



# The Four Corners

The quarterly Alumni Association newsletter

Issue 37: September 2016

**EDITORIAL** | **NEWS IN BRIEF** | **DIARY** | **EVENTS** | **SPOTLIGHT** | **PEOPLE**

## EDITORIAL

Message from  
the chairman

Welcome to a new autumn edition  
of *The Four Corners*.

Since the formation of the new government we have had some indications about the future direction of British aid policy, most importantly on their commitment to the existing published aid strategy and to the continued role of DFID. We await however the government's policies and plans on multilateral and bilateral aid and on how they plan to support civil society. And we look forward to more clarity on what Brexit will mean for the UK's future role in foreign and international affairs. I hope the seminar which we have organised for 31 October on the role of the multilaterals will cast some new light and that we will have a good turnout. It will be a good opportunity to make your views known.

As mentioned in previous editions, we are keen to encourage regional chapters to meet, organise events and report to the full membership. We hope there will be a good response to the proposals for the US chapter and are grateful to Sandra Pepera for offering to lead this. Alumni in other parts of the world are encouraged to give us their news and ideas for future cooperation.

The Committee will be meeting in early November to discuss ideas for events in 2017. If you have suggestions please let us know. We are trying to shape a seminar around health issues, have in mind a discussion with those who have moved from DFID to work in the NGO sector and would welcome events based on the published writings or reflections of alumni. Give us your ideas!

Thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition. Please keep sending us your ideas and contributions for future editions. And thanks once again to Marc for putting this edition together.

Kind regards

*Simon Ray*



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### New Ministers

Following the referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union, Theresa May replaced David Cameron as Prime Minister of the UK. Mrs May appointed Priti Patel as Secretary of State for International Development, Rory Stewart as Minister of State and James Wharton as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State.

She appointed Boris Johnson as Foreign Secretary, with Sir Alan Duncan as Minister of State. She appointed Baroness Anelay of St Johns Minister of State for International Development in addition to her existing role as Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Biographical notes are on page 3.

## DIARY

### EVENTS AND MEETINGS

31 October – seminar on the future role of multilateral development agencies

9 November - St. James's Place financial planning presentation and visit to the Churchill War Rooms at Clive Steps, King Charles Street, London.

13 December - Christmas Gathering at Marylebone Hotel, 47 Welbeck Street, London from 6pm

Spring 2017 - seminar on Health Partnerships.

## Secretary of State at UNGA: humanitarian crisis in Yemen

On Wednesday 21 September the Secretary of State for International Development co-hosted a high-level meeting at the UN General Assembly to secure urgent action on the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. The event brought together Ministers from across the world and UN bodies to agree a step change in the humanitarian effort, and to raise new financial support for critical humanitarian supplies, such as food, water, shelter and nutrition. More than 80% of the country's population are now in need of help. Children are starving, millions are too poor to buy food, hospitals and schools are collapsing across the country, and disease is rife due to unclean water and poor sanitation. The UN committed to urgently deploying experienced humanitarian experts across Yemen and a new mechanism to gather feedback from Yemenis to ensure that aid is getting through effectively.

The Secretary of State announced an additional package of £37 million support to Yemen, which will bring the UK's total humanitarian funding for the crisis to £100 million this year. The Secretary of State said:

*"The humanitarian situation in Yemen is the forgotten crisis that demands action. 7 million people are in desperate need of food and the threat of famine remains. The international community must step up its response to match the seriousness of the challenges faced by people in Yemen. The UK has provided food, water, shelter and medical supplies for more than a million desperate people in Yemen and our new support will help even more. But the international response remains critically underfunded. I urge other countries to follow Britain's lead and make good on their commitments – only by working together we can help stem this disaster. We cannot and will not stand back in silence whilst innocent people are suffering from such a lack of basic provisions such as food and clean water."*

The Secretary of State also announced that the Education Cannot Wait Fund has committed \$15 million to efforts in Yemen, as part of initial investments to provide education to out of school children.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DFID IN JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2016

### July

- The Prime Minister Theresa May announced the appointment of a new Secretary of State and Ministers for International Development
- Secretary of State Priti Patel announced assistance for displaced people in Iraq

### August

- Secretary of State visited Jordan and Lebanon
- Secretary of State visited India
- Minister James Wharton visited Kenya

### September

- Minister James Wharton visited Nigeria
- Minister Rory Stewart visited Burma, Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan
- Secretary of State announced a pledge and performance targets for the Global Fund on AIDS
- Secretary of State gave evidence to the International Development Committee and wrote about her priorities in an article for the Daily Mail
- Prime Minister spoke at Refugee Summit in New York, and announced new refugee aid to Ethiopia
- UN declaration on antimicrobial resistance
- Secretary of State announced humanitarian support for Iraq
- Secretary of State announced humanitarian support for Yemen
- Secretary State announced a programme on Work and Opportunities for Women at UNGA
- Minister James Wharton visited Rwanda

## Who are DFID's new Ministers?

### Priti Patel



The Secretary of State for International Development is Priti Patel. She was Minister of State for Employment in 2015 to 2016. She has been MP for Witham in Essex since 2010.

Before she entered Parliament, Ms Patel was a lobbyist on behalf of tobacco and drinks companies at the public relations firm Weber Shandwick. She was previously a press officer for the Referendum Party and the Conservative Party. She campaigned to leave the EU.

She is married to Alex Sawyer, a marketing director. They have one son.

Justine Greening, the previous Secretary of State for International Development, is now Secretary of State for Education.

### Rory Stewart



Rory Stewart is Minister of State for International Development. He was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2015 to 2016. He was previously Chairman of the Defence Select Committee. He has been MP for Penrith in Cumbria since 2010.

Before entering Parliament, Mr Stewart was an academic specialist in human rights, having previously been the head of an NGO in Afghanistan, a traveller and writer and a diplomat in Indonesia, Montenegro and Iraq. He is married to Shoshana Clark, an American NGO executive. They have one son.

### James Wharton



The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development is James Wharton. He was previously Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and before that a member of the Public Accounts Committee.

He has been MP for Stockton South since 2010. Before he entered Parliament, Mr Wharton practised as a solicitor.

### Baroness Anelay



Baroness Anelay was appointed Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in August 2014. In July 2016 she was given additional responsibility as Spokesperson for the Department for International Development.

She has been a peer since 1996 and served as an Opposition Spokesperson for various departments until being appointed Opposition Chief Whip in 2007. She was the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict in June 2015. Before this she was Chief Whip in the House of Lords and Captain of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms. She was made a Privy Counsellor in 2009.

Baroness Anelay was a history teacher in 1969 to 1974 and a magistrate in 1985 to 1997. She was also associated with the Citizens Advice Bureau in Woking in 1976 to 2010. She is married to Richard Anelay QC.

