

Tribute to Mr. David Josephus Solanke Fraser (3945)
At
His Memorial Service Held On Thursday 13TH January 2011
At The Surbiton Methodist Church, Surrey, England.

By Mr John Peters (London)



A little over eight months ago we bade farewell to the elder brother of David Josephus Solanke Fraser and today were here to say farewell to David and I pay this tribute on behalf of the Sierra Leone Grammar School Old Boys Association UK.

David entered the CMS Grammar School in 1939 and was Head Boy in centenary year, 1945, he was a Tertius man. He was a keen sportsman, was an athlete, played tennis and cricket, he was also a good swimmer. He once saved a woman from drowning around the Aberdeen creek area and was awarded a Gilt Cross for his bravery by the UK Boys Scout Association. During his cricketing career he played for Regents Olympics, and for the Old boys side against the Present Boys of the Grammar School and Old Boys of the MBHS teams during the School's annual celebrations. He led his team on various occasions.

I cannot tell when he became active in the Old Boys Union, I know when I did in the early 70s he was on the executive and he continued to serve in the executive up to his death. He was a member of the Board of Governors and was chairman for a time.

He served on various committees including the Benevolent fund set up to augment teacher's salaries, and the Land Committee, he headed the delegation to the school to calm the situation when tension was high due to shots being fired in the grounds of the school.

David loved the Alma Mater and did a lot to see its progress and maintain standards, he was a traditionalist and insisted that traditions are always maintained. His contributions to the school were numerous, to name a few, the shipment of CI Sheets for school's roof, the purchasing of instruments for the School's Band, and recently towards the construction of the classroom blocks presently under construction. He supported Fund Raising activities such as the Dinner Dances held here and in Freetown. He would attend Thanksgiving services here whenever he is in the UK and would socialise afterwards with Fellow Regentonians. He once asked how the Association here was doing and I told him the young men were doing their bit.

Whenever you get a pat on the shoulder from David you know you had got it right, get it wrong he will point out your mistakes to you positively.

Much more will be said about him in Freetown where he will be given a funeral befitting the illustrious Regentonian that he was.

Ill health brought him to the UK on Christmas morning last year and he sadly passed away on the morning of January 4th 2011.

On behalf of the Association I extend a heartfelt sympathy to all members of his family and numerous friends who will find it very difficult to fill the void created by the passing away of this fine gentleman.

May His Soul Rest in Peace.