

ONE WORLD LINKING

The newsletter about linking, published by the UK One World Linking Association

LINKING HOPES FOR SPRINGTIME !

A foreword from the Chairman

Once again I am delighted to welcome you to another action-packed OWL- thanks to Ian and Mike and our contributors, with news and views from around the world – not least from Ian Croxford's own Indian visit. So it is with regret that we are saying goodbye to Ian from this month. In doing so we do extend our very sincere thanks to Ian for all he has done for UKOWLA in his time with us; and give him our very best wishes for the future. We will have to manage somehow without him. At the same time, we congratulate Lynn Cutler who has now added the role of Director GLADE to her responsibilities as Director of UKOWLA. This will add to her workload, but knowing Lynn's tremendous dedication to international linking and to UKOWLA and all it stands for, the Trustees are confident that she will rise ably to the challenge. We will certainly stand ready to give Lynn as much support as we can in the months to come,

and would welcome the support of any members who feel able to contribute to UKOWLA's valuable work. Meanwhile, we will look forward to hearing all about Lynn's recent Zambian visit (with our Treasurer Steve Curtis) – when she has time to write it up ! (maybe for a future OWL ?). You will see too that we have introductions to two more of our new Trustees Averil Newsam and Alex Carter.

Meanwhile, the other good news for linking this spring is the launch of the new DfID

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programme to support community links like ours – now known as 'Global Community Links'– see also page 13. Lynn and I attended the official launch of the programme by the British Council Chief Executive Martin Davidson, on 9 March, and appropriately held in the London South Bank Coin Street



During the IntroZambia 2010 visit, UKOWLA Director Lynn Cutler chats with Ms Mbewe of Abigail Village, Eastern Province, Zambia and Lyn Hancock, from Worcestershire after harvesting groundnuts from the farm.



Neighbourhood Centre. An enthusiastic band of African drummers gave it a good international feel.

The programme – a total of £3m over three years – is a major achievement for the linking movement. So in our 25th year UKOWLA can take real satisfaction in the role we played in influencing political opinion towards the value of international linking, that has led to this very welcome programme. We held the initial conference in Cumberland Lodge that led to the formation of the inter-agency consortium BUILD (Building Understanding through International Links for Development). This launched the formation of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Connecting Communities, and its meetings with ministers, and the commissioning and publication of our well-regarded 'Toolkit' –launched by Desmond Tutu. The Toolkit is now recognised by DfID and specified for use in the new Global Community Links programme. The programme looks set to provide just the pump-priming support for community linking that we have long been advocating. We are in close touch with the British Council – as the lead agency for the programme - and look forward to helping you, our members, benefit from it. We will – as ever - respond to your requests for advice, and moreover hope that we can learn from those of you with early experience of it, to the subsequent advantage of all. We will report progress in future OWLs, and meanwhile look forward to seeing its benefits starting to flow – fittingly - in our 25th anniversary.

Geoffrey Findlay
April 2010



Meet your Trustees

Averil Newsam

Since 2002 I have been Regional Project Manager with One World Network North East, an organisation set up to deliver the DFID *Enabling Effective Support* initiative that is running in all UK regions, creating local strategic support systems to help teachers to build a global dimension in the curriculum. My 'apprenticeship' for this work began in 1989, when as a third year mature student at York University, I became a volunteer at what was then Cleveland DEC, based in my home town, Middlesbrough.

A year later, on graduating, I was appointed paid, part time worker, and by May the next year, with another teacher, I was in Zimbabwe, learning about schools in Masvingo, Zimbabwe, Middlesbrough's Twin Town.

Before this I was a Nurse, Midwife and Family Planning Nurse in the Teesside area. I obtained my teaching certificate through a City and Guilds route because some of my work was in schools, but when I enrolled on the Open University Social Science Foundation Course (D102) in 1985 I was bitten and knew I wanted to change direction. My interest in global issues was cemented with two more OU courses before getting my place at York University in 1987; I graduated with a 2:1 BA in Politics and Education in 1990.

Since then I have supported hundreds of schools and teachers, attended regional, national and international Linking conferences, tried to understand the workings of the British Council and been frustrated by the confusing language and initiatives that different governments conjure up to try to widen the experience of young people in the UK. Lately I feel a bit out of touch with community links, but I was involved for ten years (1992 – 2002) in the Middlesbrough Oberhausen Peace Link.

I'm now 61 and am thinking about life after paid work, but I think that this also offers me the chance to get more involved in UKOWLA as well as becoming active again in Links of all kinds.



Alex Carter



I am a primary school teacher, currently teaching in Leicestershire. Since taking a Geography Degree, I have always had a burning interest in global development and linking. Additional interests in environmental protection and travelling have spurred me to participate in volunteer programmes in various countries, including Galapagos Islands and the Amazon Rainforest. This has involved community work, teaching and environmental & wildlife protection. Other interests include travel writing and I have travelled abroad with an editor of a travel magazine, producing an article about related social and cultural issues on my return. In addition, I have just returned to the UK after teaching at a school in Venice for a year. Since joining UKOWLA, I have established links between my current school and a school in Ghana, and look forward to visiting them in the future. I am pleased to offer support to UKOWLA and its members through my experience and network of links with schools and communities in the UK and abroad.



Schools and young people

Internationalising a Department – Key Stage 3 Drama

As a Drama teacher I often find that I am alone in holding the responsibility for Internationalism – many in my position seem to be senior managers and Geographers. However, I think this unique starting point has created opportunities for us, and in seeing how my subject has developed others have too.