## International Development Committee

The new Secretary of State appeared before the International Development Committee at the House of Commons on 14 September.

See the [Committee's web page](#) to

- watch the session on Parliament TV, or
- download a transcript.

stronger agenda out there right now and you will all be part of it. Working together with other departments is integral to implementing the Aid Strategy and the aid reviews.

- The third is to focus on tackling the great challenges of our time - poverty, disease, the causes of mass migration, security, creating opportunities for economic development and prosperity. You have already been working on economic prosperity and development, along with value for money and transparency, but there is a lot more to do in this space.

The Secretary of State mentioned two more important points:

The manifesto commitments the Government fought the election on a year ago still stand today.

Finally, the Secretary of State said she is following an incredible Secretary of State who has left very big shoes to fill.

## Secretary of State's message to staff on her appointment

On 19 July, soon after her appointment as Secretary of State for International Development, Priti Patel MP spoke to DFID staff.

The Secretary of State said she was thrilled to be at DFID and has already been inspired by the work they do around the world. Prior to being appointed as International Development Secretary, she had been a Minister at the Treasury and DWP. Before entering politics she worked for multinational companies in Africa and around the world.

Three priorities

- She said the first is to maintain DFID's budget, building on the good work DFID's staff are doing for the poorest around the world and making it even more relevant in a post EU referendum world. The UK will be more outward looking, with even more global reach and leverage, working with NGOs and other international organisations, like the UN and the World Bank.
- The second is to really embed cross-Whitehall working with DFID playing a bigger part in establishing the UK's new place in the world. The Whitehall landscape is changing pretty fundamentally with two new Secretaries of State on Trade and leaving the EU who are working on closely related issues. This is not new but there is a bigger and

## UK secures historic UN Declaration on antimicrobial resistance

On Wednesday 21 September the Secretary of State addressed the UNGA high level meeting on antimicrobial resistance, AMR. It is estimated that by 2050 AMR could be responsible for an extra 10 million premature deaths a year, more than cancer now.

The meeting unanimously adopted a political declaration, carefully negotiated over the preceding months, which commits all 193 signatory countries to:

- Develop surveillance and regulatory systems for humans and animals.
- Encourage innovative ways to develop new antibiotics, and improve rapid diagnostics.
- Raise awareness to educate health professionals and the public.

The Secretary of State said:

*“The UK will lead the way in the efforts needed to tackle this worldwide health threat. Global Britain has a proud record of helping to stop epidemics through the distribution of life saving medicine and we will support the global work needed to prevent the rise of drug resistant diseases.*

*“It is in our national interest to ensure we live in a world where security and prosperity are a right and responsibility for all. To ensure the dangers of drug resistance are met, we need a comprehensive approach from the whole UN system, from international governments and from the private sector. Disease knows no borders which is why the UK will be at the forefront of the international action needed to prevent its rise today and in the future.”*

### **The need for coordinated action**

As highlighted by the independent review on AMR, the resistance is a global problem which must be tackled through coordinated international action. The high level meeting marks the culmination of over a year of intense policy and diplomatic engagement and leadership from the UK. The G7 and G20 also focused on AMR this year, with G20 Leaders acknowledging at their Summit earlier this month that AMR was a threat to public health, growth and global economic stability. They agreed to take forward further work under Germany’s G20 presidency next year.

Behind the diplomatic achievements of the year there has also been programme and policy progress across Government. DFID’s input to the cross-Government response to the review highlighted in particular our contribution through our commitments on vaccines and WASH.

We are also contributing through our research programmes and through funding support to the Access to Medicine Foundation to create an “AMR index” to analyse and rank the efforts of the world’s largest pharmaceutical companies on AMR.

### **ICAI review: tackling tax avoidance and evasion**

The Independent Commission on Aid Impact has published a review of UK aid’s contribution to tackling tax avoidance and evasion. It is a ‘learning review’, recognising that learning on how to achieve results is at an early stage.

ICAI assessed the UK’s contribution to the G20-led tax reform agenda, exploring how well we have used its influence across government and internationally to help developing countries benefit from these standards. This is the first ICAI review of DFID’s approach to ‘policy coherence for development’. Its overall work was given an ‘amber-red’ rating.

The review recognises that the UK is a leading donor on tax. It notes that the UK has positioned itself well to help developing countries benefit from new international tax standards and build capacity.

It finds that we have made efficient use of limited advisory resources and combined influencing activities and aid programmes effectively. It notes that we have demonstrated good cross-government collaboration and achieved some positive early results. ICAI gave DFID a ‘green-amber’ score for effectiveness.

The review points to where it is too soon to see the evidence of impact. This includes whether other donors will meet their commitments on tax, and whether partner countries can implement new international standards and rules on tax. It describes our collaboration with HM Revenue and Customs on capacity building as a ‘promising model of collaboration’, and acknowledges that it will take time for other departments to take on new aid delivery roles effectively.

### **Consultation with partner countries**

The review concluded that DFID’s approach had not been based on sufficient consultation with partner countries. While the review did not directly assess our country-level tax programmes,



it explored the links between centrally managed initiatives and bilateral work.

It found that we have had limited influence over the content of international tax standards and has not pursued an active approach in promoting policy coherence on tax and development across government.

A DFID spokesperson said:

“International tax evasion is a menace that can hurt the world’s poorest and hold back developing economies... As ICAI rightly recognises, DFID has helped developing countries benefit from the new international tax standards and this has been underpinned by effective cross-government collaboration. The UK has a strong record of supporting and mentoring developing countries in this field and will continue to do so.”



## Getting women into work: new programme announced

On Thursday 22 August the Secretary of State for International Development Priti Patel announced a new partnership between the UK Government and British and international businesses that will help 300,000 women in the world’s poorest countries into more highly skilled and better paid jobs.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly the Secretary of State outlined that the new Work and Opportunities for Women (WOW) programme which will see the UK working with

businesses that have supply chains in the poorest countries, to tackle important issues like discrimination and violence in the workplace.

The new programme was announced at an event to launch the first report of the High Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment.

The Secretary of State said:

*Around the world women are held back, hidden away and discriminated against. It’s a tragic waste of human potential.*

*“That’s why a global Britain is driving real change by working with the private sector to ensure there are better job opportunities and improved working conditions for the world’s poorest and most marginalised women. “The UK will also use the UN’s High Level Panel report to deliver tangible change for these women.*

*“Giving women the opportunities they deserve will not only help them, it will also support the UK and global businesses. This is central to building a safer, more prosperous world, which is firmly in the UK’s national interest.”*

Over the next five years the new Work and Opportunities for Women programme will:

- Help 300,000 women get more productive jobs and higher incomes, with better working conditions. For example, working with clothing companies to incentivise garment factories to promote women into higher roles with more responsibility.
- Improve data on where women work in supply chains and identify barriers, which currently prevent women from being a part of the supply chain.

