

# BUILD Newsletter

## January 2009



The first newsletter of 2009 provides a good opportunity to reflect back over the past year and look forward.

The need to bring people together in partnership for learning about and understanding different cultures and faiths can never have been more important in human history, not least because of the huge migration of people across international borders, the diversity that brings to communities across the world and the increasing pressures under which people are living whether economic, climatic or political. The current appalling conflict between Israel and Gaza brings the need for our work into ever sharper focus.

The recognition of the importance of people based partnerships has been demonstrated in several ways in the BUILD context:-

- an increasing number of very diverse international voluntary organisations has joined BUILD in the past year and contributed to the strength of our arguments for community-based partnerships. We now have a membership of 47 agencies.
- we have continued to attract the attention of influential people through meetings with such people as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and senior politicians from the two major parties and their advisors
- we have been the catalyst to new ventures in particular the Gold Star Communities programme being piloted so effectively in Wales with the support of the Welsh Assembly Government and attracted the interest of partners in other countries, Norway in particular, in rolling out this programme more widely.

### Education

READ International  
BBC World Class  
Hamilton Trust  
Cambridge Education Foundation  
DGSP  
SoundAffects

### Communities

Gold Star  
Links Japan  
UKOWLA  
Fairtrade Towns

### Health

THET  
Chartered Institute of  
Environmental Health

### Corporate

Skills Venture  
Eden Project

### Faith

Partnership for World Mission

### Ethnic Minority

Wales Somaliland Community  
Link

- we have caught the ear of Government Departments as they develop new programmes for linking communities generally, as well as health institutions and schools
- we have acted as a catalyst to enable international NGOs to look at the future role of new web-based technology in development and partnerships
- our work with the Commonwealth as we plan to bring together representatives of umbrella NGOs from across West and Central Africa to Cameroon in May 2009 to explore the potential for creating a BUILD in that region, and we see future opportunities at the next CHOGM in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009 whose chosen theme is “Partnering for a more Equitable and Sustainable Future”.

### **BUILD Strategy**

During the past three months we have held BUILD sectoral meetings, health, education, youth, faith, community and diaspora. The outcomes of these meetings have fed into the updated strategic plan which was put to and agreed by BUILD members on 17 December. We continue to work within key Strategic Objectives

**Strategic Objective 1: “BUILD will develop a positive environment for linking partnerships by advocating with national and international bodies to develop policy and best practice”**

### **Political Work**

We have met with Andrew Mitchell, Shadow Secretary of State for International Development.

- He confirmed that DFID would remain as a Government Department should the Conservative Party win the next election
- School Linking: the Conservative’s won’t support the setting up of new links but will put money into school and existing links.
- Health Linking: very important and will put £5m into it in year 1, and will scale up after that. The programme will allow professionals to work abroad, receive accreditation and they will not lose their pension rights
- Commonwealth: the Conservatives will focus more on Commonwealth countries to achieve the MDGs and BUILD will have a role to play in that. They are producing a strategic pamphlet next year and will let BUILD have a copy.

**At DFID in London** (which makes them more accessible!) we have met with Cathy Welch, Programme Manager, Communities & Faith Groups, Manisha Prajapati who is now the lead person for the DFID Global School

Partnerships programme and Nikki Stoddart, Programme Manager, Education and Youth Communication Division. Cathy Welch has taken over from James Medhurst running the new Community Linking Scheme.

We have met with Justin Forsyth at 10 Downing Street, ex Director of Policy at Oxfam and until recently Gordon Brown's adviser on international development and now heading up the communications division at No.10. It was an opportunity to appraise Justin of BUILD's work and assure him that BUILD is keen to support and work with the Prime Minister on linking initiatives to which he is particularly committed.

### **Database**

Pepi has now designed a database and is in contact with BUILD members in different sectors, health, local authority, faith, community, schools and diaspora, asking them for their database of links. Once she has this information it will be added to a master database and by mid 2009 we will be able to start sending out letters to MPs informing them of the links in their constituencies and to the link communities asking them to contact their MPs with information about their links. The database will incidentally enable us to identify

- links to particular countries
- the local authorities, dioceses and health authorities in which links are situated, so that we can encourage greater collaboration.

***This will be a vital resource for everyone and needs funding of approximately £15k***

a) to complete it and b) to keep it up to date.

### **Commonwealth**

We have applied to become accredited to the Commonwealth and the committee will be meeting in January 2009. They do not foresee any problem with our application and will be asking the Commonwealth Foundation to support us. We will hear by the end of January. We are working with BUILD members on the development of regional BUILDS and in particular are focusing on a follow-up conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon in May 2009 in collaboration with British Council. We have also met with John Wilson from Zimbabwe, a great BUILD supporter who is coordinating the development of a Southern African BUILD and are in communication with David Obot who plans to bring together civil society organizations across East Africa for the same purpose.