Drama is a subject that is culturally specific, every action has meaning within the context of the spectator. We feel, as a department, that it is important to include units that represent a variety of cultures, not just those represented in our school but also those with whom we have close 'link based' relationships.

We began to develop our global curriculum in 2005 when we introduced a unit about daily life in the UK and in Ghana, recently this has become part of the 'World of Words' project.

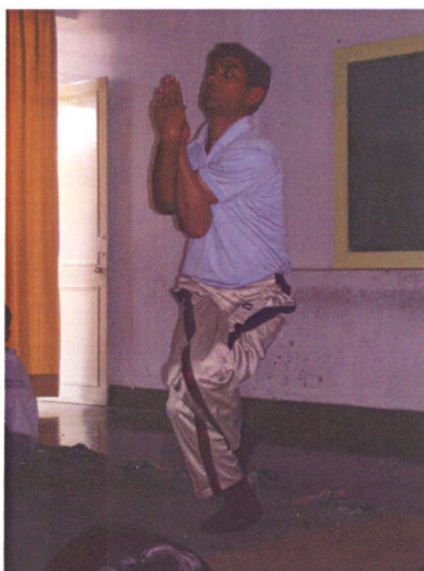
Below is an outline of our current 'International' units:



Year 7 – Students learn about daily life in our partner village of

Pampawie, Ghana through examining photographs and discussing them with their class teacher. The key dramatic concepts taught through this unit are tableau, soundscape, mime, exaggeration and synchronisation.

Year 8 – Students learn about Krishna, they use a range of stories and pictures to learn about the Hindu God. In the final lesson students are given a script which was written by students at our partner school **Vidyashram in India**. The key dramatic concepts taught are improvisation, story and sequence and page to stage.



Year 9 – From September 2009 students will complete a unit of work about dragons. They will design traditional dragons and examine a Chinese story which seeks to explain their importance. In the following lessons students will choreograph and perform a Dragon Dance. The key dramatic concepts taught will be co-operation, rhythm and devising.



The materials for this lessons have been chosen by our partner school **Bibo in China**. (This scheme of work is being developed and trialled this year with two year 9 groups.)



AS and A2 Level – In year 12 students study the Polish practitioner Jerzy Grotowski who was inspired by Indian Kathakali and Yoga – our partner school in India have provided resources for this area.

Further I have unexpected dramatic experiences as a result of our links – a dvd of Chinese New Year dance sent from Bibo. I directed an edited version of Macbeth at our link school in India and have taken part in numerous dances in Ghana.

The most important aspect of the International work at Polesworth is the cross-curricular nature; our link schools enable us to use 'real' resources which ensures

authenticity in the classroom. Further, focusing on fewer links throughout the curriculum creates a cross-curricular thread which students can follow and explore. Above all the excitement and opportunity created by such projects.

Sharon Leftwich-Lloyd
Internationalism and Development
Education Co-ordinator
The Polesworth School

Visit http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass/your_stories/20100214_dragon_dance.shtml at the BBC World Class site for more information.

CARBON PARTNERS

"Carbon Partners" is an exciting new project to pilot a model for school partnerships that is based on global justice rather than charity. We're being funded by DfID for three years to develop the model, firstly within two secondary schools in South Yorkshire and then to disseminate the learning to schools on a regional and national basis.



Aston School Y8

The two schools in the initial pilot, like many others, have partnerships with African schools that had previously had a strong focus on fundraising. I think there is a growing recognition that, whilst this can be hugely beneficial (and sometimes essential), the way in which fundraising is done can sometimes compound negative

stereotypes of "poor, helpless Africans" and of the UK school as the dominant partner.

The "Carbon Partners" model turns this all around! It uses carbon footprinting as a real and tangible example of global injustice and gives students an opportunity to make a difference.

A carbon footprint is a measure of the greenhouse gases that you produce. In order to calculate the school's carbon footprint students must consider many lifestyle factors including how they travel to school, what they eat, what their classroom looks like, what they buy and the way in which they study and learn. They will discover that their carbon footprint is ten, or even a hundred, times bigger than their partner school's! The great thing about carbon footprints as a way to explore social injustice is that it is based on data that is relevant to students; it is fairly easy to calculate and real to them. This means that not only can they understand it, but they can see how they can do something about it and make positive change.

After the two schools have calculated their carbon footprints, the UK school works out how much more than their fair share of global greenhouse gases they are producing and therefore what their "carbon debt" is. There is still a place for fundraising but rather than being a charitable act, it is reframed as reducing the "debt owed" to the African school to pay for all our extra emissions. This will help to change the balance of the partnership to one about equity and fairness – everyone is suffering the effects of climate change so we have to take responsibility for our contribution towards it. The UK school also realises that they also have a responsibility to reduce their carbon footprint by saving energy in school, encouraging walking to school, serving locally grown food

in the canteen etc.

Sessions are run in both the UK and African schools to encourage students to reflect on development issues and the Millennium Development Goals as well as sustainability and the need for active citizenship. Students in the African school are also encouraged to consider how the funds that are transferred to them as part of the 'carbon debt' can best help their community make progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and reducing poverty. There is an emphasis in the model on interdependence, the need to work together and explore with your partner school what you can learn from each other. For example we have found that UK students were really inspired to change their behaviour after learning how resourceful the Zanzibari students at their partner school were at recycling and reusing materials. They couldn't believe you could make a football from old plastic bags!



