



UK Registered
Charity Number
1110998

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Gambia Education & Teaching Support NEWSLETTER

Issue 8 November 09



The Annual General Meeting of GETSuk was held in Shrewsbury this year, at the Shropshire Wildlife Trust – a lovely old building set in a tranquil location. The meeting welcomed 35 members and supporters and many people made a weekend of the event. The trustees were particularly pleased to welcome representatives of Castellan West African

Trust and several new members to the meeting. Verbal reports by project leaders were accompanied this year by a very successful slide projection, culminating in pictures of many of the 70 children whose education costs are met by our generous sponsors. The need for more members at £12 a year was underlined by the Chairman and it was noted despite the current credit crunch, no sponsors had withdrawn their support to the children.

It is hoped to hold the next AGM in Hertfordshire in 2010. In the meantime the charity is actively seeking someone to take over production of our bi-annual newsletter.

If you can help please contact newsletter@getsuk.org

Will you help us by becoming a member of GETSuk?

Would you consider making out a standing order to pay our annual membership fee of £12 due on 1st August each year?

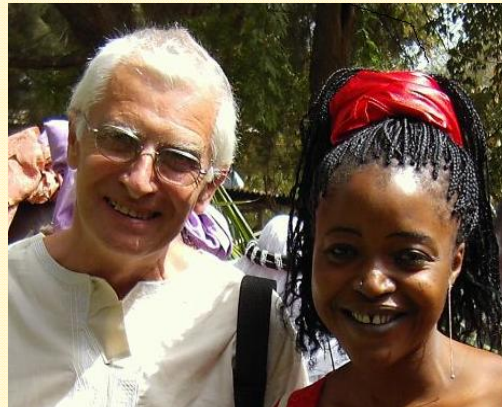
The form you need can be found at

http://getsuk.org/membership/membershipform_logo.pdf

**PLEASE encourage your friends to become members
it would help us tremendously**

Fran's Resignation

Francis Glynn has regretfully resigned his position as Chairman and member of GETSuk Executive Committee due to family commitments following the death of his mother. He will continue to develop the GTS members' club in Kololi. (Please see



back page for details)

The trustees of Gambia Education and Teaching Support assure members and supporters that this will make no difference to the work of GETSuk.



CONGRATULATIONS to Graeme Baker, from Newton Abbot, who raised an amazing **£1723** for Bwiam Village and the Cous Cous Milling Machine project. He ran in the Great North Run which took place on the 20th September 2009. It is a gruelling half marathon, from Newcastle-upon-Tyne to Gateshead, with over 54,000 runners from all over the world who are raising funds for their favourite charity. It is acknowledged internationally as the world's most famous half-marathon and has live BBC TV coverage!

Graeme and his wife Gill have been sponsoring a child in BWIAM village for some time and have always taken a great interest in the various projects that have been completed to improve the quality of life in the community.



Recently, **Pamela Brodie** and her colleague **Ashley Pederson**, two Level 3 Midwifery students, undertook a six week elective placement to The Gambia where they worked at the AFRICMED Clinic and other tertiary maternity centres. These clinics cater for vast numbers of women on budgets up to 150 times less than is acceptable in westernised countries. They are desperately short of cash and basic equipment.

Pamela and Ashley were able to take out many valuable pieces of kit which had been donated by various companies in the UK. These were enthusiastically received in The Gambia!

You can read in more detail how their adventure unfolded, see more pictures and find info about the two charities for whom they were fundraising at the following link:

<http://projectgambia2009.wordpress.com>

They raised over £300 for GETSuk - thanks, girls!

Dawn Webster writes:

At the AGM we appealed for people to join a think tank to help create a UK style curriculum suitable for Gambian children in our nursery school. I am sure that among our members we must have a lot of teachers & ex-teachers, nursery nurses, people with ESL experience and many other creative people with ideas to help us. If anyone thinks they could help with this project in any way, no matter how small, I would be delighted if they would contact me at

webmaster@GETSuk.org

A NOTE FOR ALL CURRENT SPONSORS:

The office in Gambia re-opened in early September and the students have been coming in for their 1st term school fees. The academic year started for most students on 28th September. I know a number of you have already written asking for details of your students, but Helen will write to you all individually, giving you an update on your student's progress in the last academic year.

School visits will be made early in the New Year and Helen will report back to you all by mid-March.

