

Newsletter: May 2006

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A Welcome Return

OWL PUBLIC MEETING and SOCIAL 24th MARCH Bath Place Community Venture



Maria's Joy on arrival at the Bo Community Centre

Over 50 members and supporters attended this full evening event which had three parts to it. Bath Place was decorated with African cloths and the main hall was transformed into a cabaret atmosphere with decorated and candlelit tables and a copious bar. Some technical problems prevented the showing of videos, but African music played to add to the atmosphere.

The first part of the evening was a report back from five of the seven who went to Bo in February; this was done entertainingly and movingly. Feedback on the visit figures elsewhere in the Newsletter. Thank you to Sarah, Alison, Danny, Brian, and Maria. The fabulous five then divided themselves each to a different table for informal dialogue over a delectable African style meal.

"....was the most joyous event I've been to for a very long time John. All these years, all the work done by the Committee & many others - what a range of rewards for both sides of the Link. Please thank the Committee for the evening very much." Pippa Austin

In its own right part two - the food - was as much of a success as the presentations. We were very fortunate to have with us several members of the Coventry Sierra Leone Association who came with mouth watering contributions of authentic Sierra Leone food. A big thank you to them, especially Jalikatu Samura who organised it. Thanks also to our own cooks, Jariatu Sankoh, Myf Hodkin, Marion Myers, Hussine Yumkella, and Chris King. No one left unrequited or unconverted to the splendours of Salonian cuisine.

Part three capped the evening with poetry. This was no anodyne nightcap. Brenda Layton, Poet Laureate for Warwick District, delivered some very telling sets of verses evincing the disturbing experiences and feelings of African and other immigrants to our "hospitable shores", and John Myers contributed a couple of offerings on the theme of "sweet" Bo, and read out a poem written by Josaya Bangali of Bo on the subject of the Sierra Leone civil war.

This was a really good warming up event for the celebrations of our 25th silver "jubilee" later this year. We even made a healthy profit from the bar to help resuscitate our ailing funds. Many thanks to Chris King and his team of volunteers who organised the event so well.

Booklets of Josaya Bangali's collection of poems written during and about the civil war "My Country is Sick " are available on request. They can also be read on line at http://www.sierra-leone.org/poetry-josayabangali.html We are looking to repeat the report back element of the evening with video for the benefit of those unable to get to this event. Please let us know if you want notice of this.

May 2nd saw the Warwick University **Cocktail and Fashion Show** with an African theme in aid of OWL and the Alzheimers Society. The evening included some delicious African outfits, drumming from Bambadinka, Two Man Ting tasty duo, and plenty of fun. It is estimated that 178 people attended and in excess of £1,200 was raised for the charities. Our thanks to organiser Katherine Everson and all her helpers

A Brief Report by Brian Austin on his visit to Bo, February 10th - 25th, 2006



Having been associated with One World Link for the best part of 20 years and not felt that personal commitments enabled me to visit Bo, I thought that the visit of the 3 teachers on the British Council Global Partnerships scheme offered me an opportunity by joining them.

What was good?

- Overall, I think I fulfilled the reasons I set out before coming and I have had a unique, unforgettable, personal experience
- Meeting and spending time with my friend and longtime correspondent Joe Ben Taylor
- Seeing the Centre for the first time
- A better appreciation of Bo Town as an energetic, pulsating, vibrant society
- Experiencing a completely different culture and way of life

What was not so good?

- The time was short. Having started to find my way around and get used to living in Bo, it was time to pack up and leave
- My programme was very full: I was asked to do a lot more, for example visiting other non-linked schools, than I had expected. And UMC and New Gerihun Road linked-schools were not visited until the <u>end</u> of the trip
- The presence of so many 'in-your-face' aid agencies

What will I take away?

- The sights and sounds of Africa: the heat, how 'green' Sierra Leone is, the smiles of the children, the singing in the churches and the schools, the sound of the weaver birds hidden in the trees, the red-brown dirt roads, the continuous 'peeping' of the horns of the traffic
- A concern that I will not be able to meet the level of expectation Bo-OWL has of me
- The hope that I did not make too many mistakes, nor offend too many people, although inevitable
- A resolution to be a better communicator with friends in Bo in the future
- Hopefully, a better understanding of the reality of Africa and its needs and a consolidation of the opinion that the future of Sierra Leone rests primarily with its own Government
- A concern that the African culture could become diluted by European/Western influences, not always for the betterment of that society

You may be interested to hear of the formation of the Sierra Leone Association for Welfare and Development, (Coventry). Below is an extract from a letter from John Myers, OWL secretary, to Alithur Freeman, General Secretary, SLAWAD.