Students from Birley in Zanzibar

If you are interested in learning more about the Carbon Partners model or even implementing it in your school, please do get in touch as we'd love to hear from you.

Emily Knowles
Development Education Centre
(South Yorkshire)
emily@decsy.org.uk

BLOOD DIAMONDS

BLOOD DIAMONDS - AN ON-LINE PROJECT

Melanie Rieder

At the BETT educational conference this January Rafi.ki launched our newest project- Blood Diamonds, with a hotseat in which a Rafi.ki teacher, and former child-soldier Jimiyke from Sierra Leone was interviewed by students from the Central Foundation Girls School, UK. The girls prepared some excellent questions including:

“What caused the civil war?”

“How has being a child soldier affected you?”

“How are women’s rights different from here to Sierra Leone?”

The hotseat was filmed and forms one of the exciting resources on our online communities, Rafi.ki and Kidogo.

Rafi.ki and Kidogo are award winning online learning communities that connect schools in 117 countries. We provide a safe and moderated environment for students

and teachers to learn about and discuss important global issues. We want to help children and young people understand these issues, learn to take action and promote positive change around the world. Rafi.ki and Kidogo are operated by Gemin-i, a registered UK charity.

Blood Diamonds is a DFID funded project that seeks to inform children about the negative consequences that the discovery of certain resources has had on the social, economic, political and environmental structure of large areas of Africa. The project focuses on the topics of diamonds in Sierra Leone and coltan in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

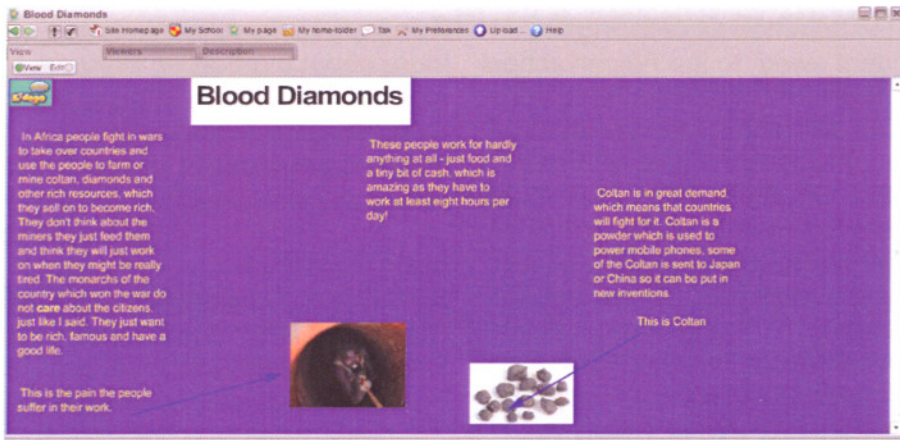
With the Blood Diamonds project we hope to raise awareness among students about the impact of natural resources on conflict and the effect of their purchases on people in different parts of the world. Students will learn about issues related to conflicts, refugees and human rights. We want to engage young people in meaningful and interesting activities touching on important global issues. Students are also given the opportunity to learn about campaigning and actions that individuals can take to help improve the lives of others. The activities related to this project are varied and tailored to students between the age of 6 and 18.

So far more than 40 schools are taking part from 21 countries including Ghana, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Pakistan and the UK. They have already produced exciting work, and more schools are signing up every week. To date students have completed activities ranging from participating in videoconferences, to making videos and PowerPoint presentations.



A main feature of the project is for students to communicate with schools in affected areas of Africa. We already have schools registered in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Cote d’Ivoire, to name a few, but are always looking for more. We are particularly interested in contacting schools or organisations in the DRC. As the educational infrastructure in this country is limited we are aware of the difficulties teachers in affected areas face in acquiring supplies like pencils and paper, let alone having Internet access in the classroom. However, Rafi.ki and Kidogo are able to run on very low bandwidths and do not require any additional software besides Flashplayer. We have years of experience in helping low-resourced schools access our communities, and are always looking to help more of these schools. If you have any contacts with schools or organisations in this area or other affected areas that may be interested in participating in the project, we would be very grateful if you would let us know.

The Blood Diamonds project is completely FREE to all Rafi.ki members. Any school can regis-



Example of work on Kidogo by a 9 year old pupil

ter for Silver membership, which gives one teacher limited access to the site and the ability to communicate with other teachers. Once registered schools can upgrade to Gold membership, which allows for full access and the registration of students and teachers. Interested schools can register at www.rafi.ki. Upgrading to our Gold membership is free for schools outside the UK but does involve a cost for schools in the UK, which enables us to give free access to schools with limited resources.

If you're interested in joining up or have any questions please contact :

Melanie Rieder (melanie@rafi.ki)
or Chris Llewellyn
(christopher@rafi.ki)

GLADE Global Collective Unveiling the 'Weight of Our Sins'

The Global Collective youth group that meet at the GLADE Centre in Ilminster were invited to be part of a launch event to unveil a sculpture at the Bishop's Palace in Wells on 29th March 2010. Called 'The Weight of our Sins' it depicts



some of the abuses perpetrated on the world's children. Don McCullin, the internationally renowned photographer, came to unveil the piece. He has been instrumental in bringing many of these abuses to light in a long career in the world's poverty stricken and war torn places.

