



UK Registered
Charity Number
1110998

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Forms can be printed out from these links:

[Sponsorship form](#)

[Donations and Membership](#)

Pay using PayPal

You can now pay GETS using the GTS Paypal account (Please make this clear when returning your application form)

[PayPal via GTS](#)

Gambia Education & Teaching Support NEWSLETTER

Issue 4 October 2007

More Sponsorship of Teachers Needed Urgently!

The Dalasi exchange rate is threatening GETS Teachers Salaries. Please consider sponsoring one of our schools (ring fenced towards wages) to make sure we can maintain and hopefully increase our Teachers pay.

The Gambian government is following a policy of strengthening the Dalasi against the £, \$ and Euro, in an attempt to force the price of commodities down, to make things easier for the general public.

Such a policy may succeed or may fail, but at present a £ is only worth D35 where it was worth D50.

Where our class Teachers were getting basic pay of D1088 per month (equal to £21.66 at D50 to the £), at the reduced rate of D35 they will only get D762 **still costing the charity £21.66**. To make up the difference we need a further £9.29 per class room Teacher.

For Head Teachers it is even worse - we need an additional £14.93 a month to maintain their salary of D1742 per month.

GETS was embarking on its own policy of increasing the wages of all school staff and is now faced with a huge shortfall to even pay the current salaries.

PLEASE Help if you can!



Membership Renewal is due on 1 November

Please remember to send your cheque for **£10.00** to:

The Hon Secretary, Julie Limbrick,
109 Blenheim Road, Deal, Kent. CT14 7HA

If you prefer, download a membership form from our web page www.getsuk.org, but please let Julie know if you pay by any other means than by cheque so that she can acknowledge your payment.

IF YOU SPONSOR A CHILD, MEMBERSHIP IS NOT DUE AS IT IS INCLUDED IN YOUR SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT.

GETS Re-organisation

After working with us in The Gambia for over 5 years, Kabs Jabang requested in February 2007 to be released from his position with the charity. At that time, he agreed to remain until August 2007 to assist handing over the administration. Kabs had a major influence on the organisation, and under his supervision, it grew rapidly. With that growth, the administrative burden became excessive. Kabs will be missed and we wish him well in whatever work he now follows. The position of Director in Gambia will not be replaced.

Jerreh Jammeh who had worked for the organisation for 4 years, was this year invited by a sponsor to visit the UK. He failed to return to The Gambia within the leave period allocated to him, or to contact us regarding his return. His employment with GETS was terminated in August 2007.

The new position of Administrator set up in November 2006 was filled by Musa Colley; this post will remain.

A new position of Administrative assistant is currently open and we are looking for a suitably qualified Gambian to fill this post.

On the home front, UK voluntary treasurer, Sarah Travers, with whom Francis worked at the CLA Gamefair, has decided to seek employment away from the CLA. Sarah has fore-warned the trustees that she will not be able to continue as GETS Treasurer. We are therefore actively looking for a volunteer to take over the financial side of the charity.

**If you feel you could fulfil this important role in the UK,
please contact Francis on
Francis@GETSuk.org**

Julie Limbrick, a Trustee and Hon Sec of GETS travelled to Jinnak - an island off the North Bank of The Gambia, on a private holiday. She sent the following report:

'The island is very poor with few resources and I felt support was desperately needed for the actual community – the need for as many households as possible to own a goat for example (cost £20 per goat) and ideally the purchase of two or three canoes for the small community of 8 extended families to share - thus enabling the women to harvest the abundant oyster beds growing in the mangroves and earn money to feed their families. (£180 per canoe.)

Anyone wishing to donate to either of the above should send a cheque made out to Gambia Education and Teaching Support (GETSuk) to Hon.Sec. GETSuk, (address as on page 1). It will be paid into GETSuk account, Gift Aid will be claimed if applicable and this will assist GETS to cover the charges to transfer the donations to the communities' account in Jinnak.

Please note that this project is not officially sponsored by GETS, but the Trustees have kindly agreed that any donations can be sent via the GETS bank account.



The Quandarysending donated goods or donating money....

We are sometimes asked how items can be donated in the UK to be sent out to the Gambian Schools. Francis recently sent this reply which seems to sum up the situation very well:

'There are some charities that simply raise money to send containers of goods, some will take small amounts for you for free; others want a contribution to the freight costs. We have sent stuff this way and had it go missing in Gambia, where the distribution is very insecure and pilfering is rife.

After 10 years at it, we now essentially raise funds in the UK and use the money to buy goods and services in The Gambia.