We very much appreciated the warm welcome we were accorded at your meeting this month. Please will you convey our appreciation to the Chairman, to Jalikatu Samura, and to all your members. We look forward to a long, happy, and cooperative relationship between our two groups. We will be very interested in becoming affiliate members when and if you implement that category.

One World Link would like to reciprocate your welcome. At our last meeting, I was asked to write to you to extend an invitation to a representative of SLAWAD to attend our committee meetings. We understand that you are all busy people with many work, family, and other responsibilities, so realise this may not be possible. However we would both welcome and value attendance when it can be managed. It would certainly be beneficial to us

Warwickshire Against Prejudice Awards

Five linking schools in Warwick District have now received the Warwickshire School Race Equality Awards, with a certificate for the five Bo schools as well. The awards are judged on:

- Evidence of mainstreaming race equality across all aspects of School life more that just a one-off project
- What evidence has been provided of concrete outcomes, and any external validation eg. Ofsted reports
- What future plans there are to further develop the work to mainstream race equality and cultural diversity i.e is sustainability built in
- The number of stake holders involved

Microcredit Scheme Report - Women's Group

Jane Shakespeare, a final year mature undergraduate student at the University of Warwick decided for her dissertation to assess how a microcredit scheme has impacted women's lives.

Jane's son goes to Clapham Terrace Primary School in Leamington Spa and Jane discovered that Clapham Terrace had a link with Sewa Road School in Bo through OWL. Further research led her to discover the Kayoma Women's microcredit scheme. She became a member of OWL and also the Kayoma Women's Support Group in Leamington Spa after meeting Maria Franchi whose enthusiasm encouraged Jane further.

Below are some extracts from Jane's report on the microcredit scheme following her trip to Bo in February.

Report Summary

Two years ago the Kayoma Women's Group in Bo, Sierra Leone introduced a Microcredit scheme to its own group and eight other women's groups under the umbrella of the Kayoma Women's Microcredit scheme. Maria Franchi from Leamington Spa and Teresa Bangali from Bo set up the scheme. It was funded with a donation of £1,000 from One World Link in Warwick. The aim of this project is to assess the impact the microcredit scheme has had on the women's lives and to research the merits and limitations of introducing a participatory impact assessment and learning system to the women's groups and to identify key learning and skills training required.

What is Microcredit?

Microcredit is a small loan given to very poor people or groups, in particular women, for self-employment projects that generate income, allowing them to care for themselves and their families.

The success or failure of a microcredit scheme is usually measured on how well the loan is being repaid (e.g. If a loan has a 100% repayment rate then that scheme is 100% successful). However this does not tell us the impact the microcredit scheme is having on members' lives.



Joseph Bockary's wife, Mary Roberts (chair of NDigloma), Teresa, Teresa's nephew, and Josephine Jabati (chair of AWANA women's development group)

The results indicated that for those members interviewed, their quality of life had improved since joining the scheme, through:

- an increased income
- ability to contribute financially towards the running of the home (food and other items)
- development of skills
- ability to pay for their children's education
- making new friends
- sharing ideas with other groups
- developing unity between groups
- creating self reliance
- improving their standard of living and their diet

If you would like to read a full version of Jane's report please contact John Myers, OWL Secretary.

Communicating with Bo

Send packages by Royal Mail at Airmail <u>Small Package</u> rate (max 2kg) @ about £10 per kilo. If you wish, for safety, you can send to **Secretary David Ngombu, One World Link secretariat, Mattru Road, BO, Sierra Leone, W. Africa** and he will ensure it reaches its destination. For additional security you can have 'International Signed For' at £3.50 extra.

You can send **letters** and **aerogrammes** direct, too, or via David Ngombu as above by putting your letter inside one addressed to David. Note that a 10g is now 50p!

You can **telephone** Sierra Leone for **25p** per minute using **TeleDiscount** by pre-dialling **0911 209 8585** and then your international number, either land-line or mobile. This will be charged to your existing account.

OR, <u>cheaper still</u>, you can open an account on-line with **Lycatel** at <u>www.lycatalk.com</u>, pre-pay online and then use the dialling code they give you before your international number for **10.5p** (**11.5p** for mobile) per minute.