Businesses need these statistics to help women into better jobs with better pay as better data can help track results and progress. DFID and HMG economic development programmes will show improvements in results for women and contribute to the global evidence base.

## EVENTS

### DFID Alumni lunchtime discussion with Mark Lowcock, Permanent Secretary DFID,

22 September 2016

Mark met with alumni on 22 September. The discussion focussed on the findings of the Chilcot enquiry into UK involvement in the Iraq War and the lessons to be drawn and learnt from it.

Mark summarised the four main areas of criticism in the 17 volumes of the report: the premise for war (options not all exhausted, the (mis)use of intelligence, the legal basis); the machinery of government (options never properly discussed, evidence not used and presented); planning and post-conflict preparation (no plan on how to run the country after the military action, mistaken reliance on the US and too much on the UN); resources and equipment (inadequate provision compounded by separate action in Afghanistan in 2006, lack of staff and skills).

Alumni directly involved at the time gave their perspectives. A key challenge was of speaking truth to power in a situation where the commitment to proceed to war had already been taken at the highest level. Parallels were drawn with the UK's earlier intervention in the Balkans.



There was a view that more recent interventions for example in Afghanistan and Somalia had drawn on a better basis of evidence although the action in Libya had again drawn criticism about the lack of planning for when military action ended.

Discussion highlighted the need to draw on experts who had the knowledge and credibility to be influential in Whitehall discussion and planning, and to deploy such expertise quickly. Questions were raised on whether we could do more to invest in analysis on political economy, to nurture and build more local and in-house expertise with less reliance on outside advice, and to make sure that DFID's local hands-on experience was used to good effect; what DFID had to offer was well recognised by MOD.



There were lessons to be drawn on how we do reconstruction and the effectiveness of trust funds. The general view was however that positive lessons had been drawn since the Iraq invasion on the way the government worked across departments, closer interchange with MOD and speedier deployment of resources.

The question of how to protect civil servants from bullying and harassment when asked to provide required answers remained an important one; briefing needed to set a clear critique of options and risks.

This was a lively debate. The way in which Mark invited the views and advice of alumni was welcomed and reflected the constructive engagement between present and past DFID staff which we hope will continue to be reflected in future events.

*Simon Ray*

## Visit to the Freemasons' Hall

12 September



## DFID Alumni Association Seminar

Monday 31 October 2016

13.30 to 1500 at DFID (22 Whitehall, London)

### The future role of multilateral development agencies

With agreement on the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, debate has shifted to how these will be delivered and the role of multilateral agencies. DFID is conducting its own multilateral aid review, which will look at effectiveness, cooperation between multilateral bodies and how and where HMG can best invest in the multilateral system to achieve the greatest impact on the SDGs.

As we look ahead, it will be valuable to draw on the experience and expertise of those who are still working in the multilateral system, or have worked in it in the past. The seminar brings together alumni with DFID staff currently responsible for policy in this area.

Questions to be addressed: how have the original roles of multilaterals changed over time and in what evolving political context? What contribution have they made in delivering global development goals? What lessons can be drawn from experience for their future role in delivering the SDGs?

#### Agenda:

1. Opening presentations
2. Presentation by DFID on the Multilateral Aid Review and issues for the future.
3. Discussion
4. Conclusions

#### Keynote speech.

Sir Suma Chakrabarti (EBRD President and former DFID Permanent Secretary)

#### Other speakers.

Nick Dyer (Director General, Policy and Global Programmes, DFID))

Nilima Gulrajani (Research Fellow ODI) (tbc)

Chair (Myles Wickstead)

World Bank and FCO alumni will also be invited.





Janet Grimshaw organised this tour for members of the DFID Alumni Association.

Freemasons' Hall has been the centre of English freemasonry for 230 years. It is the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England, the oldest Grand Lodge in the world, and also the meeting place for over 1000 Masonic lodges. The building, which is listed Grade II\* was completed in 1933. The architects were H V Ashley and F Winton Newman. The interior of the building is richly decorated.

If you want to visit the Hall separately, the Library and Museum organises free tours of the Grand Temple and ceremonial areas. Freemasons' Hall is not open on the Saturday preceding a Monday public holiday, nor on Sundays, public holidays or the Christmas/ New Year period. Telephone +44 (0)20 7395 9257 a couple of days ahead to confirm that tours will be running on the day of your visit.

We met in Covent Garden and walked to the Freemasons' Hall which was a few minutes away. It was built between 1927-1932 as a memorial to the Freemasons who died in the First World War and is one of the finest Art Deco buildings in England.

At the end of the tour we visited the shop which provided gifts, stationery, postcards and souvenirs of the Freemasons' Hall many with unique designs.

Official publications, books, magazines and Craft and Arch regalia were also available. It offers items which can be personalised for individuals, lodges or chapters. An interesting tour in the heart of London. Good to see you all.

*Janet Grimshaw*



## Financial Seminar and visit to Churchill War Rooms on 9 November 2016

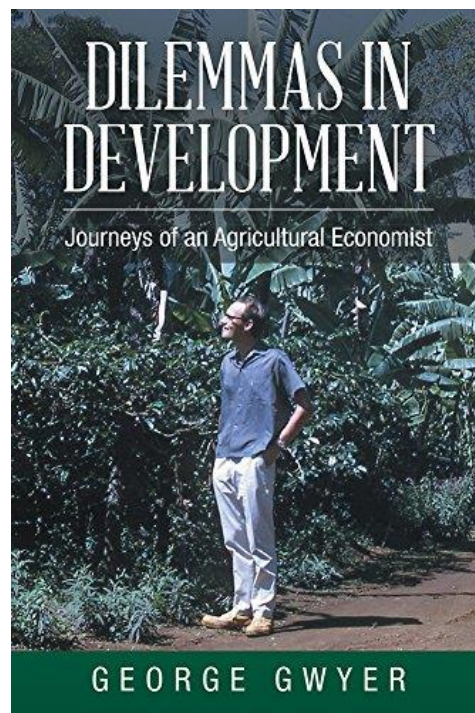
The DFID Alumni Association and Saint James's Place Wealth Management invite you to a presentation on Investment Planning hosted by Tim Henderson and Nic Uglow, specialists in Trusts and Estate Planning and Partners of St. James's Place Wealth Management.

The presentation will be held at the [Churchill War Rooms](#), London at 2.00pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to explore the bunkers of the War Rooms. The entrance is by Clive Steps leading down to Horse Guards Road at the end of King Charles Street.

This event is exclusively for members of the DFID Alumni Association and their guests. There will be no charge. We have offered this presentation to our members on other occasions, and it has always been very well received: the style is informal and relaxed and the subject matter has been found to be of particular interest. We have found that even if members already have a financial adviser, they have still found the day very enlightening and enjoyable.