***We need input from all BUILD (UK) members with suggestions of 'shakers and movers' in the civil society world in the regions of West and Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa and the Caribbean who might take a lead in the development of community-based linking partnerships in those regions.***

**Please do contact us with names and contact details!**

We were delighted to hear that the theme for the next CHOGM in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009 is to be “Partnering for a more Equitable and Sustainable Future”. Maybe the work that we have done in workshops on linking partnerships at three out of the past four Commonwealth People’s Forums has influenced the Heads of Government.

## **Strategic Objective 2 “BUILD will enable growth in the number and quality of links”**

### **DFID Linking Scheme**

All four of the consortia that put in Expressions of Interest to manage this programme have been asked to bid. We have been approached by representatives of all the consortia for advice and support which we have given impartially. We hope that whichever consortium wins the bid they will want to take advantage of BUILD’s shared expertise.

### **Gold Star Communities**

The first year of the Welsh pilot project has now been completed with three awards given to two communities in Wales by First Minister, Rhodri Morgan at the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff in August. We have received recommendations for the future of the scheme which will feed into our global strategy. In the meantime we have held a meeting with Fredskorpset (Peace Corps) Norway a branch of and funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs who are interested in running a second pilot possibly in collaboration with a partner country in Africa or Latin America.

### **FAO**

We met with Maurizio Malogioglio of FAO and other BUILD members in response to an approach by FAO to look at ways in which issues around urban and peri-urban agriculture might be addressed given that more than 50% of the world’s population now lives in an urban environment and 20% of food production comes from that environment. We are hoping for a meeting of the APPG and with Hilary Benn at DEFRA and have written a briefing paper for the Minister. Spin off of our meeting with FAO has been further meetings between FAO and Oxfam.

## **Strategic Objective 3 “BUILD will take measures to increase the Impact of links”**

### **Impact Assessment**

The first year of the Impact assessment of North / South School Partnerships conducted by the Institute of Education at the University of London has now been published and the results of the second year’s quantitative analysis are coming in. The final report should be published in spring 2009. We are in the process of planning the dissemination of the final report to all stakeholders and policy makers.

## Fundraising.

While local fundraising initiatives will never make a major contribution to our overall needs they do provide an opportunity to publicise our work and raise interest amongst those who attend.

We have two further fund-raising concerts in the pipeline.

**28 March 2009** – Swindon Choral Society, Bach Magnificat and Handel Dixit Dominus in Marlborough College, Memorial Hall.

**24<sup>th</sup> October 2009** - Dutch Trajectum Chamber Orchestra, Marlborough College Chapel

*Nick Maurice*

## EDUCATION

**READ International** is a relatively new organization, having only begun life in 2004, as an idea initiated by a small group of university students, following their 'gap year' teaching in Tanzania. However, the past 12 months have been particularly active.

READ is now a network of over 500 university student volunteers. The student volunteers contact UK secondary schools and collect their disused books which they sort according to strict criteria (only good quality, relevant, up-to-date books allowed) and in the summer they ship and personally distribute books to Tanzania. In Summer 2008 58 UK READ volunteers visited Tanzania and distributed 198,000 books to 180 Tz secondary schools over a six week period. READ volunteers are now looking to ship an additional 300,000 books in Summer 2009.

On the Tanzanian side, READ have successfully partnered with the British Council to support our

partnership work. As part of our deliberate effort to build international partnerships, READ have successfully begun to recruit Tanzanian student volunteers to volunteer alongside their UK counterparts in Tanzania. Together the volunteers will distribute books and refurbish secondary school libraries across Tanzania.

KPMG have agreed to support the establishment of a READ office for East Africa, based in Dar es Salaam. The purpose of this office will be to coordinate a volunteer recruitment drive and develop our partnerships between students in East Africa and students in UK. READ will not manage specific school links but instead direct schools towards organizations that do so. READ will instead manage student partnerships through international volunteering opportunities.

*Rob Wilson*

[www.readinternational.org.uk](http://www.readinternational.org.uk)

## BBC World Class

We continue to work with organisations outside the BBC which facilitate school partnerships - and many are BUILD members. We aim to get more schools involved and to share their activities with the wider audience. Here are some of our current projects:

**Obamarama:** Watch out for our "Obamarama" project on January 20th. We are working with Prince Henry Grammar School in Otley, Yorkshire. Prince Henry has more than twenty international links and they are inviting all their partner schools to send in pupils' reactions to the incoming President. The Obamarama asks young people around the world to imagine Obama was visiting their school - which lesson would they want him to sit in on, who would they introduce him to, and what would they give him so that he would never forget them. We are opening up the Obamarama to schools everywhere (pass the details on if you know of schools which would like to get involved) and we'll be working with BBC News to share the story with as big an audience as possible. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass/obamarama.shtml>