Jewel Pabelona from the Global Collective youth group wrote a short article on Poverty. Jewel was born in the Philippines and the reading depicts the poverty that is the reality for many there.

Sarah Stephenson, Sophie Greenidge and Nancy Jessiman read the article in front of an audience of 120 people. There were representatives of many local secondary schools as well as local supporters of the Bishops Palace, the Diocese of Bath and Wells and Save the Children to name a few.

We met by the moat side for the unveiling and some words from Mr McCullin. Then there were readings and music before going up to the conference room in the Place to view the accompanying exhibition of photographs.

The event was really moving and left us all determined to continue to try and raise awareness about the plight of children around the world, and take action towards a more fair and equitable life for all.

UKOWLA members can see this stunning work for themselves at the UKOWLA Zambia linking conference on 23rd- 25th July in Wells in the glorious setting of the Bishop's Palace.



Community Linking

BRISTOL LINK WITH NICARAGUA - RECENT ACTIVITY

BLINC's annual fundraising football tournament has been announced for Sunday 10th May at Ashton Park School. The Copa Sandino will be raising funds for development projects in Puerto Morazan. The very first Copa Sandino took place in 1987 at Windmill Hill City Farm. Talks are under way to merge BLINC's women's tournament, the Copa Lucrezia Lindo with the Copa Sandino on the same day, as many women's Teams want to be part of the bigger event. The event is a 5 a side football tournament and is open to any football team but specially welcomes teams from the Latino communities.

Officials in Puerto Morazan have chosen the site for the mural to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Friendship Agreement between Bristol and Puerto Morazan back in January 1989. BLINC volunteer Isobel Tarr from Nailsea will travel to Nicaragua from Mexico to undertake the mural project with local young people. The project has received funds from the Lord Rootes Trust which will be used to prepare the surface, buy materials and offer hot meals to participants on each day.

BLINC volunteers took a year out from organising a contribution to International Women's Day this year but did run a stall at the main event at the Council House in

Bristol. Nicaraguan jewellery and artesanía proved popular and BLINC made £60 towards our work in Puerto Morazan. At a recent projects group meeting it was decided that BLINC would fund projects this year to build several basic kitchens in pre-schools and put new roofs on school buildings. BLINC supporters will also fund a capacity – building project for primary teachers around delivering art in the classroom including providing a range of materials for two rural pre-schools.

BLINC's registered charity "Friends of Morazan" which works primarily with under fives has agreed, through the generosity of one supporter to pay the salary of a fifth pre-school teacher in one of the small rural communities in the municipality of Puerto Morazan. A recent evaluation visit to the area by BLINC development worker Gioconda Perez provided a range of photos of pre-school activity based on the Montessori method which has been introduced into the municipality over several years by the Clifton Children's House. BLINC has also recently helped fund a two day workshop for pre-school teachers on using drama and performance. The teachers visited the regional capital Leon for their training sessions where they also undertook a computer course supported by the Clifton Children's House.

Alix Hughes
Contact:
Alix.Hughes@uwe.ac.uk



Warwick – Bo Councils' Collaboration – an update

"Like to see the school pet?" My tour with William Alpha, Bo City's Chief Administrator was at a large secondary school. We go round a corner to a fenced enclosure. I peer inside. Some pet. There sits a large, adult crocodile, basking in the dry season sun. Just the latest of many surprises in Sierra Leone's remarkable second city.

I was visiting Bo with Jane Knight of the One World Link group as part of a long term work project with the City Council. The link has been sharing experience and understanding between Bo and Leamington for over 28 years. It even continued through the Country's recent devastating civil war and today is as active as ever.

The project has already helped with waste management, environmental health and finance support, involving visits by experts from the County and District Councils. My job was to help the Council develop ideas on planning for the City. But first, I needed to understand more about daily life.

The statistics tell one story, and a pretty stark one at that: highest under-5 mortality rate in the world, 60% illiteracy rate, average life expectancy in the mid 40's and a stagnant economy, with 60% of government expenditure coming from foreign aid.

Sounds bad, but there is another side. Whilst poor by any western standards, there is little evidence of despair or hopelessness. The streets throng with people; trading, travelling and working. Everywhere I went I saw endless activity and was always met with courtesy and good humour.

The infrastructure has many deficiencies: a serious lack of health-care, dirt roadways, intermittent power, but there is a determination to improve and resourcefulness is apparent everywhere.

Nevertheless, much is needed. I visited overcrowded schools, some with over 100 pupils in a classroom. At one, lack of space meant pupils were taught outside. Very picturesque, but hopelessly impractical. "How do you manage in the rainy season?" I asked the dignified Headmistress. She looked at me. "With difficulty", was the understated reply.

But the City Council is looking forward. The elected Mayor, Dr Wusu Sannoh wants to plan for the future. The Council itself has been in existence only since only 2004, shortly after the end of the civil war. As a result, it has no map of the City and no experience of land use planning. With no control over development the City is sprawling in an unplanned way. Commercial areas are growing haphazardly and there is no mechanism for linking infrastructure needs with growth. Planning has its critics in the UK, but the adverse consequences of no planning at all are plain to see here.

The Mayor is keen to have a "blueprint" for the City to guide it over next 10 years. Following my discussions with City Council staff in Bo, the Mayor is visiting Warwick District to take the project further. We hope to be able to improve the mapping of the City and set up a system that can help plan its growth.