Or even more cheaply, Lycatel Africa phonecards can be bought at the Bridges Supermarket 12 High Street Leamington.

Penfriend Volunteer Coordinator Wanted

If you are willing to work with Bo and coordinate the penfriend correspondence then please contact Brian Austin, 31 The Greswoldes, Radford Semele, Leamington Spa, CV31 1TP, 01926 428635, or owl@31cv311tp.freeserve.co.uk for details.

IT Development - Visit to Bo

Extracts from Danny Foulstone's report, who went to Bo to assist with Information Technology development. His full report is available on request

One World Link Community Centre

With regards to the Link Centre, I arrived in Bo with the intent of investigating the feasibility of setting up an internet connection that may have some income generating possibility. However, it is apparent that at this point in time this is not possible. The cost of a connection with reasonable enough bandwidth to set up an internet café is presently too expensive. This coupled with the cost of paying staff to man the café would make the venture unsustainable.

The concept of a telephone line being installed and having access to the internet over a dial up connection for administrative purposes i.e. the sending and receiving of email is far more realistic. As a result Leamington OWL has agreed to cover the cost of the telephone line installation and also the monthly payments of the ISP charge.

I am certain that the cost of high bandwidth internet connections in Bo will eventually fall as more competition and new technology arrives. Maybe then the possibility of launching an internet café can be re-visited.

There are still some income generating opportunities with the computers that have been installed at the Link Centre.

Schools and Education Centres

With the exception of one, I felt that all the schools that Magnus and I visited as representatives of the Link were highly appreciative of our time, expertise and the few parts that we were able to donate. In which case I feel good relationships have been maintained. The small network of computers that has been installed at the Link Centre gives an ideal opportunity for members of the Link to become more computer literate.

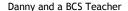
I hope the potential of the computers is taken full advantage of. Both computers and the notebook have Office installed and both computers have sound cards so that educational CD-ROMS with audio can be played upon them.

Personal Note

I have enjoyed my stay in Bo immensely and have received as much as I have given. I would like to say a special thank you to the following individuals who have in someway contributed to the information given in this report:

Magnus Lansana has given much of his personal time to accompany me around the schools. His technical skills and abilities and been a great help in fixing the various computers we have come across. He also kindly let us use the workshop where he works as a base for fixing the computers.

Maada Fobay has been very supportive of my work throughout my stay in Bo and I have reported back to him on a daily basis. He has given provided me with concise information that has allowed me to make the correct decisions. Also to Brian Austin and Janet Alty





Visit to UBC Primary School in Moriba Town

As those of you who have visited Bo know, it is very difficult to summarise a visit in just a few words but I will endeavour to try and convey to you the essence of my visit to UBC Primary School in Moriba Town.

I am a teacher from Brookhurst Primary School who took part in the recent teachers group visit to Bo funded by The British Council. Apart from this visit being an amazing personal experience it was very important for me to act as an ambassador for the staff and children at my school and that furthering our link was my main objective.

I arrived at UBC to find the welcoming faces of teachers and children very like the ones I had left behind at home. The teachers found it highly amusing that I wanted to teach but we soon found that teachers are the same all over the world.

I tried hard to teach the very large classes of children about Leamington and their link school.

The children asked questions about their link school, the children there and my life and were intrigued to realise how similar people are whatever their background.

VV Bockarie (the headteacher) had also insisted that we shoot a video of Brookhurst to show the children at his school. So we bought petrol, fired up the generator and all 900 children sat down to watch a small TV at the front of the church. The children were awestruck by lunchtime where the common theme of food struck a chord with them just as it would back home. The whoops of joy as the camera captured a passing train a sight I later learned the children had never seen before. And as the children at Brookhurst waved to the camera the children at UBC waved back and a connection was made.

Being in Bo seems like a dream to me now but for the children at both Brookhurst and UBC I hope our link has become more and more real due to this reciprocal visit.

Alison Bryan, class teacher, Brookhurst Primary School

One World Link 25th Anniversary Celebrations

There is no fixed date when the Link came into being. No birth date.

A better analogy would be from gardening where growth happens over a period of time.

However it is generally agreed that 1981 was a very significant year, during which the first visit to Bo was made, and steering committees in both communities took OWL forwards. So we have nominated that as the official beginning year.

Our intention is to organise an **Archive Day** in the autumn before the AGM to sort through years of memories, diaries, letters and photos. Further details will be advertised shortly, but if you feel you have anything to contribute or would like to come along and share your memories, then watch this space!