This is always a popular event and numbers are limited, so we need to allocate places on a first-come first served basis. To book a place, or if you have any questions about the event, please contact Nicole Batchelor, the Seminar Coordinator, at [hwmevents@sjpp.co.uk](mailto:hwmevents@sjpp.co.uk) or call her on 01825 733355. You can find further information about Tim Henderson and Nic Uglow and the venue online at [www.hendersonwm.co.uk](http://www.hendersonwm.co.uk) or [www.nicuglow.co.uk](http://www.nicuglow.co.uk).

*We recognise that many of our members do not live near London so may not be able to attend the event. If this is the case, but you are interested in the services that St. James's Place Wealth Management offer, then please contact Nicole to arrange a consultation or check out their website: [www.sjp.co.uk](http://www.sjp.co.uk).*



### George Gwyer: Dilemmas in Development

The memoirs reviewed on page 12 are available on paper or on Kindle for £3.99. They describe George's life as an agricultural economist and as an aid manager in Africa, the Pacific, and the Caribbean. From dealing with sisal nationalisation and coffee diversification in Tanzania, he worked on rural employment creation in Kenya. In Indonesia, he instigated programmes for smallholder rubber and coconut replanting. In the Philippines, he focused on farmers forced onto hillsides.

As economic adviser in London, he was involved with farmer extension and agricultural credit schemes aimed at the rural poor in India. In Pakistan, he was concerned with irrigation schemes in Sind and Baluchistan. In the Caribbean, he played a role in sustaining the smallholder banana industry in the face of competition from Latin American producers. In Sudan, he confronted famine and civil war. While in Brussels, he engaged in political dialogue relating to post-conflict rehabilitation in Solomon Islands, Fiji, and Bougainville. In a concluding chapter, he reflects on the lessons of experience for outstanding development issues.

### Book review: three economists' memoirs

By Simon Maxwell

**Gordon Bridger**

*How I failed to save the World – or forty years of foreign aid*

AuthorHouse 2008

**James Winpenny**

*Economical Escapades: the life and times of a jobbing economist*

**George Gwyer**

*Dilemmas in Development: Journeys of an Agricultural Economist*

AuthorHouse 2016

Jim Winpenny observes towards the end of his book that Shakespeare was wrong to count only seven ages of man. There are actually eight, he says, the addition being 'consultancy', which merges seamlessly into senility. Many development practitioners will wince in recognition, though nowadays we call the consultancy stage a 'portfolio livelihood'.

Anyway, Winpenny needs to add a ninth stage: 'writing a memoir'. He has lived that experience, and so have two others, Gordon Bridger and George Gwyer. They all provide accounts of life as economists in the engine room of international development, mainly in the British aid administration, covering a period from the late 1950s to the mid-1980s in the British Government, with further periods of service elsewhere after that.

The three books usefully complement [Barrie Ireton's history of British aid](#), covering the period from 1964 onwards. I would like to say I have read Ireton's book, but have you seen what it costs? [Tim Lankester's book on Pergau](#) is

relevant, but also expensive (however, there is a great YouTube [video](#) of Lankester summarising the book in a lecture in Washington). By contrast, Bridger can be bought on Amazon for one penny and Gwyer from second hand book dealers for a tenner (*or on Kindle for £3.99*). To read Winpenny's book, I think you might have to write and ask him for a copy, or persuade him to put it online. All three, by the way, are self-published, Bridger and Gwyer through AuthorHouse, Winpenny on his own account.

Bridger was first out of the blocks in terms of career, beginning in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1957, working for the ECA in Addis and ECLA and FAO in Chile, before joining the UK's relatively new aid department in 1966. His perspectives on ODA, later DFID, range over nearly twenty years and are followed by further reflections on his work with the Crown Agents.

Winpenny was pretty well a contemporary in ODA/DFID, having worked briefly before that at the University of East Anglia. He went on to work in the private sector and at ODI, before turning to a 'portfolio livelihood'. He has a strong reputation on water and environment issues.

Gwyer taught at Wye College and worked in IDS Nairobi and for FAO in Indonesia, before joining ODA in 1977. He left also in the mid-1980s, for a new career in the European Commission, including two spells as EU Delegate, in the Pacific and the Caribbean.

There are some lessons to learn about writing memoirs, or at least features in common in these three readable and often amusing books: a chronological structure with a reflective chapter at the end; some local colour and tales of derring do; some (usually) affectionate portraits of colleagues; wry observations about the idiosyncrasies of national and international bureaucracy; and a careful balance between self-justification and self-deprecation. Gwyer's is the most substantive of the three books, somewhat



longer, better referenced, and benefiting from wider experience, especially in the European Commission.

There are many good stories in the books: surviving a revolution in Ethiopia (Bridger), sampling banana wine in Rwanda (Winpenny), Friday meetings with both the above in Eland House, then ODA's headquarters (Gwyer). For those of us steadily working our way through the ages of man, accounts of ODA/DFID in the 1970s and 1980s bring back many memories: seminars in Eland House with Bob Porter; Land Rover trips in the forest with Peter Stutley or Tony Peers; well-thumbed copies of Bridger and Winpenny's manual on project appraisal; folk memories of Dudley Seers and Judith Hart. There are many projects whose names still resonate: Winban (bananas in the Caribbean), IBFEP (fertilizer education in India), Mahaweli (irrigation in Sri Lanka). I expected to hear more about Mpika (rural development in Zambia) or, actually, Pergau.

Probably everyone will recognise the glamour and occasional terror of travel in those days, the potential for diplomatic gaffes, the tedium of international meetings, the sheer pleasure of working on real world problems in the field, the satisfaction when the lives of poor people actually improve. Perhaps not much has changed in those respects. There are also some issues of current concern.

First, it is notable that all three of these authors started as field workers in various ways, designed and supervised projects for part of their careers, and then gradually worked their way up to a more senior and rarefied position with less ostensible contact with the eventual clients or beneficiaries. I remember once sitting on a plane to Copenhagen, sandwiched between Phil Raikes and Robert Wade. Both had started their careers in rural development. They spent the whole flight discussing global capitalism and financial crises. That's fine as long as engagement with the poor

does not drop off the agenda and is suitably rewarded by agency incentives. This is a phenomenon Robert Chambers has written much about and has acted to tackle, for example persuading the World Bank to insist on village immersion for all officials. Do they still do that, I wonder? And do other agencies see the need?

Second, seniority also brings with it different kinds of responsibilities – more managerial, and usually more political. Gwyer writes interestingly about the difficult step up from being a technical specialist to an aid manager and agency representative. I wonder. How well do agencies equip their staff to make this transition?