The Local Plan process that many are familiar with in Warwick District may provide a guide for how to consider where new housing and new commercial areas may best be located in Bo. An additional problem to be overcome in the City, however, is that of making it happen. Controversy

always surrounds planning here at home, but at least there are procedures for dealing with disagreement. In Bo, there is no proper framework yet for stopping development going where it shouldn't and only allowing it to take place where it should. We will need to develop ideas not only for the plan itself, but for how the City can bring about more control over development.

Many challenges have come my way during my time at Warwick. This project is well outside that world and in itself that provides a challenge. I am certainly learning as much as helping. However, with the help of others, good progress has been made so far and I am confident that it will continue.

John Archer
j.archer3@ntlworld.com

An Indian Experience – Yeovil and Tigri

Delhi has a population of 13.5 million, of which a third are reckoned to live in slums. ASHA (Hindi for 'hope') is an Indian Christian charity that works in the slums of Delhi, providing Community Development, Health and Education. I was part of a group of 15 people from the churches of Yeovil who visited Delhi in February 2010, to work for a week in the slum of Tigri with ASHA.

Tigri is a mature slum where ASHA has been working for 20 years. About 40,000 people are crammed into an area about half a mile square. Over the years ASHA has secured improvements to the slum that have included improving the drainage and improving the water supply. Most of the lanes have concrete surfaces (originally brick paving was put down but this was instantly stolen). Many of the residents have secured land rights to live on their own patch, and most dwellings



are made of brick or concrete with corrugated iron or asbestos roofs. The dwellings are all small and cramped and generally don't have windows. All now have mains electricity and piped water, even if supplies are frequently interrupted, but there are no lavatories in any of the dwellings. Many homes have large TVs, there are 100s of channels available and it's quite normal for an entire lane to crowd into one home to watch the cricket. Most people have mobile phones, and Indian call charges are the cheapest in the world.

Amongst the small homes there are shops, little factories, and the ASHA community centre. The only public buildings in Tigri are the toilets, each serving a block of around 3000 residents.

Health

ASHA was founded by a doctor and provides a clinic at the community centre. which trains Community Health Volunteers who look after the primary health issues of their block. They can dispense basic medicines such as paracetamol and antibiotics, offer health advice and spot important conditions. The main issue is antenatal care and infant mortality. Probably because of this basic care slums where ASHA works have half the rate of infant mortal-

ity of India as a whole. The CHV's are all women from the women's group (Myla Mandals). There are also young volunteers (Bal Mandals) who act as lane monitors, dispensing health advice and looking out for sickness. The killer disease in the slums is Tuberculosis. Treatment is free in hospitals, but the conditions are often bad.

Education

ASHA see education as the way out of the slums for children. If they can speak good English or get a University degree then they can get a good job that earns a reasonable wage of £500 per month or more. Universal Primary education is one of the Millennium Development Goals and in theory free education is available to all in India. In practice there are no government schools in Tigri and there aren't really enough schools at all in Delhi to cope with the growing population. There are other factors at work. To attend school parents need to buy the school uniform for their children who must travel out of the slum to get to school.

Slum children are at a major disadvantage partly because many parents put pressure on children to work for money rather than go to school. ASHA tries to correct this by offering extra tuition in the community centre and encourag-

ing children to develop self confidence. In addition, ASHA workers try to persuade parents to value education.

It costs £150 a year for Tuition fees at the state Universities. ASHA will pay these fees provided the course is seen as worthwhile and likely to lead to a good job - but there are additional costs. One youngster that we were aware of - Sohal - was studying Computer Animation and his mother had borrowed from the bank to pay for it. However, he still needed a good computer with the right software to do his project work on. We were able to use money given by Christians in Yeovil to buy him this computer.

Community Development

The people in the slums usually have no education, don't know their rights and are treated as worthless by high caste Indians. The caste system is illegal, but in practice high - caste Indians still treat the untouchables as dirt. It really was unpleasant to witness at first hand. ASHA has taken up an advocacy role helping people from the slum to fight for their rights. In Tigri this has meant water, power and land rights so that people have their own homes and have postal addresses.

ASHA works mainly with women and children. Some of us found this hard to cope with and kept asking "What about the men?" In practice the men of Tigri work 18 hour days in soul destroying low paid jobs. With the women's group I met all reported that their husbands had problems with alcohol, or gambling, or were violent and in many cases all three. In such circumstances, working with the men is difficult. Where in the West the women would be encouraged to leave and join refuges it is impossible in an Indian context, and the police do not seem interested in enforcing the law in the slums. The women

asked us to pray for their husbands and that's the best we can do.

Why did we go?

One tangible result of our visit was the repainting of the community centre. It had been done by a Northern Ireland school a couple of years ago, but in their conditions the decorations deteriorate quickly. Although we had taken our own rollers and expected to have to do the base coats, we were lucky that the ASHA painter had already done this for us and we could concentrate on the art work. The theme in the children's room and computer room was 'Elmer the Elephant'. Louis our artist did the outlines and the rest filled them in. In the central corridor we produced a globe and flags of the nations. I was really proud of my world, as I did a representation of a globe centred on India, with India distorted to make it bigger. It was good to do, but local painters could have probably done a better job, and the money would have gone to the local economy. Apart from Doctor Dick we couldn't bring medical aid, and only spoke a few words of Hindi.