This has a number of advantages:-

- 1 It is much easier to move money than goods – so all that is collected arrives here in The Gambia.
- 2 The money helps the Gambian economy where goods are purchased in Gambian Shops.
- 3 It helps local craftsmen if we use them to make desks, chairs etc for our schools.
- 4 And it generally provides far more in quantity per £ than it does if the same items are purchased in the UK and sent out to the Gambia.
- 5 It provides planned resources rather than a jumble of 'useful' items.

Much of that which is sent out in containers is pilfered and never realises the potential for which it is sent. Sadly, many of the resources sent are inappropriate and unsustainable in African schools, so are not used effectively - even if they reach the classrooms.'

Boys.....



Jan says ' It's funny how things in life that seem small to us, are regarded with so much pleasure by the Gambians. It makes the effort worthwhile'.

Jan Gillott sent us these pictures of new Football kit being proudly worn by pupils at the Herman Gmeiner Lower Basic School. Jan sponsors Mbayang though GETS and wanted to give the kit to Mbayang's school. She writes:

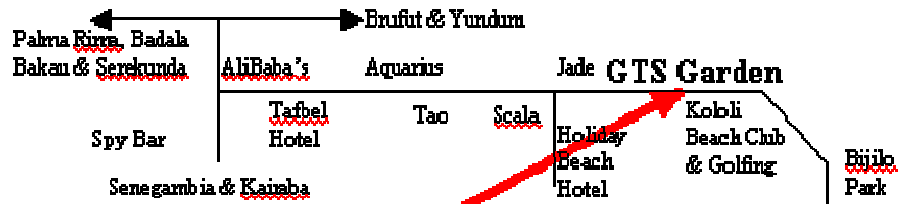
'I am extremely happy that all the kit got to the School and have received a lovely letter from the girl's mum, saying how much the Principal and students appreciated the gift.'



.....and Girls! (Mbayang is standing next to her Teacher, in the back row.)



Map & Directions to Restaurant and Office



Make your way to the 'Senegambia Strip' (all taxi drivers will know it), turn left at Ali Baba's restaurant on the corner. GTS is the last restaurant on the left.

The restaurant produces some delicious, reasonably priced food and has had very good reviews in the 'Rough Guide to The Gambia'.

The staff will give you a great welcome!

Proposed Changes to the Bar/Restaurant

We have added some features to the ground floor bar area: a pool table, a table-tennis table and football table, a twister board and a giant Jenga game. The intention is to separate out the ground floor bar and give it a bar snacks menu. The top restaurant's menu then can be extended. Future plans include adding a flat roof over the office and extending the restaurant and kitchens over it. Preparation and serving-up space is very valuable!

← Beat the Dalasi exchange rate with GTS accommodation

We are keeping GTS Kololi prices at £75 per double, at least until January for people who book now. At current rates of D36 to £1 the cost is D2700 a week.

Thanks to all who attended our AGM, especially to Nick and Sheila Plaister, who hosted the meeting this year at Nick's office, **Domino Printing Sciences** and provided a superb buffet lunch for us all. It was really good to meet everybody and to put names to faces.

As you can see from the picture on the left below, we had a visit from the local Firemen, who were responding to a fire alarm going off! We had finished the main meeting and were saying our goodbyes, so Julie Limbrick kindly posed in front of the fire engine but sadly all the Firemen were otherwise engaged!



Attention, all Members! Further changes to the GTS Kololi compound add new alternatives to the accommodation available

Three self contained en-suite double rooms are available:

Each room has its own fridge and kettle with additional use of Microwave £25 pw & Air con is £45 a week booked in advance. (Both optional)

Also - a self contained, two double bed roomed house, for up to 4 members with sitting room, verandah, kitchen and shower/toilet.

It has a big roof garden with excellent views all round (ideal for sunbathing or star gazing). The whole house costs £150 a week fully occupied or £100 per double room.

We also are letting a self contained flat on the ground floor, for up to 4 members, which costs £100 per week.

We now have the luxury of a constant supply of water from a large roof top tank which gives hot showers and running water in all taps. Both the house, flat and rooms are serviced daily by Fran's wife Filley, who can also be booked for shopping trips and traditional cooking sessions - as well as a laundering and ironing service, so members can enjoy their Gambian trip and return home with a case full of clean clothes and memories of real Gambian cooking!

To check availability and more details or book any of the rooms, please contact Francis with your visit dates by email on Francis@GETSuk.org

People staying MUST be members of GTS or GETS