

The Four Corners

The quarterly Alumni Association newsletter



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EDITORIAL

Message from the chairman

Welcome to this Spring edition of the DFID alumni newsletter. I hope you find it interesting and informative.

The content reflects the some of the changing priorities of the development agenda: closer engagement with the Chinese in Africa, greater focus on economic development and the role of the private sector, re-engagement in parts of the world that DFID had previously left like Ukraine.

Clare Short reflected on some of these changes and on today's development challenges at her talk in March, putting particular emphasis on the dangers of inequality and its destabilising effects. Yet problems such as how best to assist fragile states and to build peace and security remain as great as ever, as the ICAI report on UK aid to Afghanistan makes clear.

The newsletter also reminds us that there are ample opportunities to learn from the lessons of past experience and to use the evidence in shaping the design of today's development work. Fifty years of work in India, thirteen years to strengthen state governance in Nepal, fifteen years of UN peace-building in Sierra Leone should offer some pointers. Alumni reflection and analysis will I hope offer not only an important historical record but also opportunities to engage with DFID staff on current agendas.

Please let us have our feedback on the newsletter and ideas on how we can support your varied and various interests.

Thanks to Marc and contributors for helping to put this newsletter together.

With best wishes

Simon Ray



NEWS IN BRIEF

UK aid reached 0.7% of GNI in 2013

DFID released the provisional estimate for expenditure in 2013 on Official Development Assistance (ODA) as a proportion of Gross National Income (GNI). This shows that the UK met its commitment to achieve the 0.7% ODA / GNI ratio in 2013.

The release was prepared by DFID Statisticians and published under National Statistics protocols. The UK ratio will be published by the OECD alongside provisional numbers provided by other DAC donors.

The UK is reporting at this stage a provisional expenditure ratio of 0.72%. This reflects recent adjustments in estimates of GNI for 2013, compared to those published in December. We can expect further revisions of the GNI estimates ahead of publishing the final ODA/ GNI ratio in October. On the basis of the GNI estimates published in December, UK expenditure represented 0.70% of GNI.

For further details read the Department's Annual Report, to be published in June.

UK/INDIA DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP AT 50: DFID ALUMNI MEETING ON 23 JUNE

DFID India is planning reviews and events in 2015 to mark over 50 years of development co-operation with India. One of these will be an account of the evolution, achievements and lessons of UK support. Emma Spicer is coordinating it.

DFID India will organise a seminar for Alumni at DFID HQ 22 Whitehall on Monday 23 June 2014. For details, see announcements on dgroups.org, or contact Emma: e-spicer@dfid.gov.uk.

EVENTS

World Economic Forum

Summary of the Secretary of State's visit to Davos

The Secretary of State Justine Greening was at the World Economic Forum in Davos from 22 to 24 January. The Secretary of State used the visit to:

- Encourage the private sector to support economic development that promotes growth and poverty reduction
- Push forward the UK's post-2015 agenda, in particular the golden thread
- Build momentum towards the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) Ministerial meeting in Mexico this April.

The Secretary of State also promoted the legacy of the UK's G8 Presidency and followed-up the nutrition for growth event last June.

Breaking silos in development and the post-2015 goals

The Secretary of State was a panellist for a discussion on the GPEDC called breaking silos in development where she engaged business leaders, set out DFID's vision for working with the private sector and attended a media session with some of the other panellists.

The Secretary of State also attended a UK-initiated panel on the post-2015 goals: inspiring a new generation to act where the Prime Minister spoke, alongside several other notable individuals.

In addition, the Secretary of State attended:

- Investing for development – with leading figures from foundations, government agencies and business, where guests discussed new models for development finance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DFID IN JANUARY TO MARCH 2014

January

- An emergency relief flight landed in South Sudan.
- DFID launched a call for research on China and Africa.
- The Secretary of State took part in a panel discussion with business and development leaders at the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.
- The Prime Minister took part in a discussion of post-2015 development goals at the economic forum in Davos.
- DFID's Enabling State Programme in Nepal closed.
- DFID launched a partnership with the China Development Bank in Africa.

February

- Moazzam Malik left DFID on secondment to FCO.
- DFID published an economic development strategic framework.
- The Minister of State Alan Duncan visited Nepal.
- The Secretary of State visited the offices of the Commonwealth Development Corporation

March

- DFID announced technical assistance to Ukraine
- The Secretary of State made a speech on early and forced marriage.
- Second ICAI report on Afghanistan
- ICAI reported on the humanitarian response to typhoon Haiyan.
- ICAI reported on child mortality in Kenya
- 15 years of UN peacebuilding in Sierra Leone ended
- The Intergovernmental Panel; on Climate Change reported.
- DFID estimated that the UK has met its commitment to spend 0.7% of national income on Official Development Assistance.

- Accelerating investments for sustainable growth in African agriculture - which focussed on Grow Africa, but also looked at the broader challenge of how to unlock responsible private sector investment in African agriculture
- A session on encouraging private sector support for GAVI which she co-hosted with Bill Gates and GAVI CEO Seth Berkeley
- An informal consultation on Syria, chaired by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

She had opportunities to engage with key figures in the private sector, civil society and government. These included a reception hosted by the Duke of York, and several interesting bilateral meetings with:

- Borge Brende (Norwegian Foreign Minister)
- Alan Clark (CEO of SABMiller)
- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigerian Minister of Finance)
- Joost Oorthuizen (CEO of IDH)
- Olof Persson (CEO of Volvo)
- Paul Polman (CEO of Unilever)
- Tidjane Thiam (CEO of Prudential)
- Mohammed Yunus (Nobel Laureate).

DFID Nepal's Enabling State Programme closed after 13 years

Celebrating achievements and learning lessons from the flagship programme

The closure of the Enabling State Programme (ESP) was announced in January in Kathmandu and was marked with a celebration of achievements of one of DFID's most innovative and longest running governance programmes.

In its 13 years the ESP supported over 300 state and civil society partners and directly benefitted over 2 million Nepalese people - predominantly the poor and marginalised from rural areas – giving them better access to justice, improved public services and helping them hold their government to account.

A flexible programme able to respond to changes in politics

Launched in 2001 when Nepal was still facing civil conflict, it continued to deliver following a royal coup, when there was a strong need to support greater voice, civil society and Nepal's traditionally marginalised groups. As the state became stronger following the end of the conflict it has worked more with the government and civil society to promote constructive partnerships around key priorities.

