

## **Meeting with Lord Alton - Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008**

**By Patti Edwards.**

Once a year the patron of Motec Life, Lord Professor (David) Alton of Liverpool John Moores University and Westminster gives up some of his valuable time to meet with some Motec members. Lord Alton is pro-active in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals, which aim to improve the living standards in poorer countries in Africa and Asia. Although he has never visited the country, he is nevertheless a sincere 'friend' of Ghana.

Accompanying Mr Ofori-Atta on this visit were Simon Derby, Antionette Dadzie and Patti Edwards. Unfortunately a fifth member, Raymond Ofori was unable to take part at the last minute as the meeting venue was misrepresented and security arrangements at the House of Lords remained impeccable. Lord Alton took us on a whistle-stop tour through the corridors of power to meet up with Simon!

Once united, we were taken for an informal chat in the café and supplied with sandwiches and drinks. We updated Lord Alton on our work during the last year and exchanged views and ideas on how to achieve further progress. Lord Alton is a firm believer that great progress can be brought about either by grand projects which are difficult to organise, or by the cumulative effect of smaller, more achievable tasks.

It was suggested that we communicate with Nigel Crisp who may be able to raise awareness in parliament that other EEC countries facilitate humanitarian trips by allowing their employees dedicated time for voluntary work in poorer countries. Lord Alton has since then helped lay down the foundation for Motec to meet Lord Nigel Crisp, the champion of NHS contribution to health care, education and training needs of the developing world.

To have a representative of the House of Lords striving for the same goals as ourselves gives Motec the credibility and confidence to continue the good work. Lord Alton's support for our organisation is invaluable and we are encouraged by his enthusiasm. Conversely, we can update Lord Alton on our progress in Ghana, thus arming him with reliable information on healthcare in this part of Africa.

Towards the end of the meeting Paul presented Lord Alton with a piece of Ghanaian carved artwork depicting Ashanti tribesmen which was very well received. The gift was in appreciation for Lord Alton's contribution to mankind and his support for Motec. The memorable event culminated in a photo opportunity!