that made the programmes a comparative success.
2. To draw out lessons from Sierra Leone experience for their application more widely in programmes of Security Sector support and reform.
3. To underline the importance of Security Sector Reform as the vital underpinning of all aspects of development.

Speakers

Keith Biddle: Retired British Deputy Chief Constable and Assistant Inspector of Constabulary, who was Inspector-General of the Sierra Leone Police for four years from 1999 to 2003. Since then, he has been an international police consultant.

Brigadier (Retd.) Patrick Davidson–Houston: Previously Joint Force Commander Operation SILKMAN (2001-02), Commander of the International Military Advisory & Training Team (IMATT) (2001 -03) and Military Adviser to the Government of Sierra Leone (2001 -03). He is now a Senior Security & Justice Adviser/Function Manager in the UK Stabilisation Unit

Dr Brian Jones: Head of the British International Security Advisory Team (ISAT) in Sierra Leone, on secondment from the Ministry of Defence.

Freddy Carver: A Senior Governance and Conflict Adviser in DFID, Head of the Security and Justice Group in the MOD/FCO/DFID Stabilisation Unit.

General The Lord Richards: Chief of Defence Staff from 2010 until he retired in July 2013. As a Brigadier in 1999/2000, David Richards planned and initiated the first British military involvement in Sierra Leone - “Operation Palliser”.

The Seminar will be chaired by Simon Ray, the Chairman of the DFID Alumni Association

and the rise of the women's movement as two key defining moments. She explained that her book also charts the experiences of four anonymous fellow travellers, who started working in development at roughly the same time and followed more or less similar journeys. She included their experiences in her analysis in order to trace how progressive thinking on poverty, gender and participation became mainstream concepts in the 1990s.

The parallel life histories approach to international aid in this study is used to demonstrate 'reflexive practice' – a particular kind of reflexivity that embraces how we understand ourselves and are understood in relation to others. Rosalind said she linked the personal to the systemic in the study in order to explain how her life history exposes the contradictions and dilemmas she encountered, and the choices she made in her professional life as an aid practitioner.

Giving the example of how society's notions of gender, race and class shape identity, Rosalind argued that if we do not question this, our behaviour reinforces the social arrangements that sustain inequality and social injustice.

She reflected on the experience of working in Spanish in Bolivia, an experience which lifted her out of a world of development ideas and aid delivery where the recipients had to do business in the language of the donor.

The presentation raised a number of different reactions from the audience. These included

- whether DFID's focus on spending more money meant less focus on developing relationships,
- whether one could ever really put oneself in another's shoes in order to understand their perspective,
- perceptions of DFID's role in a changing development landscape and
- whether staff can ever free themselves from the UK's colonial past,
- the tendency to avoid or ignore inconvenient truths and

- whether this book represents a personal fiction of historical narrative?

In conclusion, the comment that the book was thought provoking, but unsettling, was exactly the kind of reaction that the author welcomed.

Visit to Lords Cricket Ground

A group of DFID Alumni led by Jim Drummond visited Lords on 22 September.



PEOPLE

Abercrombie House office moves

With effect from Monday 6 October, Group Operations will relocate from the third floor east wing to the third floor south wing. This includes AH Post Room, Sustainable Facilities Management, Information Rights Team (Public Enquiry Point and Fol Team) and HR Operations.

HR will relocate from the third floor south wing to the third floor east wing. With effect from Monday 13 October, the Finance Operations team will move to the third floor south wing. With effect from Monday 10 November. Overseas Pensions Department will move to the third floor south wing.

Allan McNaught

Dr. Allan George McNaught died on 27th August 2014 in Portugal of Prostate Cancer. He will be sadly missed by family, friends and colleagues.

In memory of Moses Thompson

Mike McCarthy

I first met Moses in about 1991 when he came to Delhi to explain and teach ODA staff about the Logical Framework Approach.