**The Curriculum:** It's no secret school partnerships thrive when they are 'core business' for schools rather than an extra demand on already busy teachers. Schools in England with partnerships have had a boost from Qualifications and Curriculum Authority who are promoting the power of the schools links to achieve curriculum aims but it is key to successful partnerships for schools across the globe. World Class is exploring the curriculum on our website and in our eNewsletter. Any ideas email [worldclass@bbc.co.uk](mailto:worldclass@bbc.co.uk). Sign up for our monthly

eNewsletter:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass/newsletter.shtml>

**BBC World News for Children:** Short weekday bulletin of international news for 7-14 year olds, ideal for twinning schools to share. Available online, and now as a podcast with transcripts of all the scripts.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass/bulletin/index.shtml>

*Virginia Crompton*  
[www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass)

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At **Hamilton Trust** we have begun developing a new cross-curricular Topic for Primary schools based on Africa. The rights of children all over the world will be discussed with particular examples from various parts of Africa and children will be encouraged to consider how well their rights are met in the UK and compare this to children in Africa. The four Topic themes will include: diversity of Africa, children's rights, water, health, Mandela & Obama, art (painting/drawing, music, 3d sculpture & textiles), food & trade and school to school links. We aim to learn about Africa – a conventional 'topic' approach, learn through Africa – hold up a mirror to ourselves... and learn from Africa – what can Africa (African children) teach us?

The linking section will encourage schools to make links with African schools and offer advice and resources for doing so. The UKOWLA Toolkit will be suggested as a starting point for schools and we also hope to make use of the SoundAffects tapes once

they are available. Activities that teachers can undertake with their children in co-operation with their partner schools will be provided as well as ideas to help with developing a link and preparing children for their partnership.

We are planning to have this Topic ready to publish online at [www.hamilton-trust.org.uk](http://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk) during the Summer Term 2009, ready for schools to use from the Autumn Term 2009 onwards.

*Dr Deidre Holes*  
[www.hamilton-trust.org.uk](http://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk)

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## **Cambridge Education Foundation**

The Department for International Development (DFID) Global School Partnerships has received a World Aware Education Award from the Council of Europe, one of only three projects to be honoured with this prestigious prize.

Miguel Silva of the Council of Europe's Global Education Programme praised DGSP saying, "Your commitment to global education and your contribution to an active and responsible citizenship is highly appreciated".

The Cambridge Education Foundation (CEF) – the not-for-profit arm of Mott MacDonald's education consultancy – is one of the partner organisations in the consortium charged with delivering the DGSP programme.

In 2005 CEF and UKOWLA initiated a DFID-funded independent three-year study looking at the impact of global partnerships on schools both in the UK and in the South. This large piece of research, managed by CEF, is conducted by the University of London in conjunction with universities in Uganda and in India. Although this is still ongoing, the research to date has attracted much interest and clearly demonstrated the positive effects of global school partnerships. These include a greater engagement in education and involvement in the community among students in participating schools, accompanied by changes in their academic and social behaviour, heightened expectations of their own work and improved attendance.

*Angie Cook*  
[www.camb-ed.com/about-us/cef.asp](http://www.camb-ed.com/about-us/cef.asp)

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**DFID Global School Partnerships** has continued to increase its outreach, supporting schools throughout the UK and across the world to bring the Global Dimension into the classroom through partnership. DGSP has now provided advice and guidance, professional development opportunities and grants to 1,515 partnerships between schools in the UK and schools in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Over 250 new partnerships have benefited from our support since April 2008 alone.

Within the UK, schools in the South West, South East and North West of England have been the most

active in global school partnerships. Amongst partner countries, South Africa, Uganda and India remain the most popular. However, we are very pleased to report that we also support new partnerships with schools in countries such as Angola, Congo-Brazzaville, Liberia, Somalia, Bolivia and Papua New Guinea.

DGSP has continued to deliver its portfolio of five free professional development workshops for teachers in the UK and the Global South, to give them insight into the Global Dimension and how they can bring it into their partnerships and their classrooms. Workshops will be taking place across the UK until March 2009.

Further information about these sessions can be found at our website (see below). A successful new addition to our professional development portfolio this year has been the launch of an online version of the workshop, An Introduction to Global School

Partnerships. (see below)

The DGSP team has been administering Reciprocal Visit (RV) and Global Curriculum Project (GCP) grants throughout 2008, and two deadlines for new applications in 2009 have been set. These are: 1<sup>st</sup> March for GCP applications and 1<sup>st</sup> May for RV applications. Further information on how to apply for grants is available on the website below. We are running a series of Grant Preparation Seminars in January and February for potential applicants. In recognition of all that has been achieved by DFID Global School Partnerships to date, the programme was one of the three winners of the World Aware Education Award, given by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe in December 2008. The awards were given to projects that display excellence or innovation in partnership and coordination for

increased and improved global education, and which seek to make global education a sustained part of education systems, formal and non-formal.