Third, the world has changed and there have been shifts in the development agenda during the years covered by these books. Aid agencies have changed also, but perhaps some skills have been needlessly shed. The geographical focus has certainly shifted. Who, now, specialises in the development issues of the Pacific countries? And who in DFID, these days, knows how to apply the techniques of project appraisal? Yet, this knowledge and these skills may be useful in a world in which, for example, the debate on climate change is driven by Pacific countries like the Marshall Islands; or in which environmental externalities loom large. It is interesting that Winpenny was a pioneer of environmental analysis in development, though especially during his period at ODI.

There are other topics where a thread connects the present and the past. The shift to a poverty focus following the 1975 White Paper is one example, with many familiar issues about measurement and attribution. How to work in fragile states is another, though poorly governed or conflict-affected countries were not identified as such in earlier days. Humanitarian aid might be a third. Neither Bridger nor Winpenny has much to say about this, but Gwyer finds himself arranging local purchases of food for famine relief in Sudan in 1986, on behalf of the EU. Structural



adjustment and macro-economic policy might be a fourth. There is little discussion of structural adjustment per se in these books, or of debt relief, but the issues arise in other forms, for example in discussions of agricultural price policy, export price stabilisation or programme aid.

What is notable is that all three of these authors left the then ODA in the mid-1980s, Bridger for one victim of a reorganisation which arguably under-valued experience. Others were to follow, including the clear-out of infrastructure specialists during the Clare Short era from 1997. Only now are energy and infrastructure back on the agenda.

Fourth, and this is the think-tank veteran speaking, I was surprised by how little interaction any of the authors report having, during their time with the British Government, with Ministers or Parliament. Gwyer had more contact when he became an EU Delegate. However, I don't think any of the authors has much to say about manifestos or parliamentary enquiries, or, for that matter, NGO campaigns. Or the Daily Mail.

A similar point could be made about cross-Whitehall work, another topic very little discussed. I found myself wondering whether the hierarchical, sometimes senior common room-like atmosphere which appears to have characterised the lives of DFID advisers was healthy. And does it still apply? My sense is that DFID now recruits from quite a diverse pool, and that outside contacts are nurtured. Cross-Whitehall work has certainly grown in importance, for example on security or climate change. But is there policy on this? Are there metrics? And should there be more secondments?

Finally, it was striking that both Bridger and Winpenny are relatively little engaged, at least by their own accounts, in shaping international institutions. Mostly, they find themselves sitting

through interminable meetings, causing a certain amount of trouble, and then coming home.

Gwyer is in a different position, moving from ODA to the EU, and working to build the multilateral system. I'm not sure the Bridger/Winpenny account is complete, given the importance to the UK aid programme of the World Bank and the salience of debt relief during their time. The Mexico crisis, after all, was in 1982, and the Lawson Plan in 1984. Were these entirely in the hands of the Treasury? In any case, global governance is surely a prime concern of DFID officials today. At least, I hope it is.

If these points are correct, the past is not entirely another country, and they perhaps didn't do things quite as differently there as we sometimes think. What is certainly true is that aid officials in the old days, as represented by these three authors, were as committed, thoughtful and entertaining as their counterparts today. The threads to the past should be celebrated.

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Simon Maxwell was a TCO in Bolivia 1978-81 and was subsequently with IDS in Sussex and ODI in London. He now has a portfolio livelihood. See [www.simonmaxwell.eu](http://www.simonmaxwell.eu).

**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 29 December: [c.marc.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:c.marc.taylor@gmail.com).***

## PEOPLE



Dear All

Many thanks to all members who have been back in touch with Steve Jones – he's really appreciated the contact and support. Considering all he's been through he's doing pretty well. Very many thanks for your kind donations to the British Lung Foundation and your many words of support. We are pleased to report that we have now successfully completed the 186 miles!

In our opinion the Pembrokeshire Coastal Footpath is truly superb. We have had a really wonderful walk with many contrasts. Adding in some coastal weather and it became a really awesome experience!

We have now added a few photos of our journey to our website see <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Philip-Dearden>

If you have a minute do please take a look and enjoy! And finally do please tell others of the British Lung Foundation.

Very many thanks again

Phil and Judith Dearden

## New Members of the Association

We welcome our new members who joined the DFID Alumni in July to September 2016.

Joanna Macrae  
Neil Satchwell-Smith  
Barbara Payne  
Bhuvana Anand  
Joy Assey  
Sugandh Juneja  
Sudha Menon  
Mark Kennedy  
Ian Alexander  
Simon Maxwell  
Andy Galbraith  
George Gwyer  
Sebastian Meaney  
Sourmen Bagchi  
James Fulker  
Graham Teskey

## Vic Heard

Vic died in September. His funeral will take place on Monday 10th October 2016 at 1pm at the Chapel at Bandon Hill Cemetery, Plough Lane, Wallington, Surrey SM6 8JQ. Following the burial, the Reception / Wake will be held at Robin's Nest, War Memorial Sports Ground, Colston Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 2PW.

Floral tributes should be sent to W.A. Truelove & Son Ltd, 107-109 Stafford Road, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9AP by 10.30 am on the day. For those who wish to view the body before the funeral please ring W.A. Truelove on 020 8647 1032 to arrange a time. There will also be an opportunity to view the body at the funeral.

Many colleagues wrote to the DFID Alumni Association with their memories of Vic.

*I'm really sorry to inform you that Vic has lost his six year battle with cancer. He passed away peacefully and without pain on Saturday, surrounded by his wife and two children... He was a wonderful colleague, always so cheerful.*

*Carine Escoffier*

Sad news. Vic worked with me on the Tanzania programme at a time when Mrs Thatcher was desperate to cut aid to a government she saw as politically anathema; we responded by soaking up all the unused credits at the end of the financial year to keep the programme going! He was great fun to work with, I have the happiest memories of him.

Martyn Pennington

*This is very sad news, Vic was in Brussels when I was working on the Ukraine programme and he was a great support and good fun also. We did manage in a small way to get EU behind our work.*

*Peter Fortune*

I was sorry to hear this sad news. Our paths crossed at various times in DFID. Vic was always constructive, cheerful and a pleasure to work with. My condolences to his family.

Simon Ray

*This is very sad. Vic was one of life's good blokes. Always friendly and helpful and a pleasure to deal with. I'm sure his family and friends will miss him greatly.*

*Ron Fosker*

I am saddened at this news. Vic was sound, knowledgeable, cheerful and always seeking to

be helpful--one of those colleagues on whom one could rely. Please give my condolences to his family.