With no fixed date to adhere to, we have decided to go for a celebration on 28th October. That is when we will hold our 25th Annual General Meeting.

It coincides with Black History Month and One World Week. It gives us time to coordinate our events with Bo, in the hope of a simultaneous ceremony.

Plans are not yet defined. You can help

- We hope to record a wide range of memorable impacts from the last 25 years, big or small.
 Please let us know what you remember, what you think has "made a difference" or affected your life (see entry below)
- 2. If you are in touch with people who have been interested or affected but perhaps no longer involved, please contact them, to see if they are interested
- 3. If you have ideas about how we might celebrate in a suitable manner, please feed them in
- 4. If you would like to be involved in the planning and organisation, say so

One World Link 25th Anniversary Recollections - The First Trip!

Jane Knight and her fellow OXFAM worker, Muriel left the UK on 13th April, 1981 and flew to Freetown. They were met by Martin Long who was the VSO country officer and he eased their arrival by helping with accommodation and transport in Freetown.

Jane has diaries full of experience when she went not just in 1981 but again in 1982 and 1983. By this time the Link was taking root.

Here is a sample of those very first experiences....

"Wed. 15th April ...Hot sweaty night. Martin arrived and so began the most remarkable super day. Travelled approx. 140 miles to Bo. Palms and thick secondary/tertiary? vegetation. Passed through small settlements - all very interesting. Full of worried anticipation about Bo. When Bo first came into view my first thought was "My God, what has this got to do with Leamington?"

After lunch in a VSO eating centre (Mrs French's greasy spoon) Martin decided to take us first to see Rev. Brian Starken at Gerihun, so we passed through the centre of Bo quickly. It was full of bustle and was somewhat bewildering.

At Gerihun we met Brian's fellow priest, Fr. Coffey. After a cold beer he drove us together with some wooden pillars on the back of the vehicle... We were soon in the heart of the bush, we crossed a bib river where alluvial diamond mining happens. He mentioned 2 boys who had drowned there last week. We visited the villages of Ganduma and Mamboma where we met the head teacher of the primary school, Mr. Simeon Joseph Moseray) and his wife. (Subsequently they featured a lot in the early years of the link and were visited by Bob Crowther - now leader of Warwick District Council)... Went to visit the school - great fun- but 75 kids in that small building with hardly any school furniture.

There was a map of Sierra Leone drawn on the wall and an 18 year old was doing his GCE's for the 4th time



Mamboma School - 1981

 \dots On past Tailu to Fabu where a nice new school was built \dots

The section chief welcomed Martin and seemed delighted to have us there too. A devil came out to greet us and the Bundu ladies showed us how they work out the future of babies with arrangements of stones.

There was drumming and chanting and the whole occasion was so unbelievable, topped by gifts of a large bowl of rice and a live goat. The chief held my hand and proudly showed me round his school. It was well built with 2 classrooms and blackboards. A lesson about Jerry Rawlings and Ghana was written up on one of the boards. There were about 6 desks.

As we left the devil jumped on our bonnet and the goat peed in the back of the land rover.

We drove back on the long bumpy road to Bo and said good bye to Martin....Met Margaret and Rev. Neil Trainer with whom we were to stay for 2 weeks. They were very welcoming."

It was Margaret's brother who lived in Leamington and attended Dale St. Methodist Church who had suggested Bo as our link town....

OWL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL

From the earliest days of One World Link, it was accepted that we needed to have council backing to give us some legitimacy for representing the Warwick District Community (WDC). We have received good informal support over the years in many ways, not least in welcoming visitors from Bo.

From 2001 local authority support has become both more focused and broader. Leamington Town Council is now formally linked with Bo Town Council. In 2001 he District Council has hosted the Deputy Town Clerk, and then donated IT equipment to Bo Council. The County Council became involved at that stage, and have more recently employed a full time officer to run their part of the proposed "development partnership" with Bo.

Meanwhile over the years at national and international level it has been realised that real development does not come through intervention by Non Government Organisations. Local Government has to be the leader in local development working with the local community. Warwick District has accepted this in principle but has been quite rightly cautious about its involvement in an international programme, particularly if financial or human resources became necessary.

In the last year the Commonwealth Local Government
Forum set up a Sierra Leone Task Force to encourage
British councils to co-operate with Sierra Leone
Councils who are struggling to implement local
democracy after 30 years of politically appointed, - not
elected - councillors.