Some of our group did a bit of teaching whilst we were there, and we all talked English with the children as much as they could. This serves two purposes. It enables them to speak proper English with a proper English speaker rather than with a native Hindi speaker who speaks English with an accent. It also encourages the children to develop self confidence, which they need in order to compete against the middle class children in the education battle. We also brought toys, entertained with 'Harry the Monkey' and 'Crocky wock', and made balloon animals. The real value we brought to the people of Tigri was the money we raised (over £9000 at the last count), prayer and the laying on of hands for the sick,

and hope. It really does mean something for the people of the slums that people from Europe want to come visit them, whilst people in their own city don't.

But more important is the effect that visiting Tigri had on us. We have all become ambassadors for ASHA, and can tell the world that there are people in Tigri that are doing their best to bring up their children to keep them healthy and educate them to get worthwhile jobs to lift the standards in their own community. There are good Christians like Soni, who are working in the slums to improve people's lives and who can give the simple testimony when asked the question "Why do you do it?" they responded "Because Jesus did".

When is a link not a link?

Birchfield, where our leader Dr Hogben has his surgery, is the most deprived area in Yeovil. Birchfield primary school has adopted Tigri as a fundraising project. The children have raised money, given toys and written letter to the children at the school in the Tigri community centre. The children of Tigri have written back and now maintain regular

email contact.

As a development education professional I ought to be critical as this link does not meet the high standards required by DFID in its formal programmes. There is no formal constitution. The slum school in Tigri would not be recognised by Global School Partnerships. ASHA workers are coming for a conference in Yeovil in September, but there is no realistic prospect of the residents of Tigri coming to the UK, nor would we seriously consider taking children from Birchfield school to the slums of Delhi.

But I have to say that the children of Tigri were genuinely pleased to see us. They enjoy the contact with their new friends in Yeovil. Some of the children at Birchfield have got a real passion for a small part of the developing world as a result, and hopefully this will change their lives for the better.

They are beginning to understand that they are richer and healthier than their Indian counterparts, but which group is happier, and which group aspires to a better future?

Ian Croxford



Balloon modelling in the clinic

Support Organisations

The Alexander Awards

Learning Through Linking—
and Linking Through Learning

The enormous privilege of reciprocal learning between teachers is one of the most valuable forms of linking. In my experience it is inspirational for colleagues to have the opportunity to share ideas and experiences.

The Commonwealth Association for Science, Technology and Maths Educators (CASTME) has an annual award scheme for teachers whose work is innovative and socially relevant. Those who gain awards are encouraged to share their work widely.

There is also an annual Alexander Award. This prestigious award is for a woman who has worked to improve the teaching and learning of socially relevant science, maths and/or technology education.

The Alexander award this year was made to Dr Mrs Manjulaben D. Acharya: Assistant Teacher (science) Nakhatrana Panchayati Primary School in Gujarat, India. Dr Acharya is a highly qualified lady who has achieved a great deal. She has worked hard with some of the most neglected girls to improve life chances through increasing understanding of the importance of hygiene, thus putting into practice a spectrum of basic biology.

Real outcomes of her work include better oral hygiene, decreased disease (including sexually transmitted disease), better understanding of nutrition and importance of vaccination, greatly improved personal care, care of

babies, good practices during pregnancy, family planning.

Mrs Acharya has also set up 'eco-clubs' in schools: The girls are involved in planting and care of plants and conservation of water.

To date she has worked with 750 girls, bringing measurable outcomes in terms of social change. The people of the villages are grateful to her and credit her with a 'miracle in our health' and say: 'there is no doubt in it' They appreciate the value of using waste to make fertiliser in order to improve crops and are able as a result to grow more food, so helping tackle the problem of hunger.

Nominations for this award are welcomed at any time of the year and should be made through lynnesymonds@googlemail.com.

There is more information about this and other CASTME Awards on www.castme.org

Lynne Symonds

NEW NAME: BFSS INTERNATIONAL LINK SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The **British & Foreign School Society** has recently been reviewing its activities including its successful international award scheme and, as a result, has renamed the scheme "BFSS International Link Scholarship Scheme".

The significance of this change is threefold. First it highlights the fact that the scheme is about links between communities. The hope is that the young people

whom the Society supports under the scheme will make lasting links between their community in the UK and the community which they visit to teach or undertake other educational activities for a period of up to one year. Second, it reflects the important role which the link organisation plays in the sponsorship and support of the young people concerned, organisations like Project Trust, The Daneford Trust, Outreach International, Zanzigap as well as a number of schools and colleges.

Third, it gives recognition to the achievements of the young people in being put forward by their link organisation and awarded a scholarship by the BFSS.

The BFSS International Link Scholarship Committee met recently and conducted a day's interviews with the candidates put forward by the link organisations this year. On the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the BFSS was very pleased to award scholarships to 12 young people who will be going for periods of 6 months to a year to a range of countries - Cambodia, Malaysia, St Lucia, St Vincent & The Grenadines, India, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.

Other countries visited by previous award holders have included Chile, Guyana, Jamaica, Ecuador, China, Nepal and Bangladesh. The photographs show young people supported by Project Trust and the BFSS in Guyana and China.

The BFSS would be very pleased to hear from other organisations ready to act as "Links". These should be established, not for profit, organisations with developed links with a community or organisation overseas, who are

ready to take on responsibility for the welfare of a young person under the age of 26 to undertake educational activity in a developing country for between six months and a year. For further information please contact Imogen Wilde, Director of the BFSS, at director@bfss.org.uk



Global Community Links update

Many thanks to UKOWLA members for contributing to the Global Community Links baseline survey. The executive summary of the report is now available on the programme's updated website, www.dfid.gov.uk/communitylinks.

