

## A TRIBUTE TO A REMARKABLE REGENTONIAN.

THE LATE THOMAS ARTHUR DAVISON AITKINS. {TADA} 4772.

By Rev Cyril Showers. [Chaplain SLGSOBA UK]



Late Mr Thomas Davison Arthur Aitkins  
(TADA)

On behalf of the chairman, executive and entire membership of the Sierra Leone Grammar School Old Boys Association UK branch, I would like to express our deepest condolences to Irene, the family, friends and members of St Paul's Herne Hill, on the death of TADA.

TADA was one of our elder members, who regularly attended our monthly meetings, even when health issues became increasingly a hazard. Irene, I can assure you that whenever TADA left home most second Sundays of the month to attend meetings, he duly arrived and the attendance register will confirm this.

TADA was highly liked and respected by all despite the age difference, and one of the few who belonged to the CMS generation of the association. He was very soft spoken, well-mannered and courteous, always full of smiles.

In spite of his quiet and laid-back demeanour, his presence at meetings was always felt and he was a great inspiration to us all.

TADA hardly spoke at meetings, but one of the occasions when he was heard loud and clear was when I got the order of his name listed wrongly in the list of attendees in the minutes, while standing in as secretary. Since then no one has ever listed his name wrongly ever again.

There were two highlights of TADA as a Regentonian. Apart from the first day he worked through the doors of the Grammar school, the first of his highlights was when he was accorded one of the highest honours of a Regentonian, that is to deliver the reminiscences at our annual thanksgiving service six years ago. TADA delivered this with humour, eloquence and pride.

The second highlight that characterised TADA as a Regentonian was when the UK branch held its 173<sup>rd</sup> thanksgiving service here at St Paul's Herne Hill, which happens to be his local parish church. TADA was very excited and could not hide his joy, pride and delight.

One of the things we both discussed at one of his last meetings before he fell ill, was whether the Grammar school will be returning to St Paul's for our 174<sup>th</sup> thanksgiving service. Sadly, the answer was no. We could not return to his church because of our increasing numbers. TADA as you would expect, understood even though there was a tinge of disappointment in his face.

TADA! Our meetings will not be the same without you. Your charm, humility, financial contributions and your unique disposition will be sorely missed.

We shall surely miss your smiles and softly spoken voice which will for ever remain with us.

May God's angels guide you. And with the hope and belief in the resurrection, we are filled with hope that we shall meet again.

Farewell to a true Regentonian and farewell dear brother and friend.

RIP.