Working with civil society and the state

The ESP worked very closely with the government to develop and implement strategies to:

- Provide access to justice
- Combat gender based violence
- Improve the implementation of right to information laws
- End caste-based discrimination
- Build capacity of government institutions to promote more inclusive policies

The programme helped:

- The national planning commission roll out a monitoring and evaluation system with gender and social inclusion disaggregated data
- The Nepal administrative staff college integrate inclusion in their curriculum
- The ministry of finance pilot the creation of single treasury accounts, which was later scaled up in all 75 districts
- Improve voters roll with biometric information ahead of the elections in November and civil society to deploy over 8,000 domestic and international observers.

Piloting new approaches and learning from failure

The ESP generated several innovative ideas, such as reaching out to thousands of young men through the national football and cricket associations to raise awareness of combating gender-based violence. Through this campaign, messages such as our goal: stop violence against women, were broadcast on television stations around Nepal and South Asia. The programme generated a wealth of learning to inform future programmes on governance in Nepal and elsewhere and, although it has now come to an end, the work it started will be carried forward by new programmes, DFID says.

New partnership launched with China Development Bank in Africa

MoU will focus on economic development and MDGs

According to a DFID announcement in January, working with China Development Bank (CDB) – one of the leading development finance institutions in Africa – offers strong potential to accelerate DFID objectives on infrastructure and economic development in Africa. Departments managing relevant programmes in Africa are invited to identify priorities for collaboration with CDB.

The strategic objectives of the DFID-CDB MoU are:

- To enhance the impact, quality and sustainability of investments made by China and the UK in Africa
- To strengthen knowledge-sharing and mutual understanding among the CDB, DFID and African partners, on issues related to economic development and investment in Africa.

The next step is to identify a shortlist of specific projects or activities to explore further with CDB. Collaboration could in principle take a number of forms, such as:

- Linking up CDB finance to projects where DFID has financed project preparation and pre-investment costs
- Provision of DFID resources to enhance the quality, sustainability or poverty impact of a CDB or CADF investment
- Parallel investment in specific projects or financing facilities
- Sharing information and analysis on macro, sectoral, policy or project-level issues.

One of the world's largest development finance institutions

CDB is a state-owned development bank which has played a key role in China's own industrialisation and urbanisation process. Operating on strictly commercial lines, it borrows on capital markets in China and overseas, and lends long-term at non-concessional but highly competitive rates. With total assets of RMB 8 trillion (around £800 billion) it is one of the world's largest development finance institutions.

Although only a small proportion of its lending has been made overseas, this is growing rapidly. In Africa, CDB has financed 195 projects to date with outstanding loans of \$21 billion (up from \$5 billion in 2010) to more than 40 African countries, in a range of sectors including infrastructure, industrialisation, agriculture, mineral resources and SME development.

The main recipient countries to date have been: Angola, South Africa, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and DRC.

In addition CDB wholly owns the China-Africa Development Fund (CADF), the only Chinese private equity fund investing in Africa. Established in 2006, CADF aims to reach \$5 billion over time, with \$2 billion of investments committed by 2012 to 60 project across 30 countries, leveraging total investment of around \$10bn.

Secretary of State's visit to CDC

In February, the Secretary of State visited the Commonwealth Development Corporation's new offices for the first time, where she discussed their medium term outlook in the context of our new economic development strategy.

CDC have just come to the end of the first phase of their strategy, and have achieved:

- Increased staff capacity - with 102 staff compared with 65 at the end of 2012, two recently appointed locally-based regional Directors for Africa and South Asia (based in Johannesburg and India), and all other staff based in London
- Development impact - In 2012, CDC were supporting 1,250 businesses in 77 countries, who were supporting over 1 million jobs
- Investments - their investment pipeline is \$1.9 billion. Equity investments of \$130m have been committed or approved and a further \$530m worth are being screened.

The next phase will focus on strengthening their direct equity and debt portfolios and developing their new frontier investment strategy.



Discussion with CDC staff

The Secretary of State met with Graham Wrigley (Board Chair), CEO Diana Noble and other members of the management team. It was agreed that there was scope for greater collaborations between CDC and DFID in light of our new economic development strategy.

She also had a roundtable meeting with staff to understand the types of investments that they are now making, how they are going about it and how they manage risk. Staff presented on CDC's microfinance portfolio, CDC's new power platform strategy and a recent direct equity agribusiness investment in DRC.



Palm oil in DRC

In November CDC's Direct Equity team made an investment of \$18 million into Feronia, an agribusiness based in DRC.

Feronia is an agribusiness and processing business based in DRC which produces palm oil for sale as

foodstuff within the Congolese market. The investment included \$3.6 million ring-fenced for ESG improvements, such as the construction of effluent ponds and improved sanitation for the site.

The company is a significant employer in the DRC. It currently has 3,500 workers, many of whom are third or fourth generation employees. It also employs around 3,000 contractors. The company also provides housing and operates three hospitals and over 100 schools.

In total around 45,000 people live in the communities supported by the plantations. Feronia is the anchor of an entire 'relay economy', including informal services like bayanda (bicycle transporters).

Second ICAI report on Afghanistan: growth and livelihoods

In March the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) published its second report on DFID's work in Afghanistan. This time ICAI reviewed [bilateral support to growth and livelihoods in Afghanistan](#), looking at five programmes, including three projects which were focused in Helmand.

The report gave an overall Amber-Red rating, but learning and delivery were both scored as Amber-Green. ICAI also reported that DFID had continued to respond positively to ICAI's 2012 review in the areas of financial management, risk and corruption.

One of the most difficult places to deliver aid

ICAI noted that Afghanistan is one of the most difficult places to deliver aid and that DFID staff work hard under demanding conditions.

Within these constraints, ICAI found that DFID projects were on the whole delivered well but that more ambitious and multi-faceted projects were less successful than those with more limited scope.

ICAI's three recommendations are that DFID should:


- Formally review current and future projects to focus more firmly on reducing poverty using evidence-based interventions. This should be completed within six-months using a consultative and evidence-led process
- Ensure that intended beneficiaries are, as far as practicable, directly consulted when new projects

are being designed, so that their needs are clearly addressed and their ownership is enhanced

- Enhance independent monitoring in order to assess current and future project performance and to allow it to assess the impact of its programme.

Post-2014 planning will take all ICAI's recommendations into account. DFID Afghanistan is preparing the management response to the report.

Commission on the Status of Women: agreed conclusions

The  [UN Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW) held its 58th annual meeting from 10 to 21 March. CSW is the UN's primary forum for promoting gender equality and the human rights of girls and women.