*Rebecca Picton*

[www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools-pd-workshops.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools-pd-workshops.htm)

[www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools-onlinecourse.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools-onlinecourse.htm)

[www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools-schools-applying-for-grants.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools-schools-applying-for-grants.htm)

[www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools-grant-preparation-seminars.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools-grant-preparation-seminars.htm).

[www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/WAEA\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/WAEA_en.asp)

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**SoundAffects** links children across the globe through the powerful, intimate and unexploited medium of professionally recorded audio material. Children from very different cultures are assisted by professional broadcasters to ask and respond to questions, exchange stories of daily life, and work together on joint curriculum projects.

During 2008 SoundAffects has been running Phase One of a pilot project working with sixteen linked schools in UK and Ghana. Project leaders, radio producers Penny Boreham and Caroline Swinburne, visited schools to record audio material, and hold workshops where children listened and responded to their counterparts and discussed issues raised. They also held whole school assemblies. As well as exploring more general curiosities, children worked on focussed joint projects including Where I Live, My

Family and Healthy Eating at primary level, and secondary school topics including Slavery, and Sex Education and HIV.

“The classroom was really quiet and intense [whilst the children were listening to the recordings]” said Deputy Head Teacher of Galliard Primary School in Edmonton. “The experiences described were quite complex, very individual, funny and even sad ... the audio had an immediacy and a depth and allowed the children to express themselves and think about their experiences.”

At the Ghana end of the links, the children were fascinated to hear their UK counterparts. “It really helped me to hear the voices of children in UK” said eleven year old Abigail from Adafienu School in the town of Denu. “It surprised me to find out that children all over the world are actually quite similar. We have learnt that [children in the UK] all loved their mums, enjoyed playing games with their friends and looking after their pets”.

In October SoundAffects was officially launched at a event at the House of Commons sponsored by Nigel Griffiths MP. John Humphrys of the Radio 4 *Today* programme gave a key-note speech, and 170 guests heard recordings and presentations by teachers and pupils from many of the linked schools.

SoundAffects has received media coverage in *The Learning Curve* programme on BBC Radio 4; a

second Radio 4 piece is scheduled for transmission in the *Go4It* programme in January. The project has also been featured in *Teacher Magazine* and on the BBC World Class website, and will be publicised in a piece currently being written for the *Daily Telegraph*. During 2009 the project will be issuing audio recordings on DVD, together with still photos and lesson plans. This will give schools which are not directly participating in the project access to this wealth of child-driven, cross-cultural material. Project leaders also plan to return to the linked schools in UK and Ghana, to train local journalists and hand the recording operation over to them, as well as starting a project in Sri Lanka.

*More details, and a chance to listen to audio recordings including the January 2009 edition of the SoundAffects audio newsletter, can be found on the SoundAffects website, at [www.soundaffects.org.uk](http://www.soundaffects.org.uk)*

*Caroline Swinburne*  
[www.soundaffects.org.uk](http://www.soundaffects.org.uk)

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# COMMUNITIES

## UN Gold Star Scheme

### Recognising the best to inspire the rest

Tremendous progress has been made in piloting the Gold Star Communities scheme in Wales; and in identifying the key strategic developments in the scheme that have arisen from learning in the pilot's first year of a three year plan.

With the generous support of the Welsh Assembly Government, the UN and a host of community organisations in Wales, the first year of the pilot demonstrated that the Gold Star scheme is workable and effective. The first ever awards were made to Amlwch in Anglesey and PONT (Pontypridd) at the Welsh National Eisteddfod in August.

BUILD will continue to develop the scheme as a means of delivering its strategy of increasing the numbers and quality of international partnerships.

The scheme and its management processes evolved in the first year to be more suited to the varied natures of the partnerships involved – but there remains much to be done to strengthen Southern participation, improve the processes and define the nature of eligible communities. BUILD will work with its strategic partners (the UN and CIVICUS) to address these issues.

A second pilot is planned in Norway, which will help to ensure that the scheme is suitable for wider roll out.

*John Whitaker, BUILD volunteer*

## Project Update

The review of learning from the first year of the Wales Gold Star Communities pilot project was presented to the BUILD members meeting on 17 December.

### The headlines: it's a great success!

In Wales, over 50 community linking projects with Africa have engaged with development of the Gold Star scheme. A 20 minute feature documentary, available on DVD, has been produced and captures the inspiration of quality linking work through following the experience of Pontypridd in the South Wales Valleys and Mbale in Uganda. This can also be viewed in chapters (and used as a linking resource) online at <http://uk.youtube.com/goldstarcommunities>.

The Gold Star project has also succeeded in facilitating Wales - Africa community links to support regional government partners in signing up to the UN / NRG4SD Climate Change declaration. This will release significant UN resources for environmental adaptation activities to communities initially in Uganda, Gambia and Mali over coming months and years. Work with the European Commission 'Twinning for Development' programme also resulted in Welsh and Ugandan links being invited to and recognised in Strasbourg in Nov 2008.