Moses was an engaging man with a great personality. He loved new ideas and often had valuable observations and advice to offer. The scope of his interests seemed to be boundless, from solar panels the size of football pitches floating on the edges of space to essential oils for

New Members of the Association

Welcome our new members, who joined the DFID Alumni in July to September 2014

Madiha Ahmed,
John Barrett,
Yvan Biot,
Sandra Byford
Santosh Clare,
Charlie Edkins
Mahadev Hansda,
Jasmine Jahromi,
Sabir Khan,
Anthony Oyo,
Hema Pillai,
Abhijit Ray,
Andrew Roberts,
Amanda Seel,
Hilary Sunman,
Nicola Walsh,
Alan Winters.

use in cosmetics, not to mention his development interests. Always he brought fresh perspectives and a logical approach to the most complex problems.

His initial engagement with the LFA was instrumental in helping DFID think through projects in a logical way at all times keeping a focus on the objectives and goal. People will recall his style of teaching as being engaging and relaxed. Many will recall the magic tricks he did to wake everyone up when energy levels were depleted. He gave me 2 of these tricks - the false thumb, which he used to make a silk handkerchief disappear and reappear and perhaps his best one where he used a wooden block to change a fiver into a tenner. You'd never be poor if you had such a machine!

Moses was great company. On one occasion when he came to my house in Dhaka, around 11am on a Sunday morning for a coffee, he didn't leave until gone midnight. The day just passed without us realising. My teenaged kids loved

talking to him as did I and my wife and anyone else that passed by that day.

More recently, in Addis Ababa, Moses helped introduce the LFA and the results based approach to the African Union Commission. His job there, sadly, is unfinished. On each visit to Addis until I left, Moses either stayed with me or in an hotel - he liked posh hotels. We had a few boozy nights that left me bleary eyed the following day but somehow, Moses awoke bright eyed and bushy tailed even though he had to cope with US jet-lag.

His colleagues at the AU Commission are greatly saddened by his passing as am I and everyone else who knew him.



Moses sent me the two photos here, last Christmas. The one above includes his wife Holli. Moses has a daughter from his first marriage, who lives and works in the Middle East. He and his wife Holli have a younger, adopted son. He will be sadly missed.

In Memory of Denis Osborne

By Denis's neighbour Jeremy

Barbara and I plus 3 children under the age of 7 moved into Dulwich Village in 1984 to find ourselves on the opposite side of the road to Denis, Chris, Ruth and Sally. We saw this house where hordes of young people would turn up on a Sunday night to the Co f E youth group known as Goldrush, which Denis and Chris ran.

As I ran the youth group at another church, it was obvious we had something in common and it was not

long before our friendship with Denis and Chris began and our family lives became intertwined. Ruth and Sally acted as older sisters to our children and would come over to swim on a regular basis, as did Chris from time to time. In due course, when Denis and Chris went to Malawi, we had the privilege of acting as guardians for Ruth and Sally.

There is much I could say about Denis and his attributes. He was a highly intelligent and gifted man. He had a welcoming smile, a warm manner – and an infectious laugh. A good public speaker and a man to whom people turned for wise advice. He was an able Reader in the C of E and loved to read and write himself. He was able to see the comical side of life but remained deeply empathetic to people going through tough times. Our friendship has been a source of joy.

Denis and I each had a study at the front of our respective houses which meant that we could see the light in each other's study when working at night and as the children grew older and could be left for half an hour or so, Denis would sometimes ring at about 10pm and we would slot over for a chat and glass of the red stuff which Denis had taken to purchasing in crates from Eastenders in Calais. Barbara, Chris, Denis and I would talk about this and that, serious issues and trivia and share jokes and laughter.

We would pray over issues relating to our family lives, the outreach suppers, women's lunches and bible study groups we led in our respective houses and for people we encountered, both before and after we took a free transfer to the their church. One thing I am clear about is that Denis would rather we thought today about the Lord whom he served than himself.