This year's meeting on the achievements and challenges of the Millennium Development Goals was an important opportunity to help shape the Post-2015 agenda. The outcome of CSW will contribute to the wider Post-2015 process and will be followed by the  [International Conference on Population and Development](#).

The Secretary of State stated that CSW was a critical opportunity to frame the debate on gender. Engagement by DFID ministers drew attention to the UK's world-leading work on gender equality and built momentum toward this year's Girl Summit on ending child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) in a generation.

Summary of the event

Member states reached  [conclusions](#) by consensus calling for a dedicated gender goal and integration of gender equality and the human rights of girls and women in the post-2015 development agenda. Negotiations were challenging after some member states felt pressured into agreement in 2013 and a failure to reach agreed conclusions in 2012.


The agreed conclusions make strong commitments on UK priorities including:



- Calling for a standalone goal on gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment and the human rights of women and girls


- Ending all forms of violence against women and girls
- Economic empowerment
- Leadership and participation in decision making
- Ending harmful practices including CEFM and FGM/C
- Accelerating the data revolution for girls and women, strengthened data collection and disaggregation by sex and age.

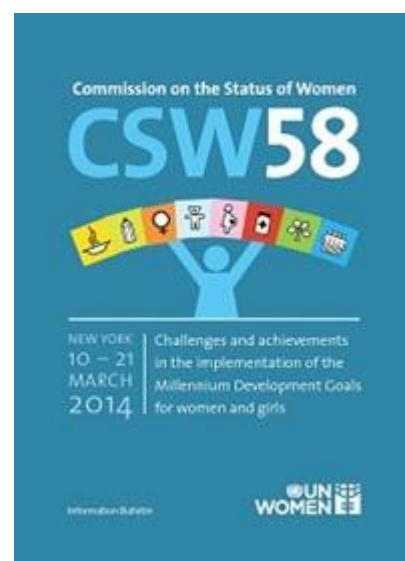
The positive outcome owes much to a major British effort, including the involvement of the DFID Secretary of State and Parliamentary Undersecretary of State and the Secretary of State for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Right Honourable Maria Miller MP.

Roundtable on CEFM

The SoS co-hosted a roundtable on CEFM with the Canadian Minister of Labour with participants from the Netherlands, Yemen, Somalia, UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF and  [Girls Not Brides](#).

Following her speech on [International Women's Day](#), the Secretary of State reiterated her pride in the work DFID is doing on CEFM and Female Genital Mutilation. She also delivered a speech at a side event hosted by DFID with the Overseas Development Institute and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on  [Social Norms – The missing link in the MDGs](#) for the launch of a report  [Measuring women's empowerment and social transformation in the Post-2015 agenda](#).

Lynn Featherstone spoke about culture and attitudes that perpetuate gender inequality at a side event  [Everyday sexism and hate speech](#) co-hosted with Denmark.



Speech by Justine Greening to NIDOS #Scotland2015 conference

On 3 April, the International Development Secretary set out her post 2015 agenda, and why Scotland can be proud of the immense contribution made with, and through, DFID.

It's a great pleasure to be here with you today.

As all of you know we are at a key moment for shaping the future of international development.

The Millennium Development Goals have inspired a generation. These unprecedented set of developing world promises have given all of us a clear direction, a path we can all follow.

It is a path we have followed. Over the past fourteen years we have witnessed the largest reduction in poverty in history. The number of people dying from malaria and HIV has plummeted. Polio is on the brink of eradication. Millions more children are in school, paving the way for more gains in the coming years.

I've just this morning returned from China, where much of the progress towards the MDGs has been made. There I met people in their 50s and 60s who have witnessed the most extraordinary changes during their adult lives. They've watched China go from a country in 1985 where 75% of people lived in poverty to one where that percentage had dropped to 13% by 2010.

They talked from the heart about how development had brought routine access to health, education and transport, transforming the lives of many ordinary Chinese people in just one generation. And I see no reason why we can't help other parts of the world to achieve similar transformation in just one generation.

So we face a crossroads. The 2015 deadline is fast approaching and we have a genuinely historic opportunity to agree an even more ambitious set of goals and to finish the job the

MDGs started.

The United Kingdom has an absolutely central role to play in this. As confirmed yesterday by the Office for National Statistics, the UK is the first country in the G8 to invest 0.7% of national income on international development. It prompted a BBC Newsnight reporter last night to christen the United Kingdom an "aid superpower", which probably isn't far wide of the mark when you think about it.

But what matters is that meeting this long-standing UN target of 0.7 shows that we are fully committed to creating a more stable and prosperous world. It shows that while development is happening constantly, we - the United Kingdom - will not stand aside as millions of people across the world still suffer from the worst symptoms of extreme poverty.

And there's no doubt to me that it is in our country's DNA to get out into the world and make an impact. We take global priorities and make them our own as any responsible country should. The UK Department for International Development is ranked consistently among the most effective and most transparent aid donors in the world. It's something that I'm very proud of and I hope that you are too. The OECD's Development Assistance Committee Peer Review – which as you know is the most rigorous international benchmark - has called DFID a model of good practice.



And the results speak for themselves. Over the past three years, thanks to the work of the United Kingdom, six million children across the developing world have received a primary school education. 20 million people have access to clean water. 22 million children have been immunised against killer diseases.

But our support for the developing world goes much further than that. NIDOS, for one, has been doing incredibly important work on policy coherence, demonstrating that UK support for the world's poorest people doesn't begin and end with DFID.

By working with the Department for Business we have a major say in Britain's trade policy, aligning international trade with what works for Britain and the developing world. Our work with the Department for Energy and Climate Change is helping to protect the world's poor from the worst impacts that climate change can bring.

Scotland's role

And the truth is that these achievements belong to all of us. Scottish civil society, and Scotland as a whole, can be proud of the immense contribution made with, and through, DFID.

It was just 50 miles up the road from here, at the G8 Gleneagles Summit in 2005, where G8 members in the EU committed to reach the 0.7% target. This would not have happened without the voice of civil society – your voice – ringing in those leaders' ears. And you have played a uniquely important role in helping us stick to this promise.

Scottish civil society plays a very significant role in the fight against poverty and DFID is proud to support the work of several NIDOS member organisations represented here today. Working with Edinburgh's Mercy Corps we are delivering clean water and sanitation to one-and-a-half million people in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, one of the most deprived places on earth.