The Gold Star scheme is opening doors well beyond the principality, and we are very pleased that the Welsh Assembly Government have recognised this success in pledging ongoing core funding, beyond the pilot, for development of the Wales project. For further information please visit [www.goldstarcommunities.org.uk](http://www.goldstarcommunities.org.uk).

*Craig Owen*

*Project Manager*

[www.goldstarcommunities.org.uk](http://www.goldstarcommunities.org.uk)

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**Links Japan**, working with partners in Japan called Linking Japan ([www.linkingjapan.com](http://www.linkingjapan.com)) is sharing the UK experience of international partnerships and the practical achievements of BUILD and its members, such as the Toolkit and research outcomes, with communities in Japan to promote the principles of good practice community based partnerships and also Japanese partnering with communities outside Asia, especially in Africa, with which they have not traditionally had links. This autumn, with the support of the Daventry Friends of Iganga, Links Japan visited Uganda with a community organisation from Kagoshima in southern Japan and this has resulted in a new three way link being established between a high school and primary school in Daventry, Iganga and Kagoshima . Other Kagoshima-Iganga connections, such as low carbon development initiatives financed by a carbon offset scheme, are being explored. The African diaspora in Japan is very small, and personal contacts between Japan and Africa are limited to the aid and business

communities, but there is much to be gained, mutually, from partnerships between Japan and Africa and these can be immeasurably facilitated with a little help from partnering UK communities.

*Phillida Purvis*

[www.linksjapan.org](http://www.linksjapan.org)

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**UKOWLA** through Lynn Cutler, the Director, has contributed to national debate by running successful workshops at the British Council National Conference and at the Gloucestershire International conference and has worked with Bidborough in Kent developing practical ideas in links and community cohesion. In a further development Lynn has been working with young people in and from Cameroon, Martinique and Mauritius within the 'Healthy Wales' programme

The UKOWLA National Conference in Coventry, in November was organised in collaboration with the local organisers, the Foleshill Fields Community Project and the first major event of the new arrangements was well attended by UKOWLA members and benefited from significant local support. There was an excellent atmosphere and the contributions were well received and valued. The report will be published shortly.

We continue to work well with our long-standing partners in the Global School Partnership programme through a couple of extensions and have hopes that the new contract will be finalised soon. Much work has been done both in delivering in the field and in

preparing the new contract submission. We have also been active in investigating the DFID Community Links programme and have sought out partners to make a bid to run this.

There is great potential and energy in our new set up and some of the hope we had for broadening UKOWLA's influence and activities are certainly beginning to be fulfilled, whether through our increasing diversity of contacts or through a larger role in activities for the DGSP programme

We have been able to build on past success, derived from the valued inheritance from our founders, the work of a succession of committed Trustees and the imagination, enterprise and hard work of our former headquarters team in Marlborough. From April we have been able to continue that tradition due to the efforts of the staff and adaptability of the GLADE office. Lynn Cutler brings tremendous experience, energy and skill brought to the post of Director. Although different in her style, she is a worthy successor to Nick Maurice and once her roots are established will create a whole new Mango (or even a Baobab) Tree - more vigorous and fruitful than ever.

*Mike Smith*

Chair of UKOWLA Trustees

[www.ukowla.org.uk](http://www.ukowla.org.uk)

The Baobab Tree was Lynn Cutler's idea. It's a survivor, extremely tough, provides shade, shelter and food in the desert.....)

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## **Community links and Fairtrade Towns – making global issues personal and creating opportunities to take action together**

An increasing number of Fairtrade Towns see forming a North – South partnership as a way to keep local campaigns vital and creatively promote Fairtrade by bringing the issues alive. The Fairtrade Foundation cannot link Fairtrade Towns with Fairtrade producer organisations in developing countries. However, Fairtrade Towns keen to explore the concept of community linking and learn more are encouraged to seek advice and support from UKOWLA and from Fairtrade Towns with established community links.

For example, Garstang the world's first Fairtrade Town, has had a link with the Fairtrade cocoa farming community of New Koforidua in Ghana since 2001. Samuel Ofori, a teacher from DA JSS School in New Koforidua recently visited Garstang. While in Garstang Samuel presented Fairtrade pledges to retailers and caterers, he met with members of the local Fairtrade and Linking Groups, he attended and spoke at Church services, he visited all four of Garstang's schools and spoke to all of Garstang's primary school children. As a consequence of his visit Samuel has now consolidated support for Fairtrade in Garstang and greatly supported work to encourage all the schools to become Fairtrade schools. The schools also wish to develop their own direct school to school links with the schools in Ghana.

Samuel also visited Fairtrade towns, villages and cities of Liverpool, Manchester, Coventry, Chester,

Lancaster, Haworth and London. Participants at the busy workshop jointly run by Samuel at the UKOWLA conference in Coventry were excited by the opportunities community links can create for promoting Fairtrade and trade justice and even Peter Marks, chief executive of the Cooperative Group, was inspired by the very real people to people connections that the community link has enabled and the heightened awareness on both sides of the impact that trade has, Fairtrade and conventional.