STUDENT SUCCESSES: We had 3 students who successfully completed their education in Grade 12 and whose sponsorships have come to an end :-



Haddy Sidibeh who was sponsored by **Dave and Mary Robinson with Steve Roberts**, and Aboubacarr Jobe, whose sponsor was **Roy Hockaday**. When Helen last spoke with Haddy and Aboubacarr they both wanted to embark on a further education course in IT



Karim Drammeh, who was sponsored by **Vee Delaney**

NEW SPONSORSHIPS

We have a significant number of students looking for sponsors, so if you can help in any way, please contact Sheila Plaister our sponsorship secretary at sponsorship@getsuk.org

>>>>>> POSSIBLE NEW SCHOOL FOR BAKOTEH <<<<<<

GETSuk has started to look at the possibility of helping to run the Community Project situated near our current school at Bakoteh. The community project has 2 nursery classes and 3 class rooms supporting community training projects, like Batik tie/dye and sewing.

As GETSuk runs the nearby Bakoteh nursery school, this would allow an opportunity to move our current school facilities to a purpose built and enlarged school that would support both the needs of the community and our requirements. We would look to build up other facilities on the site in time, since there is some useful space here.

GAMBIA OFFICE UPDATE

Skype is now operational from the Gambia Office. This means that if you download a **FREE** copy of Skype onto a computer you use in the UK and have it running (if not open) when you are using your computer, then any time our computer is on in Gambia, you will see that we are online and you can talk (providing you have a microphone and speakers) to us totally **FREE** - we cannot recommend it highly enough.

We are improving facilities here with a working telephone (00220 4462476). We have now commissioned a UPS (Uninterruptable Power Supply) that will allow us to work and communicate when the electricity is off – which happens on a regular basis. If we could just improve the reliability of the internet then all will be fine!

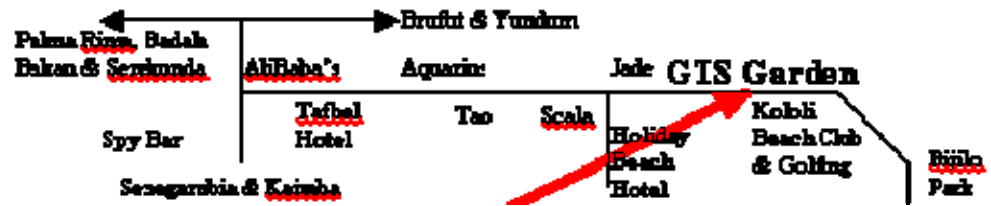


Helen, who has volunteered to deal with all the administration matters for a second year, can now be contacted directly:

admin@getsuk.org



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 and bar on the left.

The restaurant produces 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!

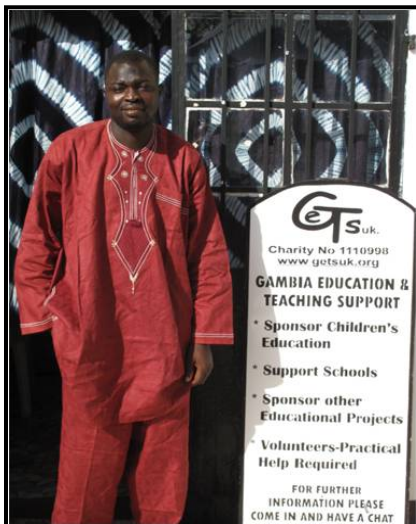
'GTS KOLOLI' - MEMBERS ONLY CLUB



We are delighted to announce that...

'The Club' for GTS and GETS members and residents at GTS Kololi will be fully operational from January 2010. The aim is to provide a place where people can relax with no hassle. Accommodation for members will start from £80 per week for a double, en-suite room with a fan, a safe box and a single occupancy reduction. Hot water for showers will be in the region of £7 extra per week. We are not a hotel but can promise well-equipped rooms, cleaned daily, with a laundry service. GTS Kololi is within walking distance of the Senegambia Strip, the GTS Bar & Restaurant and the beach.

For further details, information and bookings, email francis@gambiatouristsupport.com



THANK YOU from Nfamara Jarju - Head Teacher/ Education Manager GETS (UK)

Dear Friends,
I am very pleased to thank you for your help. As you may remember, some time ago this year I was very sick and had to pay thousands of Dalasi for my medical treatment in different medical centres in the Gambia, which I could not afford without your help. However, I am very pleased to tell you that your contribution towards the payment of my medical bill gave me a second life. Therefore I thank you for your kindness,
Yours, Nfamara Jarju

RAISE FUNDS FOR GETSuk FREE WHEN YOU **SHOP** OR **BROWSE** ON LINE

All you need to do is log on to the easyfundraising site at

www.easfundraising.org.uk/gambiaeducationteaching

or set us as your homepage, and use it every time you search the Web

www.gambiaeducationteaching.easysearch.org.uk