The survey recorded details of 342 community Links from all five nations of the UK and over 50 developing countries. The results have been analysed and findings have been useful in shaping the delivery of the programme. The programme officially launched in Cardiff and London in March 2010. Representatives of over 80 NGO's, community groups and UKOWLA members attended the launch, which included speeches Richard Calvert of DFID. Valentin Djema from the Africa Foundation Stone spoke about their link with community group in Cameroon. Lively entertainment was provided by Kakatsitsi drummers who are also establishing a link with Ghana.

The programme's website has been updated to include information on the grants that will be available and information about workshops and other learning resources will be available soon. If

your Link has not already registered with the programme, visit the website www.dfid.gov.uk/communitylinks to make sure you don't miss out on these exciting new opportunities.

Jane Grantham
Project Manager
Programmes & Projects

British Council, Bridgewater House,
58 Whitworth Street, Manchester,
M1 6BB

T +44 (0)161 957 7030

F +44 (0)161 957 7488

E jane.grantham@britishcouncil.org

UK working with partners in more than ten of the world's poorest countries across Africa and Asia. Projects included maternal and neonatal care paediatrics, burns, mental health, radiology, pharmacology and nursing.

Grants for Health Links of up to £15,000 per year for 12 to 22 months are available and Start Up Grants to support the development of new and young Links of up to £3,000 are available throughout the year.

Full application details are available at www.britishcouncil.org/learning-healthlinks The deadline date for applications is 31st May.

Fairtrade Celebrations

Garstang in Lancashire held a celebratory event on April 24th to celebrate its 10 years as the World's first Fairtrade town. The main speaker was Harriet Lamb CBE, Chief Executive of the Fairtrade Foundation. Contact and information www.garstangfairtrade.org.uk

Local Government Alliance

Set up by The Commonwealth Local Government Forum, the Improvement and Development Agency, the Local Government Association, the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers, the Local Government Alliance for International Development aims to increase understanding in councils of global poverty and increase their capacity to get involved. A regular on line newsletter is produced.

Notice Board

Health Links

The Tropical Health and Education Trust and the British Council through the International Health Links Funding Scheme have just launched its Round Two call for applications. The purpose of the Funding Scheme is to build the capacity of developing country health services through the reciprocal transfer of skills and knowledge between partners in the UK and those overseas. Grants are being made available to support projects run by long term partnerships of 'Health Links' between UK health institutions and those in developing countries.

Round One was well received and to date IHLFS (funded by DFID and the Department of Health) has awarded over 30 grants to health institutions in the

Contact: Libby Ferguson, Partnership Manager, Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ Tel: 020 7664 3105 <http://lg-alliance.org>

Burley - Téréli Friendship Trust

Burley in Wharfedale (near Leeds) formed a link with Téréli in Mali in November 1999 as a result of Jon Snow's 'On the Line' Millennium initiative. It remains strong and flourishes through exchange visits and joint activity involving community groups and individuals. Recent activities in Mali have included tree planting, well-digging and creation of school gardens, whilst in Burley, apart from personal exchanges, schools are involved in exchanges of work and exhibitions of Téréli artefacts are held. The exchange is funded by various means including an annual calendar illustrating aspects of life in each village.

Téréli is a largely Muslim village and is Francophone: the view is that this enhances the exchange and engages people around Burley who might not otherwise get involved. The common language has also encouraged formation of a link with an organisation based in Le Havre in France - **Coup de Pouce pour les Enfants de Daga** – that works in the same area of Mali.

Contact: www.btft.org.uk and info.btft@virgin.net or phone 01943 864404

The place of languages in exchanges needs more exploration: we'd be glad to hear from members of their experiences of language in their exchanges.

A fundraising idea that costs you nothing - Give as you live....

As a new Trustee I'm trying to do my bit to help find some new ways of fundraising for UKOWLA and this idea caught my eye when I was reading another charity's newsletter. Averil Newsam, Trustee

Everyclick.com has created "Give as you Live" so that once you sign up and identify your favourite charity (like UKOWLA) you can raise money every time you search the web, shop on line from your favourite retailers or trade on eBay. Every search you make creates a donation for UKOWLA.

The address to go to is <http://www.everyclick.com/ukowla>, and after you have registered all searches, shopping and eBay activity made from here will raise money for us – you can track your giving – it updates every 3 minutes and you'll be amazed how quickly it adds up! It would of course help UKOWLA if you could spread the word to all your local Linking colleagues. I'm registered as Administrator for the UKOWLA page at Everyclick and

Give your mouse a heart

Just by using Everyclick.com as your search engine, you raise money for the charity of your choice. No charge. Just free giving. www.everyclick.com

Raise funds for UK One World Linking Association by registering at www.everyclick.com/ukowla

I'll report back in the next OWL how much we've raised. I hope you like the idea and can help to spread the word.

In total Everyclick has already raised over £1,078,664.25 for a wide range of charities around the UK, and it was voted website of the Year 2008 as well as having been recognised as a top 100 media tech company 2009.