Michael McCulloch

*Yes indeed this is sad news. Vic was one of those who made the old Eland House crowd feel like a family and I am sure that he continued to do so as the Department's name and location changed. He didn't take life too seriously but he was devoted to development.*

*Jill Hanna*

Yes, Vic was one of the anchor people in ODA/DFID, and very sad to hear of his passing. Bright but unassuming, nothing too much trouble, with a great sense of humour, low key and often self-deprecating. Condolences to the family, a heavy loss.

Tony Faint

*I, too, was very sorry to get this news. I remember Vic from his time in the Procurement Unit of Finance Department where he was always a cheerful presence. Please pass on my condolences with those of others.*

*Margaret Cund*

I can only agree with the comments of others; I was very sorry to hear this news, and add my condolences. I completely share the warm sentiments and memories of others. Vic was always a pleasure to work with - hugely conscientious, very efficient and all that he did informed by a lovely, quiet sense of humour. A delightful colleague in every way.

Myles A Wickstead

*I agree too. I guess Vic was one of those colleagues that no-one had a bad word about. I can't improve on others' comments, but just want to add my condolences too. So sad he and his*

*family should have had to cope with a long struggle with cancer.*

*Richard Manning*

I remember happier days in SEADD with Vic and family – days in the field and New Year in Chiang Mai. He was a great colleague and travelling companion. My deepest sympathy goes to his family over their loss after what must have been a very difficult time.

*Andrew Bennett*

*Vic was reliably professional and a pleasure to have as a colleague. This is sad news indeed for his family and all who knew him.*

*David Stanton*

As with others, I want to add my condolences - Vic was one of the first people I met after joining DFID and was a lovely person to know and work with.

*Phil Marker*

### **Dave Trotter**

Dave Trotter, who was in Abercrombie House for many years - mainly in Pensions and also Personnel Services Executive - passed away in September.

Dave's funeral was on Friday 23 September 2016 at South Lanarkshire Crematorium. His wife Janice said that donations to Cancer Research would be appreciated.

*Sad news indeed. As well as a much respected member of senior management at AH following dispersal, Dave was an enthusiastic member of the EKODA cricket team.*

*Jim McClymont*

### **Rita Nielson**

Rita Nielson passed away in August after a double heart attack. Rita was the face of ODA/DFID at the Reception Desk in the various London offices. Before that she was a Messenger. She also served in the Health and Population Department under David Nabarro. Rita's husband Bob and son James invited DFID colleagues to the funeral service on Friday 2 September at Eltham Crematorium.

*I remember Rita well as the welcoming face of ODA/DFID. Whenever I would return when living abroad, even after considerable gaps, she would always greet me personally with a smile and welcoming remark.*

*This perhaps more than almost anything else made me feel that this was an organisation to which I belonged. How different things were when she moved on and was replaced by a changing cast without such corporate memory. I hope the fact that she is fondly remembered by so many will be a comfort to those she leaves behind.*

*Paul Ackroyd*

Yes Paul, I couldn't have put it better. Rita was a warm hearted, lovely lady that I always wanted to have a few words with on my way in or out of the office. Rita is part of my DFID memory.

*Mike McCulloch*

*Rita was a breath of fresh air, with a warm touch. She remembered those of us who had been former HPD colleagues (and many others too) even when we had been away for a long time. She was direct, sincere, and good humoured. This must be a time of great sadness for her family and close friends. My thoughts are with them.*

*Jenny Amery*

Like so many others, I have lovely memories of Rita. She was a witty, warm and welcoming person who didn't take authority too seriously -- a human spirit in the sometimes overly formal



institution of ODA and early DFID. Please send my condolences to the family, too.

Bob Grose

*In her “front of house” role, as with other roles she took on during her long career with ODA/DFID, Rita had the capacity to make everyone feel welcome – I agree wholeheartedly with Paul. A great woman!*

Fiona Duby

I remember Rita’s courtesy and welcome – whenever I returned to DFID well after I had left – as if I had only just popped out for a short while...

Mukesh Kapila

*Rita was my first contact when I joined DFID (and found that my security clearance application had been shredded, so I had to exist on day passes for my first couple of months....) She had immense warmth and personality, and will be a great loss.*

Alison Girdwood

Only the good die young. I have such warm memories of Rita, a shining light in HPD. She brightened my days and made me smile as I struggled to get used to the bureaucratic confines of the Victoria Street corridors in 1992 after the freedom of being in the then Regional office in Malawi for 4 years and covering 6 countries. And what cheery warm greetings when I used to come to the Palace Street office for meetings. My condolences to her family.

Stephanie Simmonds

*I too remember Rita very well from my days in the 1990s working in Health and Population Department under David Nabarro. She was down to earth, funny, supportive and very welcoming. I remember always being pleasantly surprised that*

*she remembered me and greeted me like an old friend after I had been away for long periods and also when I had left DFID and she was working on reception in Palace Street. As others have said, she was a breath of fresh air and good humour.*

Jackie Mundy

I am also saddened to hear about Rita who was always a friendly face and made ODA and then DFID a more human place. Her recognition and warm welcome made a real difference to me and many others. She will be missed.

Jeremy Clarke

### Charles Agnew

Charles, who was among other things Head of IT at DFID, passed away at the end of July. His funeral was on Friday 12 August at the South Lanarkshire Crematorium, Blantyre, Glasgow.

His wife, Sarah and son, Craig suggest friends may like to make a donation to UNICEF – via this [memorial page](#) for Charles.

DFID’s Permanent Secretary Mark Lowcock wrote to staff:

*I am still reeling from the awful shock of Charles Agnew’s sudden death. Like many of you, I am pleased to have an opportunity to go and celebrate Charles’ life and his many achievements at the funeral in Blantyre on Friday.*

*He really was an exceptional person. The best leader we have had for the Business Solutions Department in my time in DFID (or ODA). But more than that a supporter, mentor and especially a friend for many colleagues, in particular, but certainly not only, in Abercrombie House.*

*One of the ways in which we can recognise and value his contribution is by continuing everything he set in train.*



## Prime Minister announced how the UK is tackling drivers of mass migration with new humanitarian funding to help address poverty, insecurity and conflict.

Speaking at President Obama's Refugee Summit in New York, the Prime Minister demonstrated how the UK is leading the international response to mass migration crises around the world by making a series of new commitments including:

- increasing UK humanitarian financing by more than £660 million in 2016/17 to over £1.5 billion
- £2.5 million seed funding for a new global fund to resettle refugees
- UK support for a jobs compact with Ethiopia to create 100,000 new jobs for Ethiopians and refugees

The provision of over £1.5 billion in humanitarian finance marks more than a 10% increase on last year's commitment and secures the UK's place as the second largest bilateral humanitarian donor in the world.

The UK's investments will help to protect the world's most vulnerable people, including those persecuted by Daesh brutality in the Middle East. It includes new funding to support refugees in Uganda, Kenya, in the Sahel and Mediterranean regions, and additional support for refugees and displaced persons in Afghanistan.