Alongside the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund we are helping to improve the lives of 6,500 disabled people in South Sudan. With the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines we are

doing important work on delivering animal vaccines across the developing world. This follows DFID's work helping to make rinderpest only the second disease in history – after smallpox – to be eliminated by mankind. And if you're not up to speed with rinderpest, it was a cattle disease that for thousands of years caused famine, ruined livelihoods and brought untold suffering. It is impossible to overstate the importance of this achievement.

But that's not all that Scotland with DFID is achieving. Across Scotland, DFID, through our Connecting Classrooms and Global Learning programmes, is helping to ensure schoolchildren can learn about life in some of the world's poorest countries. Our children are Skype-ing and talking with their peers in totally different parts of the world, learning through understanding.

Through the Health Partnerships Scheme DFID is working closely with the University of Edinburgh to improve palliative care in countries across Africa. And I am delighted to announce today that we will be providing another £10 million to the Health Partnerships Scheme. This will enable health institutions across the UK to join the fight against poverty in the developing world.

And then there's the UK International Citizen Service, providing young people in Scotland and the rest of the union the chance to volunteer for development projects in Asia and Africa, allowing them to make a direct contribution to the fight against global poverty.

So with all that brilliant work taking place, I want to recognise the commitment of the 600 DFID staff at my department's joint-headquarters in East Kilbride. At Abercrombie House, just a few miles from here, we have teams leading DFID activities worldwide, from supporting the UK's overseas territories to improving governance and tackling corruption.

DFID teams in East Kilbride also led the work on last year's major Nutrition for Growth summit, which was part of our country's G8 Presidency. Through this one event Britain secured 4 billion dollars in commitments from donor governments

and businesses worldwide, helping 500 million undernourished women and children. And when disasters hit, like it did in the Philippines last year, staff from Abercrombie House play a role in our country's response.

This is the kind of positive work that Scotland and Scots are doing through their DFID - through our DFID. Real impact across the globe every day, helping millions of people each year.

Now it's true that the Scottish Government's International Development Fund is supporting important work in Asia and Africa, building on Scotland's great historic links with Malawi, and I pay tribute to that. But what is undeniable to me – looking at all of the UK's great work – is that we have a far bigger impact on the lives of the world's neediest people precisely because we have been united in this work.

As the world's second biggest aid donor the UK can make truly transformative interventions, as economies of scale enable us to squeeze the maximum value for money out of every penny we spend. As one of five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and with our own place on the board of the World Bank, the UK can ensure core values shared right across the whole of the UK are reflected at the top of these vital global institutions. As a United Kingdom, we shape rather than follow the global development agenda.

Post-2015

And there is no better proof of this than our work shaping the post-2015 landscape. The UN Secretary General recognised the UK's standing as a world leader in international development when he asked our Prime Minister to co-chair his High Level Panel on the post-2015 development goals last year.

The resulting report said - rightly - that the progress made since the year 2000 means we now have an unprecedented opportunity to end extreme poverty within our lifetimes. But this is in no sense inevitable. There will still be 900 million people living in extreme poverty in 2015... and these people will be the hardest to reach.

We face an enormous challenge. To meet it, we need a new set of clear, inspiring, ambitious goals that will build on the MDGs and address the issues they left out. The High Level Panel agreed that in creating this new set of goals we should leave no one behind. I am also personally committed to ensuring we not only have a standalone goal addressing gender equality... but that the empowerment of women is reflected in each and every goal agreed.

The panel also agreed that 2015 represents an unprecedented opportunity to put development on a more sustainable footing. We need to manage the very worst risks of climate change while ensuring a more sustainable use of food, water and energy. But critically we need goals that tackle the causes as well as the symptoms of poverty. This means helping to create the conditions economies and societies need to thrive.

Peace, the rule of law, an absence of corruption, the recognition of property rights and institutions that serve all the people, not just a select few. This is what economists - from Jim Robinson and Daron Acemoglu to Amartya Sen - want. Most importantly, this is what people across the developing world want and need.

They want to be able to register land in their own name so they can have the confidence to invest in it. They want a police force that is impartial and can be relied on to protect their families and property. They want to establish businesses to create the jobs that provide the dignity of work and the financial independence to be able to take their own decisions in their lives and plan for the future.

The UN has now asked over a million people what they want to see in the next set of development goals. Just below education, healthcare and job comes honest and responsive government, and protection against crime and violence.

Golden Thread

At the heart of all this is what the Prime Minister calls the Golden Thread of development. This is a thread that weaves together the values and conditions that lead to more stable, prosperous

and ultimately successful societies. The first strand of this thread is peace and security. Stability is the foundation for development in all countries. A major lesson learned from the MDGs is that development simply isn't possible without addressing the causes of conflict and fragility.

Time and again we find that conflict and violence correlate directly with the most extreme and intractable poverty. Creating peaceful and stable states, from South Sudan to Syria, must be a priority for the international community. The violent conflict in these two countries has caused terrible suffering and displacement, setting back development by decades. It is estimated that the Syrian conflict has put back that country's development by 30 years.

We, for one, have been doing our part, achieving tangible results on the ground. In Nigeria, our Justice for All programme is improving personal security and access to justice, focusing on a more accountable police force. In just one year the percentage of the public reporting satisfaction with the police response in one Lagos suburb rose from 47% to 63%.

We are also helping to ensure getting justice is not the sole preserve of men. In Malawi, where links with Scotland go back over 150 years, DFID is helping women living in rural areas to gain access to justice, working with traditional community tribunals. Before this programme began, only a third of tribunals included a female judge. Today virtually every tribunal assisted by DFID has elected women assessors.

DFID remains committed to supporting the people of Malawi, which is why earlier this week we announced funding for the delivery of essential drugs and medicines to 660 health clinics across the country.

The second strand of the Golden Thread is an open economy. Last year, Afrobarometer published the results of a poll of more than 30,000 people across Africa. They asked one simple question: what is the most important problem that your government should focus on? And there was one runaway winner:

unemployment. Men and women around the world want the dignity to earn an income, to be independent and to look after themselves and their families. That's why, in my time at DFID, I have ramped up the focus on economic development.

The UK is helping to dismantle barriers to trade, boost investment and improve the business climate in the world's poorest countries. UK aid is modernising ports in Kenya and Uganda, upgrading roads from Uganda to Rwanda and reducing start-up costs for businesses in Nigeria. This work – which we are doing hand in hand with business and governments – will install the fundamental building blocks of sustained and inclusive economic growth.