Bristol Link with Beira

The Bristol Link with Beira has completed its successful Fairtrade Producer project. Isabel Antonio from the Nampula region spoke to over 1500 local school children as well as giving presentations at the Fairwear fashion show to almost 800 people. She spoke at the International Women's Day event and launched the BLB's Discovery Trip to Mozambique (further details from helen@worldmissionservices.co.uk). This was Isabel's first trip outside Mozambique and she handled the whole experience expertly. BLB's rep in Beira spent 3 days with Isabel in advance of her trip, preparing the talks and taking photos of the cashew process. All the photos were shown in the 15 schools she visited. The teachers evaluations are starting to come in and they all express the powerful impact that having a producer in the school has had on the pupils and staff. The profile of the BLB's work has also been raised alongside the issues of Fairtrade.

Further details: davespurgeon@blueyonder.co.uk

Staff news

Hello to Sarah Hamlet



I joined UKOWLA as the Community Involvement Coordinator on September 1st 2009. This role is within the current Global School Partnerships programme, which is funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development (DFID).

Latterly I was the International Coordinator, with responsibility for Key Stage 3 Citizenship, at Fairmead Special School. My educational working experience began as an audio visual technician in a secondary school, continuing as a playgroup supervisor and volunteer primary school assistant. I took up post supporting students with Special Educational Needs at Ansford School, where I was also involved in their Zambian partnership work.

My first employment, however, was in the National Health Service, where I studied electrophysiology and medical physics at various London hospitals including the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and the Institute for Child Health.

Farewell to Ian Croxford



Ian has been a major player and influence on UKOWLA's transition to working with GLADE and setting up new systems and working arrangements. He has also been responsible for the production of OWL since the changeover, and for a time took on the whole thing from soliciting and collecting articles to editing and formatting for the printer. He has been at the centre of preparing our bids for grants and the main source of administrative and other aspects of support for the Trustees, drawing on his wide experience and interests. Ian is about to leave us and this is his final edition of the OWL (appropriately including his article on India) so in addition to the Chair's remarks, we endorse his thanks to Ian for his work on behalf of the whole of UKOWLA and wish him well in the future.

Global School Partnerships – Partner Finding Residential Conferences

These are two day residential conferences for schools new to global school partnerships to find a partner school.

They will include practical advice on developing school links by:

- Exploring the global school partnership journey,
- signposting sources of support,
- reciprocal visit grants,
- professional development and accreditation opportunities,
- first-hand in-country advice from partnership country personnel

Conferences and venues for 2010:

May 22/23 2010

Special Schools at Harbourne Hall, Birmingham

July 10/11 2010

England-Nigeria at Harbourne Hall, Birmingham

October 2/3 2010

Northern Ireland - Sri Lanka at Ramada Encore Hotel, Belfast

There will be more dates and venues in 2011. For information about all conferences, contact Sarah Hamlet at

sarah@ukowla.org.uk

Tel: 01460 55449

Fax: 01460 55753.

UKOWLA Conferences

23/25 July 2010 Zambia Linking Conference at the Bishop's Palace, Wells, Somerset

November 2010 UKOWLA National Conference and AGM

Other conferences are being organised for 2011

Details from UKOWLA Office info@ukowla.org.uk or Tel: 01460 55449

Global Learning project for England

Bids have been asked for to run a

new DFID programme to support Global Learning that should commence in September of this year following a 2 month design phase.

"The project will support a strategic, coherent and impact-driven approach to global learning across the English education system so that young people can engage with global issues of interdependence (in particular poverty and development) through education provided by their schools."

This replaces the current regional based Enabling Effective Support programme (current regional groups will cease to be funded at the end of August) and the Development Awareness Fund.

Global Community Links – sharing understanding of global development

This new programme, funded by UKaid from DFID and managed by the British Council was launched on 9th March. It aims to promote links between communities in the UK and those in developing countries in order to share understanding of global development issues.

See item from the British Council on Page 13

Wales Conference report

The final report from the 'Under the Baobab Tree' conference in Llandrindod Wells last October is now on the website. The link is [http://www.ukowla.org.uk/upload/Gold Star & UKOWLA Oct 2009 Baobab Conference Report\[1\].pdf](http://www.ukowla.org.uk/upload/Gold Star & UKOWLA Oct 2009 Baobab Conference Report[1].pdf)

Next Edition

OWL number 70 will be the 25th Anniversary edition. Please send articles and photos to Info@ukowla.org.uk by 31st July.



DIOCESE OF BATH & WELLS



UK ONE WORLD LINKING ASSOCIATION and the DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS

Invite you to 'Zambia, the real Africa' a 2 day linking conference for all with an interest in and links with Zambia.

Join us for a weekend in Somerset of sharing successes, meeting friends British and Zambian, reminiscing and finding out more about how Zambia is progressing towards the Millennium Development Goals. Presentations, workshops, music, dance and films will be led by organisations and individuals with stories to tell and best practice to share, of their relationships with Zambia.

Dates; Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 July 2010
Venue; The Old Deanery, Wells Somerset

For more information contact lynn@ukowla.org.uk



UKOWLA
UK ONE WORLD LINKING ASSOCIATION

Contact:

Lynn Cutler (Director)
UKOWLA
The GLADE Centre
Frog Lane
Ilminster
Somerset
TA19 0AP

Tel: 01460 55449

Email: lynn@ukowla.org.uk

Why not join UKOWLA

Membership subscriptions run for a year starting quarterly

Local Authorities	£115
Community Groups	£35
Schools	£35
Individuals	£20
Additional Newsletter	£10

New members receive the UKOWLA membership directory and regular copies of the newsletter.