There is no doubt that awareness of Fairtrade has increased in both Garstang and New Koforidua as a consequence of the link. A recent survey in Garstang has shown that 92.5% of local people recognize the FAIRTRADE Mark (compared to a national average of approximately 70% recognition) with 69% of people saying they positively choose to buy Fairtrade products when possible. Two thirds of local people surveyed also believed the link provided positive benefits to the Garstang community. A similar survey will also be conducted in New Koforidua where already 2 out of 3 High School children know the name of Garstang as their community linked town.

The people in New Koforidua have stood alongside residents of Garstang on many occasions, to campaign for trade justice and against global poverty and will again join them to take part in the Fairtrade Foundation, world record, banana eating attempt during Fairtrade Fortnight. They have now shown a desire to be more involved with the international Fairtrade campaign and want to help bring Fairtrade labeling to Ghana by making New Koforidua Africa's

first 'Fairtrade Town'. The possibility of Fairtrade Towns in the South will be explored at the international Fairtrade Towns conference in France in 2009 where Samuel has been asked to speak and jointly run a workshop.

Garstang is not alone in using Fairtrade and trade justice as a theme to explore through a community link. Keswick Fairtrade Town has a link with the Fairtrade coffee growing community of Choche in Ethiopia that features in the film 'Black Gold'. One powerful, educational outcome of this link is an excellent presentation (created by Joe Human, Fairtrade Keswick) entitled 'After Black Gold'. The presentation brings Fairtrade alive by focusing on the people at it's heart and clearly demonstrates the impact of unfair trade by using images, stories and quotes from 'real people' involved in the link.

Garstang has been officially recognized as a Fairtrade Town for seven years. The assumption that Garstang has reached 'saturation point' and can no longer build phenomenal levels of local support for Fairtrade can make it hard to keep up the momentum. In this case, campaigning through a North – South link has proved to be an effective way to generate new interest and deepen understanding of Fairtrade, the links between one lifestyle and another and the issues Fairtrade seeks to tackle. Likewise, communities with existing links may also find working towards Fairtrade Town status can be an accessible way to reach new audiences and give everyone one practical action they can take each day to enable communities in the developing world work their way out of poverty.

For further information on Fairtrade Towns visit the Fairtrade Foundation website at [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) or contact Bruce Crowther, the Fairtrade Towns Coordinator on tel: 01995 601258.

*Bruce Crowther*  
*Fairtrade Towns Coordinator*

For further information on the Garstang Fairtrade Town campaign and the link with New Koforidua visit: [www.garstangfairtrade.org.uk](http://www.garstangfairtrade.org.uk) .

## HEALTH

### THET

Teshome Kuma is a midwife at a health centre in southern Ethiopia – but so often his work, which should be about new life is about early death.

In this mountainous corner of Africa, 135,000 babies die each year before they're a month old. Many die as a result of difficulties during their mother's labour. Few clinics can manage complications and emergencies in pregnancy or child birth: mothers travel long distances seeking care: for many it's simply too late.

Last year Teshome went on a training course taught by three midwives from Wales - part of a hospital-to-hospital partnership called the Southern Ethiopia Gwent Health Link. He learned a whole new set of skills for managing obstetric emergencies. Back at the health centre, Teshome passed on that knowledge to colleagues. He's now heading up a team of skilled nurses, managing complications in labour, helping to save the lives of women and babies, who might have died before.

All Teshome needed was a few days of focused, carefully-planned training, to create a small revolution in healthcare for women in his district. A sharing of basic skills between committed health workers across continents.

That is the simple but powerful idea that drives THET: The Tropical Health and Education Trust. For the last twenty years, THET has invested in the potential of people like Teshome – not just in Ethiopia, but right across Africa and Asia.

THET puts those at the frontline of healthcare in the driving seat by asking *them* where they need to build skills, this might be for anesthetic nurses, hospital maintenance staff or trauma surgery. Drawing on experienced British volunteers via partnerships like the Southern Ethiopia / Gwent Health Link, THET arms people like Teshome with the skills to wage war on disease and neglect in the heart of their communities.

[www.thet.org](http://www.thet.org)

**The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)** has strengthened its International links in 2008 by expanding its Commonwealth Fellowships into a 4<sup>th</sup> African Country, Sierra Leone. (SL)

Following the success of previous years, originally with Uganda and then expanding into Zambia and Kenya, this year the CIEH assisted the community link between Bo (the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest town in SL) and One World Linking (OWL) in Warwickshire with a successful application for Eric Moosa to spend 3 months working with his UK colleagues mainly in the West Midlands. At the same time a Kenyan worked in the North East and a Zambian in the North West. John Opio, a Principal EHO from Northern Uganda, was the 6<sup>th</sup> Fellow from Uganda to be hosted in the East Midlands by the CIEH where he was able to work with his UK colleagues at several Local Authorities and organisations in partnership with other public bodies and local companies. Together the 4 Fellows also attended 3 International Conferences and all agreed that the 3 months spent in the UK was invaluable to them personally and to their home countries where they have now all returned back to their day jobs where they are keen to pass on their experiences in the UK. John Opio attended the BUILD health Sector meeting which he found very interesting and is now hoping to work with other interested people to help to develop BUILD East Africa.