We know that growth leads to jobs. But countries which are growing can also take responsibility for their own development, ultimately freeing themselves from a reliance on aid. This requires a tax regime, an effective revenue authority, and strong, corruption-free institutions that can invest these revenues in the vital public services that people need, like health and education. For instance, DFID is now working alongside HM Revenue and Customs to help countries like Somalia introduce financial budgeting systems for the very first time.

The third strand is an open government and an open society. While many countries are making rapid progress towards the MDGs, some are still lagging behind when it comes to giving people a say, through free and fair elections, government transparency or freedom of expression.

I don't believe these are optional extras that can be permanently set aside by countries. We've seen time and time again that open societies and open economies deliver better outcomes for everyone – especially the poor. Sustainable prosperity spreads where people's rights and freedoms - the right to vote, to trade, to start a business - are respected and enshrined.

The Challenge ahead

Peace and security... open economies and open societies: they are not only the building blocks of development, they are valuable outcomes in themselves. Which is why we'll be pushing for these Golden Thread issues to be included in the post-2015 framework.

I should say that it will not be easy. There are many voices out there who oppose standalone goals on governance and security. But this is precisely the kind of debate – a debate about the evolving nature of development – that we all need to engage in. And this also goes for the post-2015 framework as a whole.

To make the new set of goals ambitious and workable, we need everyone – governments, NGOs, businesses and academics – to get out there, make their case, and get people excited about what these targets could deliver for the world and its neediest people. I believe that it's a challenge all of us will grip because we know what's at stake.

The progress of the last 15 years has shown us what can be achieved – and has given us sight and hope of what could be 15 years from now: the ending of extreme poverty by 2030.

United, I know we can do it.

SPOTLIGHT

Some Reflections on Today's Development Challenges

Talk by Clare Short at DFID, 22 Whitehall, 24th March 2014, given to the DFID Alumni and the World Bank 1818 Club.

Carew Treffgarne

Sir John Vereker introduced Clare Short saying that her commitment, determination and energy during her 6 years as Secretary of State, had played a huge part in establishing DFID as one of

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

23 new members joined the DFID Alumni Association in January to March 2014

Helen Appleton,
Ritu Bharadwaj,
Pankaj Batra,
Laraine Cain,
Robin Cain,
Sangeeta Dey,
Vikas Goswamy,
Tran Thu Hang,
Olivia Jonas,
Suresh Kennit,
Chetan Kumar,
Ranjana Kumar,
Jonathan Lingham,
Sarah Marks,
Lizy Mathew,
Shomikho Raha,
Naimur Rahman,
Stephanie Russin,
John Stuppel,
Sunil Suri,
Katharine Thoday,
Vinayak Uppal and
Aashti Zaida Hai.

the pre-eminent development agencies in the world.

Clare reminded us that we were given “a massive opportunity at a time of significant historic change” in the aftermath of the Cold War, the end of apartheid, the disarray in the Balkans and the failure of the West to act in response to the Rwandan genocide. She was proud that we came up with a clear view of what needed to be done at a time when no one else knew what to do.

Richard Jolly at IDS had drawn her attention to OECD's landmark document ‘Shaping the 21st Century’, which John Vereker had been involved in drafting. She acknowledged that the IDTs/MDGs provided DFID with human



development objectives that became “part of our journey”. She recalled that “we grasped the opportunity to help make the international system work more effectively”, drawing on “the wisdom and expertise of the Department to help make this happen”.

She commented that the situation is now very different. In the aftermath of 9/11, the ‘War on Terror’ has been very destabilising, with opportunities for making the world a better place much narrower. Destabilisation impinges significantly on what development can bring to the table.

She cited Syria as an example of the massive increase in DFID’s budget; but, with fewer staff and fewer countries, there will be less risk taking. She pointed out the contradiction that working in fragile states means that “you have to be prepared to take risks”. In her opinion, DFID’s bigger budget is “a burden rather than a blessing”, because it puts DFID on the defensive by providing “a target for right wing forces when other budgets are being cut”. Having to prove that the money is being well spent makes it very difficult to be creative.

She sounded a note of caution about the danger of global targets unconnected to what is happening at country level. She considered that “too much emphasis on targetry is not a good thing”. When Suma Chakrabati returned to DFID, they used to joke about “squeezing more juice out of the DFID orange”. She commented that the huge bureaucratic burden in the World Bank to

prove that money is being well spent makes it very difficult to take the initiative and find creative solutions.

She observed that the aid architecture has changed, with the involvement of China and Brazil having massive implications for the extractive industries. There has been enormous economic growth in Africa. Some low income countries like Ghana and Nigeria have become middle income countries, but there have been huge increases in inequality. She saw this as the real challenge – how to ensure inequality is reduced so that economic growth benefits the poor?

Another challenge she mentioned, was the emphasis on taxation systems and transfer pricing that came out of the June 2013 G8 meeting. She acknowledged that “Thanks to Starbucks and Amazon !”, transfer pricing had become an issue because some companies are not paying taxes in the countries where they are doing business. Hence more work needs to be done on building viable taxation systems. Rapid urbanisation, particularly in South-East Asia and Africa, presents another problem. It highlights the





phenomenon of more and more educated young people out of work. She thought that leveraging private sector investment for building infrastructure in large cities could be one way of addressing this.

Clare Short concluded that the main challenges facing development are the reduction of inequality and growing urbanisation, but she didn't think the role UK could play in addressing these problems is articulated clearly enough. Those engaged in development nowadays do not challenge people to take risks in the creative way that she tried to encourage. When she asked for a bigger table in her office, it was so that more staff could brainstorm in order to come up with new ideas and thrash out the answers.

In response to questions, she said that jobs for young people and education can be transformative in terms of addressing the continuing problem of inequality. On the challenge to development posed by corruption, it was pointed out that she chairs the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). This seeks to encourage governments and companies to be more transparent, leading ultimately to greater accountability - though she admitted that the voluntary principle on which the EITI is based is insufficient for ensuring "complete accountability".

The first stage is to get governments and the private sector to participate, the next phase is to get them to open up their books for auditing and introduce more transparency into the way they work. Another problem is that is when support is withdrawn from middle income countries like China and India, with huge problems of inequality and poverty, "we are then excluded from the policy dialogue about how to balance the economy better and how to share the economic benefits more equitably".

A question came up about DFID's involvement in security sector reform, which Clare Short acknowledged had become "a whole new industry" in relation to the development agenda, in contrast to the situation in which development and defence had been kept separate. Involvement in Sierra Leone had been consolidated through the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool, which was set up with HMT funding for inter departmental working. After some initial FCO resentment of DFID for taking the initiative, this became an important DFID/FCO/MOD strategy.

