

Friendships Flourish at Delightful Dinner Dance

As the winter nights start to close in, MOTEC members were pleased to be able to warm their hearts, lift their spirits and fill their bellies at a delightful dinner dance held in Hemel Hempstead on the glorious day of 4th October 2008.

As the guests filed into the beautifully decorated hall, Mr Mr Ofori-Atta kicked off the proceedings with a word of thanks to all the volunteers. With a great smile, he proclaimed "let's eat, drink and dance!" We hardly needed any encouragement - the lively music from DJ Eben already had our feet tapping and the wonderful aromas emanating from the kitchen had our mouths watering.

But first, a few speeches. Dr Louisa Draper welcomed new guests and talked a little about the charity, praising the hard work of all the volunteers who have helped to make the charity so successful. She paused for a minute to reflect on the characters of the volunteers; such a diverse group of interesting, enthusiastic and dedicated people



from around the world, who work so well together towards their common goal of improving healthcare in Ghana. Everyone agreed that the charity has brought them new friends, at home and abroad. Echoing Mr Ofori-Atta's sentiments, Louisa was keen to suggest that the evening should be one of celebration - not only to be grateful for our successful work over the last year, but moreover a celebration of teamwork, family and friendship.

something back', describing her experiences of working in Ghana. Born, raised, and trained in Ghana, she then moved to England, but recently decided to return to Ghana to do some volunteer work. MOTEC has given her this opportunity, and she gave a passionate account of her trip back to her native Ghana, describing the satisfaction gained from being able to give something back, and reiterating how wonderful it was to form new relationships, with new colleagues and friends.

Before the guests tucked into dinner, Christine Amakye gave a touching speech entitled 'giving



After the speeches, the guests were ready to tuck into dinner. We had been promised a 'sumptuous feast' and indeed it was! As usual, the MOTEC committee had pulled together and worked incredibly hard, resulting in a most marvellous meal with cuisine from around the world. The room was momentarily somewhat quieter as everybody became absorbed in their dinner! Plates were quickly cleaned as people joined the queue for second helpings!

As we rested our bellies (to make room for dessert), we sat back in our chairs and listened to the beautiful voice of solo performer Miss Sylvia Ofori-Atta. Not only a gifted singer, she also writes her own material. What a talented young lady – we felt privileged to hear her sing.



Meanwhile, members sold raffle tickets. Thanks to the remarkable generosity of guests, these sold out within minutes, and an emergency impromptu raffle ticket production line was created to make some new ones!

Up next came Oxford and London-based band, QT and the Reservoir Dogs. Made up of Oxford graduates, these talented young musicians regularly perform their soulful funk music to

packed audiences around the country, so we felt very honoured to hear them play for free! Full tummies didn't stop the audience from jumping to their feet and boogying the night away to their infectious beats.

As we cleared the tables and plates away, the music continued, as did the chatting and the dancing. This evening had really brought us



together as a team and as friends, and we were reluctant to leave! New members signed up, old members were brought closer, and we all look forward to working together in the year ahead.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the evening. It couldn't have happened without your kindness and devotion.

Louisa Draper

PA to the President

10th October 2008.