The support also maintains the UK as one of the biggest humanitarian donors to Syria crisis. To date British support has delivered life-saving support of almost 22 million food rations, over 4.4 million medical consultations; and shelter for over 476,000 people.

International Development Secretary Priti Patel said:

*I am clear that the only viable long-term response to the migration crisis is to address its root causes – conflict, disease, poverty and a lack of opportunities. If we do not tackle these issues which are forcing people from their homes then we will not reduce mass migration.*

*Britain has been at the forefront of the response to the migration crisis. We are the second-largest*

*humanitarian donor in the world and are pioneering a new approach to prolonged crises.*

*By investing in jobs and education, giving refugees the opportunity to build a meaningful life close to where they come from, we will reduce the risks of people being caught up in mass migration, conflict or radicalisation.*

*We will continue to use our strong reputation on development around the world to shape a global humanitarian system fit for the 21st century that delivers for people in need and for our national interest.*

The UK led the way at the recent World Humanitarian Summit to secure agreement to a 'Grand Bargain' between the 15 largest donors and 15 aid agencies on more efficient humanitarian financing. Commitments include greater support for local and national responders, greater transparency on where funding is being spent, improving collaboration between humanitarian and development agencies, such as the private sector, and increasing collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding.

The UK will also contribute an initial £2.5 million to a new Emerging Countries Joint Support Resettlement Fund which is being led by the International Organisation for Migration in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The fund will facilitate the transfer of thousands of vulnerable refugees from places where their needs cannot be properly met to new resettlement countries, including places in Eastern Europe and Latin America. It will ensure that refugees are identified and resettled in a safe, dignified and orderly manner, reducing the need for dangerous onwards journeys.

As well as helping with the physical resettlement process the fund will support countries to develop the legislative and policy frameworks necessary for successful resettlement and integration of refugees.

The UK is also providing new support for a jobs compact with Ethiopia – the largest refugee hosting nation in Africa. The compact, agreed with the Government of Ethiopia, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the EU, will receive £80 million of UK support and support industrialisation in Ethiopia creating 100,000 new jobs for Ethiopians and refugees.

This builds on the success of the innovative approach pioneered by the UK at the London Syria conference

earlier this year, which saw a deal agreed with Jordan to create jobs for refugees and Jordanians.

This ensured that support for those affected by the Syria conflict went beyond providing for their basic needs by giving them the opportunity of a livelihood close to home, as well as boosting economic development and prosperity— all of which are in the UK's interests.

The UK is the first to commit support for this idea in Ethiopia and the main partner for the Government of Ethiopia in developing the concept.

#### Notes:

£1.5 billion is the Department for International Development's humanitarian financing in 2016/17 through the international humanitarian system. It includes funding already announced and over £660 million of new funding, to be spent this financial year.

This humanitarian funding will include new support for:

- people affected by conflict in South Sudan, CAR and Nigeria
- response to the effects of El Nino in eastern and southern Africa (including Lesotho, Mozambique, Zimbabwe)
- refugees and migrants in the Mediterranean region
- refugees in Uganda, Kenya, and the Sahel region
- refugees affected by the Syria conflict and neighbouring countries hosting refugees such as Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey
- refugees and internally displaced people in Afghanistan
- people affected by conflict and natural disasters in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Burma

The UK's ongoing work in Ethiopia is:

- putting 2.5 million children through primary school
- helping nearly 3 million pregnant women and children get the right nutrition
- providing 300,000 people with access to clean drinking water

Britain's longer-term support for Ethiopia has already helped millions of families to build their resilience to extreme weather events, as well as supporting basic services for the poorest; promoting job creation to drive economic development, particularly for women; tackling female genital mutilation and childhood marriage and boosting people's nutrition.

#### **Theresa May spoke at the Leaders Summit on Refugees in New York where she announced more funding for humanitarian support.**

*I would like to add my voice to the other speakers who have thanked you, President Obama, for putting refugees at the heart of your final General Assembly as president.*

*This is an urgent matter. More people are displaced than at any point in modern history. And it is a global matter, with conflict and displaced people on every continent. It's a matter for which we all have a responsibility, both to provide life-saving assistance and enable people to return home one day. And we need to do more, and more effectively.*

*So today I want to set out how I believe we need to step up our efforts, announcing more UK support and more from other countries.*

*First, we need to increase our financial assistance for refugees. Less than half of this year's UN Global Appeal has been met. Just \$8 billion of the \$21 billion required. As the world's second largest bilateral humanitarian donor, the UK has played a leading role in helping to meet this huge need. And today, I'm announcing that we will continue to show this leadership, providing almost \$2 billion in humanitarian support this year, an increase of more than 10% on last year.*

*Second, with an increasing number of protracted crises and millions now displaced for years, we need a more enduring response. We must ensure refugees can live with dignity and self-sufficiency, as close as possible to their home countries, to deter them from making dangerous onward journeys, and to enable them eventually to return home and rebuild. That means helping host countries to provide education and employment opportunities. One example is the Education Cannot Wait fund, to which the UK has pledged \$39 million, which will provide quality education to 13 million children in conflict countries over the next 5 years.*

*And building on the approach of the London Syria conference, I am pleased to join the government of Ethiopia, the World Bank, the EIB, and the EU in announcing a new jobs compact, to which the UK is contributing \$104 million. As the president of Ethiopia said, as part of this, the government of Ethiopia will now allow refugees to work outside of camps, benefitting from some of the 100,000 jobs that will be created. It is a model for how we can support host*



*countries create jobs for their own people and refugees - a mutually beneficial solution and one we must replicate.*

*Finally, we need to ensure that the most vulnerable refugees are supported and, if necessary, resettled where their needs can best be met. The UK has committed to resettling 20,000 of the most vulnerable people, including children affected by the Syria crisis. And in order to support new countries seeking to create resettlement programmes, I'm announcing an initial \$3.25million contribution to the UN and IOM emerging countries resettlement fund. And I encourage other countries to support this scheme.*

*As President Obama said this year on World Refugee Day, the need for the world to respond to this unimaginable suffering is beyond question, so we must continue our efforts to end the conflicts, persecution, and human rights abuses that are at its root. And we must provide not only more support, but also be more joined up, efficient and effective at delivering this to refugees and host communities. There are millions relying on us to do so.*

*On behalf of the London Syria conference co-hosts Germany, Kuwait, Norway, the UK, and the UN, I want to restate our commitment to ending the crisis in Syria. The situation in Syria is deeply troubling. The 5-year-old political and humanitarian disaster affects everybody's interests: Syrians, Syria's neighbours, the region, and Europe. We clearly recognise the need to end the civil war. We've supported sustained US efforts to reach an agreement that restores a cessation of hostilities and allows unrestricted humanitarian access in Syria.*