She welcomed the new World Bank targets on eliminating extreme poverty and reducing inequality by 2030 because they could help address the urgent problem of unemployed young people in big cities. In response to a question about UK involvement in Rwanda, despite its human rights record, she said she was proud of our role and the progress made in poverty reduction and education. DFID had been able to do good work there precisely because of our lack of previous engagement, but the legacy of the genocide has made it difficult for the Government to forgive those who have defected.

Finally, she countered a question about conditionality by pointing out that "no conditionality is a nonsense". The NGOs had called for unconditional debt relief, but DFID's insistence on investment in health and education had ensured that more poor people could benefit.

Personal reflections by Philip Dearden

It was great to hear Clare looking forward to the development challenges of today. In my opinion, her perspectives on these challenges are based on both an up to date knowledge of development and a huge amount of wisdom gained from her first hand experiences in DFID.

Prior to her time in office

Her reflections of development prior to her time in ODA/DFID painted a rather sad picture. This was a time many of us remember well.

- *Back in 1967 we collectively agreed the 0.7% Target of GDP spend on development.*
- *Despite good work in ODA in the late 80s and early 90s the development budget steadily fell from 0.4% to 0.3% of GDP. In addition the ODA budget was often plundered by others.*

During her time in office 1997 -2003

Her reflections on her time in office were both insightful and rather modest. That time was a time of great optimism and real excitement for many of us. It was a time of huge change which has led to a series of massive achievements.

- *Splitting from the FCO defined DFID – of course it was necessary.*
- *There were two white papers – both were considered rather audacious at the time.*
- *Setting out a route map for the 0.7% target was a challenge.*
- *There was a real sense of purpose. We helped the move from the International Development Targets (IDTs) towards the MDGs and towards poverty reduction/eradication.*
- *The MDGs took off.*
- *While not perfect the MDGs have given us all a sense of purpose.*
- *Spend in DFID increased dramatically*
- *Moving into the Rwandan space was easy as nobody else was trusted there.*
- *We managed to convince both Tony Blair and Gordon Brown that international development is important – it's interesting to note that they are both still personally involved with development work now.*

Since her time in office

Her reflections on time since she departed office left me simply wondering "if only..."

- *We have become a poodle of the USA.*
- *DFID is now working in fewer countries.*
- *DFID is working more in "fragile states".*
- *Despite this DFID is taking fewer risks.*
- *DFID has fewer staff.*
- *The sad drive for "Value for Money" is just over dominating and itself costing us a lot of time, effort and money (i.e. not giving value for money)*
- *Walking out of India was/is cheapskate.*
- *We should never have walked away from South America the way we did – the need for policy level engagement in South American countries is as big today as it ever been.*
- *Development spend has perhaps helped detoxify what was known as the "nasty party".*
- *DFID having more money has sadly become a burden rather than a blessing.*

On current challenges

Her reflections on current challenges are both insightful and need to be taken seriously

- *With youth unemployment levels rising the Arab Spring could turn into an African Spring.*
- *Urbanisation is a massive issue for all sectors in DFID.*
- *We know from history that it's the rising middle classes that make trouble. We could be in for trouble.*
- *The really big development challenge is now inequality. Many countries, including our own, face this real development challenge. It needs a lot of thought and action.*

On my way home I called into the Quaker Bookshop opposite Euston Station. While still in reflective mode I spied a small book with a quote from Clare Short on its front cover. Its reads "This is a slim, wise, thoughtful book. It should be read by anyone who thinks they are a success or a failure!"

The book is "The Failure of Success – Redefining what matters" by Jennifer Kavanagh. Needless to say I bought it I can now understand its appeal to Clare. I would recommend it to all. We do all need to sometimes look back, reflect and redefine what matters.

Professor Philip N. Dearden

Head of Centre, Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT), University of Wolverhampton

PEOPLE

In Memory of Anthony Beattie

Colleagues will be sad to learn that Anthony died in hospital in Johannesburg on 31 March, 12 days after collapsing at a meeting in Tanzania; he was 69.

Anthony worked for ODM/ODA/DFID for 38 years and will be remembered by many colleagues and friends across the alumni network for his commitment, compassion and professionalism.

Anthony was buried privately on the morning of Tuesday 22 April. There was a Thanksgiving Service in St George's Church, Benenden, at 2 pm that day.



Anthony with Jane Mwathi, a Kenyan who is researching ways of controlling a new, virulent, viral maize disease at the BecA-ILRI Hub (photo credit: ILRI/Paul Karaimu).

It was while watching a TV programme on the United Nations as a teenager that Anthony decided that international development was what he 'wanted to do'. That decision led to a distinguished career as a civil servant which started in Malawi, involved the delivery of a broad range of expertise including development

economics, multilateral diplomacy, management of pensions and agricultural research and multilateral diplomacy, with his final civil service role being that of the UK Permanent Representative to the UN agencies in Rome. The breadth and depth of his abilities enabled him to carve his own path; he was very proud of being a 'trail-blazer' and loved to challenge the status quo!

Anthony was born on 17 April 1944 and studied economics at Trinity College, Cambridge. He went straight from university to work in the Economic Planning Division in the Office of the President of Malawi before returning in 1969 to work for ODA /ODM as a member of the Economic Planning and then the Administration Groups.

A colleague from that time remembers Anthony sitting upright in front of his manual typewriter, typing his own minutes with that meticulous attention to correct drafting which was a hallmark throughout his career.

Anthony's final role at Abercrombie House was as Head of the Pensions Department, a role which he fulfilled with his customary attention to detail, researching the 'bigger picture' around the circumstances of each case in support of individual claims.

In 1986 Anthony was appointed as Director of the Tropical Development Research Institute (TDRI) and led the merger with the Land Resources Development Centre to form one entity – the Overseas Development Natural Resources Institute which later became NRI.

UK scientists may not have appreciated this process being led by a non-scientist, but to Anthony that simply enhanced the challenge! He enjoyed recalling the headline in a British newspaper when he was appointed to the job: 'Pensions Man Gets Top Science Job'.

He was an inspiring Chief Executive in so many ways: he could walk into a room full of staff and instantly recognise the few he had not yet met; he was a good listener, a good teacher. He delighted in coaching many colleagues in the civil

service 'arts' of constructing an argument, of diplomacy and of drafting the perfect minute!