When we saw Denis on the day before he died we reflected on the many ways in which God had used Him, sometimes triggering consequences that none of us could have foreseen - but all in the plans and purposes of God.

When Denis was in Ghana in 1963 he contracted testicular cancer and was treated with radioactive cobalt which can have an effect on reproductive fertility. He was warned that he might not be able to have children. A friend read him the following verse from the Bible: Jer. 29 v 11. *For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope*: an encouraging message.

When he met Chris and told her of this- a matter which could affect their future together, she read the verse in another translation, where the words *a future and a hope* read as *a long line of children after you*. Ruth and Sally and their children represent that; but so too do many others, because for some 60 years Denis and Chris together worked with children, teenagers and young adults. Goldrush was only part of a long line of youth work in which they were involved, including the annual SU camps in Lymington and more recently down here in Kent with the Archangels, in addition to his work in Universities round the world.

Denis had finger in many pies- actually he was usually there up to his elbows because he was nothing if not efficient and hard-working. There must be literally thousands of people whose lives he influenced when they were at a formative stage of life. In his work at the ODA/ DFID and as High Commissioner- in his advisory work on governance and anti- corruption and as a Reader in the C of E at all Souls, St B's and here, and through his work with LICC, he touched millions probably in ways he could not have known.

In 1963, the Lord had plans for Denis' next 51 years which Denis could not have expected. Many of the results of his service are obvious but when we thought back not on what we had done together in Dulwich but on the effect on our family, we realised that it was directly due to Denis and Chris that we had sent our children to the Lymington camps, that I became involved with LICC and, partly due to him, whether for good or ill, with the C of E.

The knock on effects on our own children's faith, on one of them finding a husband who is now an Asst Minister at work in Canary Wharf, on Mark Green's involvement in and the growth of the work of LICC

and on the unfortunate parish where I now serve as a Reader are not measurable. The Lord knew what He was doing – plans to do Denis good – to do good through Denis- plans for a future and a hope.

I asked Denis when I saw Him what he would be most concerned about leaving behind - Chris obviously - but as always He was clearly trusting God to take care of everything as he had known Him to do in His experience. Denis was always ready to give an answer to everyone who asked him to give a reason for the hope he had. Denis was a model of what John Stott used to refer to as "BBC"- Balanced Biblical Christianity. Christ in Him, the hope of glory- the hope of which he was not ashamed, the hope we share who will meet with him when Jesus comes again.

Graham Stegmann remembers Denis Osborne

Denis was my first boss in then ODM; he was himself a relatively new arrival from academia having to adapt the approach of a precise scientist to the demands of the civil service. He came with some years' experience of teaching in Africa and a heartfelt affection for her people, a warmth which he always retained.

It was very evident also in his energy and commitment when he worked on the humanitarian challenges in East Africa. I worked alongside him later in the mid 80s when Denis was appointed as High Commissioner in Malawi and I was head of the Development Division in Lilongwe. It was not an easy time for diplomats with a dictatorial President (Banda), tightly controlled media and restrictions on social contacts with officials. Although of course willing to contribute his views, Denis respected the boundaries with DevDiv, remaining a cooperative colleague to all of us.

Whilst conscious of his position in formal settings, informally he was relaxed and sociable. He and his wife took a real interest in the wellbeing of the whole community. They were great hosts and will be long remembered for their wide range of party games guaranteed to break any ice. Denis had always a strong sense of justice, of right and wrong, devoting a good deal of his time, including after retirement, to issues of governance.

A true family man, he will be sorely missed.

Chris Austin remembers Denis Osborne

Denis joined ODA in the late 70s/early 80s, after an academic career in Ghana and elsewhere in Africa. He was Head of East and West Africa Department during the Ethiopian famine of 84-85, and the rise of Live Aid. David Sands Smith will recall this well. In those days, "East and West Africa" was a department (now a Division); and the crisis was handled by a G7/Principal (now a Director). Grade creep? Rising ambition and political attention? - Good. Challenges for poor people in poor countries even tougher, despite all progress...