*Events in the last few days, especially the outrageous attack on a humanitarian convoy in Aleppo, are a reminder of what is at stake. There can be no military solution to the conflict in Syria, so we must all put our weight behind efforts in New York to agree a ceasefire and reopen space UN-led negotiations, leading to real political transition away from Assad to a new, inclusive government that governs for all Syrians.*

*Only that transition can finally put an end to the horrific slaughter, siege and starvation of the last 5 years, which has brought untold misery and suffering to the Syrian people. And while we continue to work toward this aim, the provision of humanitarian aid remains vital. The regime in Damascus must now deliver on its obligations to allow aid unrestricted into Syria, and I call on Russia to use all its influence to ensure this happens.*

*At the conference in February we raised over \$12 billion dollars for Syria and the region - the largest amount ever pledged to a single humanitarian crisis in one day. We signed ambitious statements with refugee hosting countries to help them expand job and education opportunities and to cope with the impact on local services. And we agreed on the need to accelerate stabilisation planning. We've made some good progress. Out of \$6 billion pledged for this year, the international community has delivered \$4.7 billion, much of which has provided life-saving aid to those in desperate conditions inside Syria.*

*Lebanon has developed a plan to get all children into education. And in Turkey, more than 300,000 Syrian refugee children are now in school. And we strongly support the new measures in Jordan to give Syrians the right to work. But there is much more to do to meet our commitments, especially as the conflict drags on.*

*First, we must honour our financial pledges. While progress has been good, the scale of need is still higher and we must find even more funding.*

*Second, we must back up Lebanon's, Jordan's, and Turkey's plans for quality education for all refugee and host-community children by releasing the money they need to deliver.*

*And third, we must help create the jobs needed for Syrian refugees and host-communities alike by accelerating progress on concessional finance and mobilising the private sector.*

*The Syria conference was a significant step forward in meeting the huge needs of those affected by the conflict, and there will be detailed discussions tomorrow on practical steps to accelerate progress on our commitments. It is vital that donors, host countries, UN agencies, NGOs, business and civil society continue to work together to fully address and ultimately end this misery and suffering.*

*This article first appeared in the Daily Mail on 14 September*

## **Too much of YOUR money is simply stolen or squandered**

**By Priti Patel, Secretary of State for International Development**

The aid budget isn't my money, or the Government's money. It's taxpayers' money – your money. We politicians have a duty to spend it well, in ways that not only help the

world's poorest, but also help us here at home. When people see aid being used properly, they support it. The British people are incredibly generous – just look at our response to Comic Relief or the support that has been given to the Disasters Emergency Committee over the years.

The people of Britain have helped to halve global deaths from malaria in just 15 years – saving six million lives. And I've seen for myself the incredible impact of the UK's support for Syrian refugees and the fight against Ebola. And at its best, the global aid system does fantastic, life-saving work – for example through the global funds that deliver vaccines for children and that fight deadly diseases like AIDS and tuberculosis.

These are successes, of which we can all be proud. And these achievements also make us safer. Disasters, conflicts and diseases don't pay attention to national borders. We need to act before problems grow and threaten the UK. But we need to face facts. Too much aid doesn't find its way through to those who really need it. And too often, money is spent without a proper focus on results and outcomes that allow the poorest to stand on their own two feet.

Some participants in the aid debate are resistant to criticism and sometimes unwilling to understand or even acknowledge genuine concerns. It rightly infuriates taxpayers when money that is intended for the world's poorest people is stolen or wasted on inappropriate projects. I am infuriated.

My predecessors worked hard to make sure that British aid ends up where it should. But we can improve. And Britain – with its strong reputation on aid around the world – is in a unique position to ensure that across the globe, aid is being used effectively, in a way that delivers for our national interests. The system needs reform – and Britain can lead the way in delivering it.

I believe passionately in the mission of the department that I now run: to end extreme poverty forever, to spread prosperity, and, as a result, to build a safer world for us here in the UK. That is a long-term goal that Britain and its expertise can work towards and one that we can be proud of. My parents came to this country as refugees from sub-Saharan Africa. I have had the privilege of working in business across Africa and Asia. And I have seen with my own eyes the burning injustice and tragic waste of human potential that poverty, disease and war bring. Let us be clear: if we allow extreme poverty, instability and humanitarian crises to go unchecked, the consequences will eventually be felt just as deeply back in Britain as they are abroad.

Britain has a proud record as a global leader and, following the referendum result, we have an opportunity to further build on our place in the world. As Secretary of State for International Development, my objective will be to challenge and change the global aid system so that it properly serves the poorest people in the world and the

taxpayers who foot the bill. I will ask the tough questions and provide a fresh pair of eyes.

My approach will be built on some core Conservative principles: that the way to end poverty is wealth creation, not aid dependency; that wealth is ultimately created by people, not by the state; that poor countries need more investment and trade, not less; and that we need to empower the poorest to work and trade their way out of poverty, not treat them as passive recipients of our support.

My predecessors in government have made huge progress in improving British aid – creating an independent aid watchdog to scrutinise spending, introducing much tougher value for money controls, and making DFID's spending far more open and transparent. Now I want to build on their achievements and go even further, for example by insisting on much greater transparency from those who receive UK aid, so that we can all see whether money is actually making it through to those who need it.

I want to continue the leadership that has been shown on tackling the scourge of corruption, which keeps people poor. I want to build on the great work that has been done on things like immunisation, tackling killer diseases, and ending the scandal of human trafficking and modern slavery.

And I want to use our aid budget to directly address the great global challenges that affect the UK – like creating jobs in poorer countries so as to reduce the pressure for mass migration to Europe.

But I don't see my new job as just about aid. I want to help build the UK's trading partners of tomorrow. We must seize the opportunity of leaving the EU to expand free trade with those who need it most, to boost investment in the poorest countries, and to forge new alliances with the world's emerging economies.

And of course, I want to use our greater freedom from leaving the EU to deliver better value for UK taxpayers. We will honour the commitments that we have made on development in our manifesto. But let me be clear. A well-financed aid budget is a means to an end, not an end in itself. Its purpose is not to make us feel good about ourselves.

It is there to deliver tangible results for the world's poorest people, helping them stand on their own two feet so they don't need aid in the future – and in so doing, build a safer, more prosperous world for the UK. The purpose of everyone working in the aid business should be to do themselves out of a job – by building a world free from extreme poverty.

[Read more: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3788162/My-fury-wasted-foreign-aid-International-development-secretary-Priti-Patel-pledges-major-overhaul-12billion-budget.html#ixzz4LwZMjzZH](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3788162/My-fury-wasted-foreign-aid-International-development-secretary-Priti-Patel-pledges-major-overhaul-12billion-budget.html#ixzz4LwZMjzZH)