He networked with senior colleagues in universities to identify a creative solution for the privatisation of NRI. He didn't silence all his critics of course, but the NRI brand still exists, unlike many other organisations which were privatised in the same era.

After leaving NRI, Anthony worked in the Cabinet Office, before moving to Rome, where he was in his element as the UK Permanent Representative (Ambassador) to the UN agencies. He served on a number of governing bodies and committees for the WFP, FAO, IFAD and as convenor of the OECD group during the Sixth Replenishment discussions in 1999.

In 2004, Anthony retired from the Civil Service, but that only led to new challenges. He was a Visiting Fellow at 2 Business Schools, a Visiting Professor at the University of Geneva, he coached on leadership programmes for senior executives and he consulted on corporate governance and strategy.

His visit to Tanzania was part of a consultancy for the Fund Office of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, where he was tasked with recommending a 'Resource Mobilisation Approach and Strategy'.

Anthony's interests went way beyond work. He enjoyed opera (being a regular at Glyndebourne), the theatre, music and was a Trustee of 2 charities 'devoted respectively' as he put it 'to trees and children'. He was looking forward to moving back to Oxfordshire where he and Janet started their married life; sadly this was not to be...

He leaves behind his wife Janet and their son Matthew. We extend to them our sincere condolences at their tragic and untimely loss. He was a distinguished colleague of great intellect, yet a real gentleman with a warm heart. He will be missed by us all!

Maggie Gill

Anthony Beattie was my line manager at the beginning of my civil service career in the 1970s. He was economic adviser and head of the Dependent Territories Economists Unit and I was Economic Assistant.

I learned a great deal from him, not just about economics but also the key civil service skills of constructing an argument, diplomacy and drafting in which he excelled. His door was always open, he was a good listener, showed great empathy and always gave good advice. He commanded great respect and at the same time I felt comfortable in the working environment he fostered.

He typed all his own papers and minutes, which was unusual for the 1970s. An abiding memory is that of Anthony sitting upright in front of a manual typewriter composing another concise and well-argued piece of analysis and advice.

Intellectually he always seemed streets ahead of many of his peers and those more senior. I will remember him with great respect and affection.

Peter Owen

Anthony Beattie: a personal memory

Anthony was the first person I knew in ODM/ODA/DFID. After having suffered the ordeals of the Economist group entrance process I got a phone call out of the blue from Anthony to the effect that although I haven't heard the results yet I was going to come work for ODM and indeed for him in the Dependent Territories Economic Unit: handling the economic affairs of those parts of the Empire on which the sun had not yet set .

And so it was in one of the cavernous rooms in the Foreign Office that Anthony introduced me to the mysteries of the civil service and international aid. He also arranged for my posting to the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) and visited us on a couple of occasions: I remember bumping around oil palm plantation is with him in the back of an open Land Rover.

Anthony was a pioneer . In those days the economic cadre was rigidly separated from the administration group as it was called and I think I am right in saying that Anthony was the first economist to move across into the administration group as head of a department which I think was called Bilateral Coordination.... because we hadn't invented policy in those days.

He made another pioneering move when he thereafter became head of Pensions Department. I have no idea what the thinking was behind putting an ex-economist in charge of one of the largest administrative departments which had recently moved up to ODA's new offices at East Kilbride. I suspect there may have been something in the higher echelons of Establishments Department (the

predecessor to Human Resources Department) wanting to test out an upstart economist on a poisoned administrative chalice. Although I saw little of Anthony's work there I understand he distinguished himself and his nickname was "Saint Anthony" .

He made another pioneering move when he was appointed as head of the new Overseas Development Natural Resources Institute there is a fascinating diagram in Barry Ireton's recent book on the genealogy of the scientific units for anyone interested in how it came about. There was much sucking of teeth and shaking of heads in the scientific establishment at the appointment of an administrator let alone one with an economic background to lead scientific work. But again Anthony confounded expectations as I saw for myself when I was asked to undertake one of the many external reviews of ODNRI before its eventual privatisation.

My final professional contact with Anthony was when he was based in Rome as the FAO representative and he visited Ethiopia when I was based there. I remember him describing to me the challenges of reform in the United Nations over a curry in Addis Ababa: although as I was to discover for myself a few years later reform of the United Nations is a challenge even for the most able!

As others have commented Anthony was always a distinguished figure, gracious, intelligent, and softly spoken but always with great insight. I consider myself fortunate to have been able to count him as both a colleague and a friend.

Paul Ackroyd

I worked for Anthony in East Kilbride when he was Head of Pensions Department and amongst the lads he came in with a bit of the air of the "toff" about him. Once the language barrier was overcome, he very quickly became known as a real gentleman, only drawing a line at being asked to referee a lunch time football game, showing excellent judgement and diplomacy in declining the invite.

I remember leaving the office one night at the same time as Anthony to catch my bus. Anthony offered me a lift and started talking about my upcoming posting to Barbados. He said there was a chap there whose descendant had invented the flushing WC. I nodded politely but when he said the chap was called David Crapper I thought the big man was pulling my leg.

I learned a lot under his direction not just on the history of plumbing but on the history of the Salk vaccine as we worked on getting a victim of polio a pension from her spell overseas where she fell victim to the disease.

An absolute toff and gentleman in my memory. RIP.

Paddy MacVey

YOUR COMMITTEE

The current Committee includes:

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

The Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and all members except for Kathy Marshall are co-opted, subject to election. Kathy was elected in 2012. Her current term ends in 2015.

Meetings

The Committee met on 8 April. See the box, right.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be on 11 June 2014, when elections will be held. A notice has gone to all members on dgroups.org. The notice is on page 20 of this newsletter.

Paragraphs 16 to 22 of the Constitution adopted at the Extraordinary General Meeting in December 2013 cover the purpose and agenda of Annual General Meetings.

We invite you to suggest future activities

The Committee invites members to propose activities that would attract a good attendance. We are particularly keen to hear from members who are willing to take the initiative in organising social events and reunions outside London, with support from the Secretary and Committee members. The Secretary has a long list of suggestions that people have made in the past.

Generally, we expect members to cover the cost of our social events. We rely on knowing that there will be sufficient interest to justify the work that goes into making the arrangements. A third of our membership is outside the UK, spread across 50 countries. We welcome ideas for support that the Association can give to help members meet up, keep in touch, and organise

In April, the committee agreed the details of the AGM and party, and the notice to members..

The committee considered the seminar led by Clare Short a success. The DFID Alumni will aim for a second joint seminar with the World Bank 1818 group in the second half of the year. The Committee will review suggestions for speakers when it next meets in June.