Warwick District agreed a month ago that they should be members of this task force and Cllr. Jane Knight was nominated as their representative. She also represents the District on a national committee working on international roles for local government.

She met with 4 other councils in Dumbarton last month to work out strategies for our cooperation with our counterparts in Sierra Leone. It is hoped that before long each council partnership will be granted £50,000 from the Dept. For International Development (DFID) to start work with the Sierra Leone councils. Warwickshire County Council is very active in this scheme too and Clive Harridge, the President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, has now joined the local authority sub group of OWL.

Exciting days ahead...!

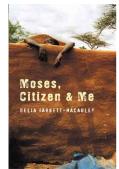
Leamington Peace Festival

Don't forget to visit our stand at the upcoming Leamington Peace Festival on 18th and 19th June. We're also hoping to take part in the festival **opening event** on Friday 18th June in Bath Place Community Venture. The intention is to host a joint meeting between OWL and the Peace Festival - with the long term ambition of generating a link between Leamington festival and Bo peace festival.

http://www.peacefestival.org.uk/

BOOK REVIEW: Moses, Citizen, and Me by Delia Jarrett-Macauley

This is a recent addition to the One World Link shelf in Leamington Library. It is the first novel set in Sierra Leone to be there. The author is of Salonian descent but was born in this country. Her recent BBC Radio 4 programme reveals she had not been to Sierra Leone for 30 years. When I started to read her book I suspected as much; but as I continued my disbelief was suspended.



The story telling gripped me emotionally and held me in suspense. She may have been using second hand accounts and her imagination, but her tale of a young boy being abducted to be a rebel fighter, slaughtering his own parents, and then being taken back into the family by his grandfather felt real and took me much further in understanding. A grim story but containing beauty, poetry, and empathy. Give it a go. It is very readable, and will not take too long to finish. Delia has her own website - www.deliajarrettmacauley.com

You may then want to read some of the other books on the OWL shelf, which bring in the politics, the anthropology, and the history.

REVIEW AND BE REWARDED

Dear readers, we have an increasingly valuable resource of books about or relevant to Sierra Leone, ranging from cookery and novels to history and current affairs. We aim to build a compendium of reviews and publish one in each edition of the newsletter. Each volunteer reviewer will be rewarded with a choice of a book of Sierra Leone recipes or poems or a history of the chiefdoms of Bo. If you would like a list of available titles to review please contact John Myers or Tracey Baker at the library: traceybaker@warwickshire.gov.uk

Our books donated to the care of Leamington Library are not being used very much. The Library are not quibbling yet, but don't forget they are there and don't forget to tell others.

African Debt Crisis Seminar led by Gloria Labarani MA - from Tanzania organised by One World Link

Gloria produced some startling statistics to illustrate the African debt crisis. On average, Africa spends four times on debt servicing than it does on health annually. Between \$7.5b and \$15b is required to deal with the HIV/AIDS crisis per year, Africa spends \$13.5b in debt servicing per year. In 1960, the income of the wealthiest 20 per cent of the world's population was 30 times greater than that of the poorest 20 per cent. Today it is over 60 times greater. Debt is a major factor in the widespread death, disease, and destitution throughout Africa. She explained that 3 factors caused this catastrophe:

- Reckless and irresponsible lending by the world's financial institutions
- Inequalities and fluctuations in world trade conditions
- Severe and misguided structural adjustment programmes to refinance debts, which led to a lost decade of applying the wrong remedies after the crisis was acknowledged

She summarised the arguments for and against debt cancellation, and came to the conclusion that the arguments for cancellation are overriding on grounds of Legitimacy i.e. much of the original lending was irresponsible and not binding on the people of the affected countries, practicality i.e. it now makes economic sense to wipe the slate clean, and morality i.e. the suffering of the poor is now so great there is a moral obligation to answer their plight.

She asserted that a growing number of African countries have civil society mechanisms that will improve the chance that funds released by debt relief will be used on

services and essential infrastructure. African models of good practice are being developed. However cancellation of the debt has to take place within a wider framework of measures such as world trade agreements that allow weaker nations to survive economically.



When asked what people in Leamington can do to help. She suggested that there are 3 levels on which help can be given.

- Lobbying of government, institutions, and corporations
- Making alliance with people involved in the civil society movement in Africa
- 3. Leading our own lives in ways that help the world be a better place like buying fair trade goods, recycling etc.