Denis was a bit of a trail blazer when he was appointed High Commissioner to Malawi - then the only front line state (next to Apartheid South Africa) we had a positive relationship with. I recall his valedictory telegram began "Banda Wins", though the President for Life was forced out shortly afterwards.

Denis was very kind to me during my first overseas posting, in my mid 20s. Though an invitation to spend the weekend at the Lake with his family involved seeing more High Commissioner than anticipated as he bounded up and down the beach in rather skimpy swimming trunks! After "retiring" from the civil service, Denis had a third career as a governance consultant - initially at RIPA and then independently. Always smiling, infectiously positive, Denis helped many many people directly and indirectly through his work.

YOUR COMMITTEE

The members of the Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting in June 2014 were:

Simon Ray	Chairman
Marc Taylor	Secretary
John Burton	Treasurer
Jackie Creighton	
Jim Drummond	
Janet Grimshaw	
Amisha Patel	

The draft minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting were circulated to the membership in July. The final version will be available in the library on dgroups.org shortly

The Committee meets next on 16 October.

Following discussion at the AGM they will be considering future funding and how to engage more with DFID on policy issues.

We will also be planning our programme for the next six months. Ideas and suggestions from members would be welcome."

[Dgroups.org](http://dgroups.org): new sub-communities

The Association's mailing lists on dgroups.org remain its main channel for communication to and among members.

Earlier this year, a number of members took part in a lively exchange of messages concerned with influencing thinking about the future of DFID. Comments focussed particularly on policy statements about the future of development beyond aid, development goals after 2015, and the effect on DFID of pursuing an expenditure target of 0.7% of national income.

Some members wanted to formulate their views in a way that can contribute to DFID's approach. To facilitate this, the Secretary Marc Taylor set up a sub-community on Dgroups.org called "Views, discussions and debates". If you would like to take part, please join this sub-community.

The Committee also aims to support the development of overseas chapters. One third of the membership is outside the UK. Marc Taylor has set up sub-communities/ mailing lists for members who are in or have an interest in different regions of the world.

So far, there are mailing lists for members in Africa, the Caribbean, South Asia and South East Asia. These mailing lists are intended to help you share news and views that may not be of interest to the whole membership.

The Secretary previously set up sub-communities for members in the London area and in Scotland. These have not attracted much interest.

A sub-community called "international Health and Research" has attracted a small number of members with a specialist interest.

If you would like to have a similar group set up around an interest you share with a few other members, please let the Secretary know.

Over 85 members joined a sub-community called "Your Next Job?". We encourage members to use this group as a way of passing on information about employment and consultancy opportunities.

Q&A to help members use DGroups are available in the library on Dgroups.org. The Q&A explain the purpose of the sub-communities.

If you prefer, you can also share news and views with @DFID_Alumni on Twitter.

Our public-facing web site is at www.dfid-alumni.org. If you know former colleagues who might like to join the Association, please encourage them to take a look at the background information there. The application form is available to download from the site. (The link is at "Join us" under "About us".)



CORRESPONDENCE COLUMN

No-one sent any correspondence to this edition,

PARTNER ASSOCIATIONS

The Chairman and Secretary are in touch with other Associations including those for the FCO, the British Council, CDC and World Bank about the possibility of shared events and activities.

Do you have links to another Association or organisation that might join with us in arranging activities of interest to DFID Alumni?

DIARY



16 October: Committee Meeting

16 October: Seminar on lessons from security sector reform in Sierra Leone

16 October: tour of Samuel Johnson's London

10 December: Christmas Party

Please remember to inform the association when your address, e-mail or phone number changes. The best way to do this is to e-mail alumni@dfid.gov.uk.

Don't forget – You can keep in touch with DFID by reading the staff blog at <http://blogs.dfid.gov.uk>



The Four Corners is YOUR newsletter. Please send articles for the next edition to marc-taylor@dfid.gov.uk by 29 December.

CONTACT

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