The DFID Alumni will advertise other events that members want to organise on development themes, but it would be for them to organise.

DFID Is already organising a seminar on the history of DFID India for alumni on 23 June.

Garth Glentworth has indicated his wish to organise an event on security sector reform and the lessons of Sierra Leone.

The Chair will meet with DFID to explain the wish of some members to engage on issues emerging from Select Committee and ICAI reports (eg on 0.7%, future aid policy, loans and grants, lesson learning). The suggestion would be that they offer meeting/s of relevant people with interested alumni.

Plans are in place for current social events (Royal Chelsea Hospital 29 April, Samuel Johnson's London 17 July and Lords 22 September). The Committee will look at organising one more event towards the end of the year, and consider options at its June meeting.

The association will explore new ideas for sponsorship, to be brought to the AGM. Jim Drummond will follow this up with Amisha Patel and John Burton.

The spring edition of The Four Corners is to include request for feedback on the web site and on ideas for improving the DFID Alumni community on dgroups.org.

The next meeting of the Committee will be at 14:00 on 11 June at DFID, before the AGM at 16:00.

activities that make sense for them wherever they live and work.

We welcome your views

The Committee very much welcomes feedback.

- **Our web site:** let us know what you think of the DFID Alumni public web site at www.dfid-alumni.org. Does it have the right material on it? Recognising that we have limited capacity to maintain it, what would be your priorities for this site?
- **The Four Corners:** we shall from now on post the latest edition of The Four Corners on our public web site, as well as posting it on dgroups.org and sending a link to members. A few members who don't use the internet receive The Four Corners by post. Some members have suggested that they would be willing to pay for a printed copy. We have not gone down this route because it is time-consuming to print the newsletter, post it, and bank the small amounts of money that members would send in. What do you think about this? Would you be willing to print and send out copies, and account for the income from charging for printed copies?
- **Dgroups.org:** all members have access to the private DFID Alumni community on dgroups.org, which includes member lists, email lists, discussion groups, libraries and calendars. We know we could make better use of dgroups.org to meet the diverse needs of the membership. Following some preparatory work by a few members we could now begin to reorganise the DFID Alumni community on dgroups. The committee would welcome the involvement of members in this next stage. We need your feedback about the things that work well, and those that need improvement. For example, some members like to discuss news items and policy developments. Others prefer not to see such comments and debates. Should we post news items both on the general mail list and on a discussion list where members can follow them up if it interests them?
- **Chapters overseas:** what could the DFID Alumni do to help members overseas keep in touch with one another and share news about events of interest to them?
-

DFID ALUMNI SUMMER DRINKS

FROM 17:30 ON 11 JUNE AT THE EXCHANGE, DFID 22 WHITEHALL

Our regular drinks party will take place at DFID's London HQ at 22 Whitehall, London SW1A 2EG. Members attending the party will be asked on the night for a donation of £5 towards the cost of the event.

If you plan to come to the party, please let the Secretary know by 30 May, or sooner if you can.

Send email to marc-taylor@dfid.gov.uk,

copied to c.marc.taylor@gmail.com and sr.simon.ray@gmail.com

Send post to 20 Admiral House, Willow Place, London SW1P 1JW.

Phone or text 07507413432

DFID ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16:00, 11 JUNE 2014

The Annual General Meeting of the DFID Alumni Association will be on 11 June 2014. The main business will be to elect a chairman and committee, and to receive the annual accounts.

The Extraordinary General Meeting held on 17 December 2013 adopted a constitution. The election of officers at the AGM will follow the provisions of the constitution, in line with the timetable and processes agreed at the EGM. The constitution and minutes of the EGM are available in the library of the DFID Alumni community on dgroups.org.

The Annual General Meeting will be held by video link between room RB.G.13 in DFID's offices at 22 Whitehall, London and room AH 334 in DFID's offices at Abercrombie House, East Kilbride.

DFID requires a list of members attending so that security passes can be issued. Please let the Secretary know if you plan to attend. Members overseas may be able to take part by telephone. Please let the Secretary know if you wish to take part by telephone, and provide your number.

Kathy Marshall was elected a member of the committee in June 2012. She plans to continue. The remaining positions are vacant (i.e. chair, treasurer, secretary and up to eight other members).

The following co-opted members of the committee intend to stand for election: Simon Ray as chair, Marc Taylor as secretary, John Burton as treasurer, Jim Drummond, Jackie Creighton, Janet Grimshaw, and Amisha Patel. Their names, with proposers and seconders, will be on the list of nominations. The proposal is that Marc Taylor as secretary is elected as a voting member.

Further nominations for election should be sent to the Secretary to arrive four weeks before the AGM at the latest. As set out in the constitution, the aim is that the committee should represent a broad cross-section of the members in the UK and overseas. Whilst meetings are in London, we already use telephone and video conferencing for members elsewhere.

Each nomination must have a proposer and seconder. The Secretary will circulate to members a full list of valid nominations by 21 May.

Members unable to attend the meeting can cast their vote, submit comments and propose points for discussion by email or post. If you wish to do this, please send your vote, comment or proposal to the Secretary, copied to the Chairman, to arrive by 4 June at the latest and preferably 30 May.

To arrive by 14 May 2014 or sooner if possible:

- **nominations for election to the committee, with proposer and seconder**

To arrive by 30 May 2014 or sooner if possible:

- **names of members and others planning to join the Summer drinks party**

To arrive by 4 June 2014 or sooner if possible:

- **names of members wishing to attend in person, with location**
- **names of members wishing to take part by phone, with contact number**
- **votes from members unable to take part in person**
- **comments/proposals for discussion from members unable to take part in person**



CORRESPONDENCE COLUMN

Members took forward a lively discussion on dgroups.org about the approach by which DFID spent 0.7% of UK GNI on Overseas Development Assistance.

CONTACT

This newsletter is produced by DFID's Alumni Secretariat. For any queries, please contact:
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DFID Rep: David Bailey
Email: d-bailey@dfid.gov.uk

DIARY



8 April: Committee Meeting
29 April: visit to Royal Hospital, Chelsea
11 June: Annual General Meeting
11 June: London Summer Party
23 June: DFID India seminar
17 July: Tour of Samuel Johnson's London
22 September: Visit to Lords Cricket Ground

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.

Follow the DFID Alumni Association, and share information about international development news and event, on Twitter: [@DFIDAlumni](https://twitter.com/DFIDAlumni)

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 alumni@dfid.gov.uk by Friday 27 June 2014.