This was attended by over thirty people who were refreshed with fairly traded drinks.

Are you interested in speaking about African issues to local community groups as part of our raising awareness campaign? If so we're looking for your help. Please contact Mary Weir at maryweir@gmail.com.

We are now members of Connections for Development (no cost) linking black and ethnic minority groups with development issues and initiatives. Annual Report with John M. www.cfcnetwork.co.uk

Local Linking Updates

We are pleased to report that neighbouring links are going strong. Kenilworth maintains its link long standing with Uyogo in Tanzania.

Daventry has a party of 20 going out to Iganga in Uganda this moth to work on community projects.



Redditch linked with Mtwara in Tanzania is hosting an all UK-Tanzania Linking conference in October.

If you know of any other nearby links, please let us know.

The University of Warwick Nigerian Society are planning to hold a celebratory evening on 22 June "Night of a thousand talents". Activities may include singing, dancing, breakdancing, poetry, arts displays, drumming, a play, hair-plaiting, raffle draw and a quiz on Nigeria. They might turn the night into a party as well afterwards! (venue tbc)

If you're interested check out their website through the university societies portal by clicking 'cultural' and scrolling to 'Nigerian Society' from: http://www.sunion.warwick.ac.uk/portal/societies/

Sierra Leone Mass of Thanksgiving

Will be celebrated at St. George's Cathedral, Southwark by Rev. Father Peter Konteh (visiting from Bo, Sierra Leone) On Sunday August 6th at 3pm. Light refreshments, music, new acquaintances, old acquaintances and joy will follow in the Amigo Hall adjacent to the Cathedral.

Please come and join us for this Sierra Leone experience of prayer, fun and extended family.

Everyone is most welcome.

If you wish to attend please contact Sue Kirby Tel: 01782 633350 or e mail suekirby@supanet.com
As a long standing friend of the link we hope that Peter will be able to visit us. We can only say we hope he will visit us some time before or after the 6th August

MEMBERS - WE DO REALLY NEED YOU!

The committee have been aware for some time that our membership procedures have been inadequate. Personalised membership renewal reminders have not been sent out since 2001. We apologise for that, and have taken action to put it right.

A new member of the Committee, Richard Edwards, has now taken the job of maintaining the membership list, and sending out renewal reminders. We have reconfirmed that membership runs concurrently with the financial year (April to April). In future we will send out reminders in April to all members except members paying by standing order who will get an acknowledgement letter.

We have become very active since the Sierra Leone Civil War ended. It is very important that we maintain a healthy active membership. Also, membership fees are very important. We are very grateful for many very generous donations; but we do need to rely on a core regular income for "infrastructure costs". We will propose to the AGM in October that membership be fixed at a minimum of £15 per annum with a £10 concessionary rate.

If you have not had a letter about this before receiving this newsletter, please contact Richard on tel: 07759 353395 or email: richedd@gmail.com to renew, revise your annual amount, or to join

<u>Teachers Workshop</u> At the recent Primary Teachers' Group meeting, we arranged to have a special workshop for all interested teachers to go through all the resources we now have available and to share our accumulated knowledge of how to use our links to best advantage in the classroom. It will be facilitated by Sarah Davies, who has had a very successful link at The Ferncumbe School, Hatton Green and it is expected to be held at St. Mary's School, Wathen Road, Warwick on Thursday 13th July, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.



Thanks Hussine!

It's time to say a fond farewell to Hussine Yumkella, our vice-chair. In a speech of thanks from Jane Knight, she said Hussine's role had marked a real turning point in the link. I think we'd all agree that it has been a joy to work with her. Our warmest wishes to Hussine and her new husband who married in Aberdeen on Saturday 29th April. We wish them the best of luck for the future.

Kind thanks to John Starley ACA, from Cartridge World in Banbury and AIMS Accountants for Business, for printing this latest version of the OWL Newsletter.

YOUR COMMITTEE 2005-2006

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SECRETARY John Myers, 44 St Mary's Rd. Leamington Tel: 425403

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VICE-CHAIR Hussine Yumkella

COMMITTEE Janet Alty, (Women's Group, shipping) 427773, Brian Austin (Schools) 428635, Bob Crowther, Bill Evans, Myf Hodkin, Jane Knight (local government) 311807, Sylvia Lee, Andy Smith,

Cllr Mota Singh (WCC Representative), Richard Edwards, Mary Weir, Chris King

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