*The CIEH are keen to continue with these Fellowships in 2009 and will be making more*

*applications to the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) by the deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup> 2009.* The Fellowships, although serving their main purpose of providing the Fellows with experience and capacity building to assist them with their work in their home countries, also assist the developing International Partnerships that continue to grow between several countries in the developing world and the CIEH. The Fellows by their presence in the UK work and socialise with their peers and friends and this helps both parties to grow to develop an understanding of their different communities.

Within the CIEH there is a developing group of UK based EHOs who have either personal international links or wish to see their profession grow further internationally and to use their expertise which is very suited to assisting with international problems in developing countries.

In 2009 Study Tour visits will be made to Uganda and Zambia to further the partnerships between these countries and introduce more CIEH members and friends to the joy of working with our friends and colleagues from the South as well as helping to understand their problems, whilst working together where possible to find solutions.

*As a potential future Member of BUILD, the CIEH wishes to continue its developing partnership work*

*Peter Minhinnett*

*[www.cieh.org](http://www.cieh.org)*

**Skills Venture** organises business mentoring assignments in Kenya for UK professionals. Business people from the UK are matched with entrepreneurs in Kenya who have a skills need in a specific area, such as HR or marketing. We don't expect mentors to come in and offer technical support, or to spend three days hunched behind a computer screen, fixing someone's financial projections. Instead, their role is somewhere between that of a consultant and a mentor. They are there as a sounding board, someone who has experience that is relevant to a person's situation and can offer views and ideas.

For example, they might be sitting down with someone who has been running a mobile phone business for a number of years, but wants to develop their ideas about how to market their outlets to new customers. Mentors can help them to explore and develop their own ideas, as well as suggesting new angles. A fresh perspective, combined with experience of a different market and culture, is guaranteed to generate some interesting outcomes.

Alternatively, they might be working with someone whose lack of formal education is holding them back from accessing bank finance, because they are unable to write a compelling business plan. In this case, their input might be around helping them to structure and write a short document, perhaps over the course of a few afternoon sessions.

Skills Venture works through partner organisations to identify appropriate entrepreneurs in Kenya, inducts UK mentors before their departure, organises logistics and accommodation, and supports mentors throughout their assignment, which can last from a few days to several months.

We work with UK employers to run business mentoring programmes that develop, motivate and inspire their current and future leaders. Our assignments expand existing business or professional skills, improve soft skills such as confidence, communication, leadership and team-working, and provide exposure to developing world entrepreneurs, organisations and consumers.

We currently operate in Kenya only, and plan to expand across Anglophone Africa in the future. However, our main priority is to raise awareness of the business benefits of international linking programmes of this sort among the UK business community, alongside the more obvious 'corporate social responsibility' aspects, and to persuade corporate leaders that such initiatives are even more important during an economic downturn.

*Will Snell*

*[www.skillsventure.com](http://www.skillsventure.com)*

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**Eden Project** has continued to evolve a network of partners, projects and substantial programmes that rely upon human interest and humanity rather than constraints presented by accidents of geography. For an organisation that seeks to reach out to 6bn people and play a key role in building a more survivable, decent future for the world, our own particular challenge is being based in a hole in the ground in Cornwall. So... we utterly depend upon human networks for the scale and impacts that we seek. And we do this through partners and programmes - locally and internationally.

Amongst our lead programmes is Gardens for Life - a school linking programme that develops relationships, learning, understanding and resilience through the medium of growing food. This has been remarkably successful and it has been relatively simple to build a coherent and content-rich environment for 100 schools, 25,000 children in 3 continents. However, we are embarking on a very big challenge - to network the programme on the web, working with regional and local partners and so reach thousands of schools and millions of children and communities. Eden will create an interactive web environment like none seen before - one that is open to multiple interactions and uses, shares openly and provides a platform for all manner of associates and

partners. We are putting in place a series of international and regional partners who will work with us - watch this space.

Closely associated with Gardens for Life is a developing programme that links cocoa growers in Ghana with the UK and tells the story at Eden. Similarly, we run sustainability programmes in the Seychelles that help secure biodiversity hot-spots for the future of us all and support reforestation in northern Thailand. Many of these projects have academic, public education and social recovery themes - most of all they all involve real lives and lessons for everyone about interdependence. We are involved in reforestation in Argentina, post mining recovery in South Africa, Canada and Eastern Europe, and the Kosovo Peace Park links with the UK (Manchester). Formal relationships that involve regular placements and staff-swaps include EARTH University in Costa Rica and Green Futures College in the Western Cape of South Africa.

