

## Meeting with Professor Lord David Alton at the House of Lords, 8th March 2010

By Dr Louisa Draper

### **Present:**

Paul Ofori-Atta (President)

Gladys Ofori-Atta (Membership Secretary)

Louisa Draper (Special Assistant)

David Lewis (webmaster, graphic designer and IT technician)

Professor Lord David Alton, Liverpool John Moore University, & House of Lords,  
Westminster, London



Motec Team at the House of Lords – Inspired. Mr and Mrs Ofori-Atta, Dr Louisa Draper and Mr David Lewis.

Professor Lord David Alton, the patron of MOTEC, was kind enough to meet us (in the middle of a very busy schedule) to provide words of support and encouragement for MOTEC LIFE UK.

Not only is he a Member of the House of Lords, but also a Director of Liverpool John Moore University. He recognises the hard work involved in making changes abroad, having been involved in many projects in developing countries and campaigned for human rights issues all over the World. He has visited Kenya, Sudan, Georgia, Burma, North Korea, Congo, Darfur and China during difficult circumstances and his wide and varied experience and knowledge provides an invaluable source of inspiration for our work at MOTEC.



Lord David Alton offers Motec a forum at the House of Lords. Paul Ofori-Atta and Motec Volunteer of 2009 David Lewis with Lord Alton.

He praised the work of MOTEC LIFE UK on the ground in Ghana, building and strengthening health services from within.

***“Many people look at all the problems in the World and think “I can’t fix all of those problems” but you can fix some of them! And the effect that you have on some of the individuals that you help is life-changing.”***

He recounted a particularly touching story from a recent trip to Kenya, where he saw the life of a young boy saved through a simple intervention by a visiting volunteer, illustrating how lives can very easily be saved by the provision of ‘the basics’ in poor areas of Africa, where people must drive for many hours to reach any medical services. He used this example, to illustrate how he believes that MOTEC is “going about things the right way” in the methods we are using to try and improve healthcare provision in poor rural areas of Ghana. In light of all his experience abroad, these words of approval were very encouraging. Despite all our hard work, and all of MOTEC’s achievements this year, it sometimes seems like there is so much left to do, so it was incredibly up-lifting to hear that we are approaching our tasks in the best possible way.

Professor Lord Alton also congratulated Mr Ofori-Atta on his natural ability to recruit people to help MOTEC, citing this as one of the reasons why the charity has become so successful and achieved so much. Mr Ofori-Atta was quick to agree that MOTEC has many dedicated volunteers who are working hard to make a difference and said that he relies on the continuing support and commitment of these enthusiastic people – ***“there is a lot to do!”*** Professor Lord Alton agreed with this and praised the way in which the organisation has been set up and run, saying that he often refers other people to MOTEC as a model of how to set up charities and how to “get things done”. Ways to move Motec forwards through Lord Alton’s contacts were discussed and Motec was pleased with the guidance provided by Lord Alton.

MOTEC was delighted to present Lord Alton with a wood-carving picture from Ghana, as a small token of our appreciation for all his help. We would like to thank Lord Alton for taking time out to meet us and of course, for the unwavering support and inspiration he consistently provides. It is an honour to have such a distinguished gentleman as our patron. His experience, knowledge and his calm and kind nature are of

enormous value to MOTEC – we can always rely on him for wise words and motivation!



Motec says thank you to Lord Alton