That's a quick summary of some of the work of 2008. This year promises to be much more extensive.

*Howard Jones*  
[www.edenproject.com](http://www.edenproject.com)

### Partnership for World Mission

As far as international partnerships are concerned 2008 was a big one for the Anglican Communion as it saw most of its bishops coming to the UK for the Lambeth Conference. This gave the opportunity, before the Conference itself in Canterbury, for those attending to stay in dioceses right across Britain. For a long weekend over 1,000 bishops and their spouses were hosted and saw something of one small area of Britain. More importantly, these visits reinforced the value of linking as friendships were strengthened and a great deal of conversation about things important and seemingly trivial took place.

At the present time in the Anglican Communion – one of great tensions over differences in outlook and belief – they also showed that these relationships, many of them long established, can offer a way of handling and exploring difference without the kind of rancour that formal meetings often exhibit.

The Conference itself was helped by these visits and while few of the issues were resolved the atmosphere of trust that had been lacking was re-established meaning that the conditions might be in place for future resolution.

One of the outstanding events during this time was a 'walk of witness' in London underlining the importance of fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals for many parts of our world. The sight of 600 bishops in purple cassocks walking down Whitehall to be addressed by the Prime Minister was quite a sight. The PM recognised too that before him were the leaders of grass roots communities who could make a difference in terms of education, health and general care of those living with great challenges. The link partnerships that all the Anglican dioceses in Britain have with some part of the global family add strength to and gain insights from these efforts.

One particular aspect of these links where a great deal of thought is being given is the schools' link possibilities as part of the wider link. Where this works well it brings all kinds of benefits to both ends of a link well beyond narrow educational ones. 2009 will see further effort to bring on board those dioceses that have yet to explore or set up possible links. The potential is great, as is the care needed to ensure they offer good value in all their aspects.

*Stephen Lyon*  
[www.pwm-web.org.uk](http://www.pwm-web.org.uk)

### **Wales Somaliland Communities Link**

#### *A Unique Link That Is Breaking Down Barriers In Our Communities*

The vast majority of Somalis in Wales are from what was formerly known as the British Somaliland Protectorate which gained independence from Britain on 26 June 1960 and four days later united with Somalia to form the Somali Republic. The Government of Somalia collapsed on 1991 and it has been without stable government ever since. Somaliland declared independence on 18 May 1991. The Government of Somaliland is not internationally recognised.

DFID gives assistance to Somalia and Somaliland through its humanitarian and development funds. The fund has increased from £4 million in 2003/2004 to approximately £30 million in this financial year 2008/2009.

In Wales the Somaliland Diaspora community has established the Wales Somaliland Communities Link (WSCL). The project is managed by the Somali Community Association, the SCA, and is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government (Wales for Africa) with the aim to link communities, institutions and individuals in Wales and Somaliland to tackle the MDGs. The link has distributed essential medical supplies to treat pregnancy related complications to seven regional hospitals in partnership with Hope for Grace Kodindo" (HFGK).

The Link has secured a grant from the Wales for Africa NHS fund to work with University of Cardiff on undertaking a mental assessment. WSCL was also a key initiator in developing and supporting seven primary schools in Wales to link with schools in Somaliland and two of the local schools have won a reciprocal visit grant from DFID Global School Partnership. These are the first school links to be funded in Somalia/Somaliland by DIFID/British Council. Two teachers are expecting to arrive in UK in February 2009 as part of this grant.

The WSCL has hosted conferences, meetings and seminars both in Wales and Somaliland with cross section of agencies and individuals from Somaliland and UK/Wales Governments, NGOs, and organisation representatives. The WSCL is also unique in being the only Wales based Diaspora organisation to be granted VSO Diaspora Capacity Building Status working with VSO to develop Somaliland Diaspora Volunteering project.

The Association would like to acknowledge the support Welsh Assembly Government (Wales for Africa Team), Somaliland Government, British Council Wales, VSO, Build and Novas Scarman Trust Wales, WCVA and members of the Somali communities and staff of link schools/hospitals both in Wales and Somaliland without whom we could achieve our activities.

*Diane Lewis & Mr. Abdikarim Adan*  
[www.wallessomaliland.org](http://www.wallessomaliland.org)

## Finances

The BUILD plan – approved in December – shows that we need additional unrestricted income to cover core costs. A minimum of £50,000 per annum is required for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 to cover current costs. We should be seeking nearer £100,000 per annum in unrestricted income to cover proper salary levels and planned activities that will not attract restricted funds.

Members have agreed that BUILD will seek additional funds from government sources, trusts and philanthropists; and also that membership fees need to increase. At the members meeting in December it was agreed that all members will consider what additional sources of funds they could provide or help to attract. Responses are eagerly awaited!

*John Whitaker, Treasurer*