



UK Registered
Charity Number
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Forms can be printed out from these links:

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Gambia Education & Teaching Support NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first GETS newsletter

Issue 1, April 2006

GETS & GTS Gambian Wedding!

Francis Glynn (founder and chair of GTS and GETS) and Filley Colley were married in a civil ceremony on Tuesday 14 March 2006 at The Registry Office in Banjul.

There was great excitement at this surprise news and everyone involved with GTS and GETS was delighted.

Francis and Filley have known each other since Filley arrived at GTS as a temporary worker about 3 years ago. She was so thorough and energetic that she was kept on as a permanent staff member!



To all Members, Sponsors, Donors and Supporters of
Gambia Education and Teaching Support (GETSuk)

The Trustees of GETSuk invite you all to join us for
A Buffet Lunch at 12.30 will be followed by our

Annual General Meeting

on Saturday 20 May 2006 at 1.30pm

at the Deal Centre for the Retired

3 Park St, Deal Kent CT14 6AG

There will be time to socialise and catch up with friends in the very pleasant facilities of the Deal Centre, both after the meeting and, for those of you staying in the area, two hours on Sunday morning.

Please let Julie (the secretary) know quickly if you are able to come

Email Julie at: Secretary@GETSuk.org or by post to: 109, Blenheim Rd,
Deal, Kent CT14 7HA

We will contact you again in October regarding renewal of Membership

Subscriptions due on 1st November 2006. Thanks so much for your support



Francis with small friend

Nelson Mandela Said "Make every home, every shack or rickety structure a centre of learning"



Drawing in the sand...

Supermarket helps Africa School Funds

A rural school in Africa will benefit from the generosity of a Deal supermarket. Sainsbury Manager, Mark Turrell has handed £500 to Julie Limbrick, a Trustee of Gambia Education and Teaching Support (GETS uk).

The money will be used towards provision of toilets for the school in Essau West Africa. Mrs Limbrick, who is senior manager of Deal Centre for the Retired said, "The health of 180 children will be greatly enhanced by this facility. They currently have holes in the ground

and an open sewer. The value of such practical support is immeasurable and greatly appreciated." The charity's trustees and supporters fund all their own expenses when visiting to monitor the many projects undertaken, including the provision of nursery schools, meeting teacher's wages and overheads, provision of educational materials, a sports hall and introduction of an educational curriculum of real value to young people.

(see p3 for progress report)



The manager of Sainsbury's in Deal Mark Turrell presents £500 to GETSuk charity trustee Julie Limbrick. Picture: Terry Scott pd 946082

Welcome & Thanks to New Supporters

Sheila (Sponsorship Secretary) and the team would like to welcome and thank newcomers joining us and committing themselves to the task of fundraising to support education in The Gambia. Thank you also to our established supporters and to all those who continue to support both GTS and/or GETS in their endeavours towards job creation and educational projects.

Rosemary lives in Steventon, Oxfordshire. A 'once a year' visitor to The Gambia, she is a primary school teacher and together with her husband Michael, has produced a set of basic reading books for a primary school in Tanji. The Gambian Minister for Education has approved the books. This year another set of books using numbers will be on its way to Tanji.

We are hoping that Rosemary will liaise with

Jo Evans so that he can have copies for his "introduction to the curriculum" projects that are making good progress. Rosemary has lots of fundraising ideas including coffee mornings and children craft activities, where they pay to attend. She and Michael privately sponsor a child.

Lisa from Kettering, has been involved with a school in Youna but had no knowledge of GETSuk until recently. She took her husband Dave on his first trip to The Gambia and now they are now sponsoring a child and are working on ideas for fundraising for GETSuk

Carolyn lives in Dorset and last year had a very successful "Gambian party" for friends, where they had to pay for their supper! This year she is organising "Gambian dance classes".

Stephen, from Lincolnshire, has already raised and donated funds to facilitate the replacement of the toilets at Essau School. Steve has previously raised funds for a school unconnected with GTS/GETSuk and is looking at extra challenges!

Dawn, who lives in South Wales, has raised a substantial sum by 'car booting'. She, with a friend, have been selling possessions they no longer require! They are just waiting for the weather to improve and they will be setting off at the crack of dawn for another season of 'boot sale fundraising'.

Lesley Headley from Welton, Lincolnshire, together with friends, gave up her social life completely for eighteen months in order to fundraise for the Youna Sports Hall Project. Lesley and friends collected money by packing shopping for customers at local supermarkets. They also sold raffle tickets at local theatres and took part in a sponsored walk. For another fundraiser, Lesley took to the skies on the wings of the Utterly-Butterfly light aircraft!

Welcome and thanks to New Supporters—continued...

Naomi, Carolyn's daughter, is organising a Mufti day at school and has been offered the use of a camcorder to do some recording sights and sounds while she is on Easter holidays, so that when she returns from the Gambia she can make a presentation as part of her fundraising. She's collected a large amount for the feeding programme at Bakoteh School, and has had good coverage on Gambian radio and television, a bit of a celebrity, and not taken GCSE's yet!

Bakoteh Nursery School News

Julie Limbrick was at the school in November 2005 and sent this monitoring report on the progress of the project at Bakoteh:-

The introduction of the new educational curriculum of good standard by **Jo Evans** is now underway - having overcome initial teaching problems with the staff. This resulted in temporary staff being appointed pending national advertisements to appoint staff with higher qualifications for the New Year.

Jo continues to support the new teachers and prepare educational materials ready for the eventual introduction of the curriculum to the children. They are now producing work and drawings, which are displayed on the classroom wallboards. We are indebted to **Jo** for his major efforts and commitments to the project. Thanks also to volunteers who offer their assistance.

Jo asked us to insert the following plea for more help!

YOU can help in these ways:

1. Money—a pack of A4 paper costs about 100 Dalasi—please contact GETSuk for details of how to transfer cash specifically for this project.
2. Time—if you are visiting the Gambia and have an hour or two to spare, contact GETSuk and we will put you to work instantly!



Bakoteh Nursery school

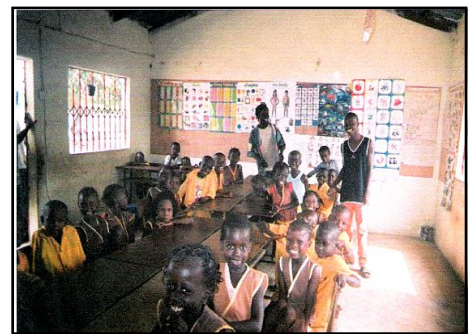
Essau Nursery School—North Bank

Thanks to founders/sponsors John and Kay Skingsley, supported by Sainsbury's of Deal, together with Steve Maw and Rev Baxter, funding has now been provided to complete the new toilets and water supply.

The teacher's salary costs are in need of further sponsorship and the need for an additional classroom is under consideration.

GTS/GETS involvement with this project began after John and Kay asked for help with management and with on-going funding for Essau Nursery School.

Please contact GETSuk.org if you feel you would like to help fund a specific part of this project.



Classroom at Essau Nursery School

Other Projects

administered by GETS/GTS include:

Youna Sports Hall

funded by Tim Mawes and Lesley Headley

London Corner Nursery School

funded by Father Kenny and the Dunbarton Community

Kingfisher Trust

funded by Margaret Combie

**GETS/GTS
Calendar
2007
Competition**
We need
12 photos of
The REAL Gambia

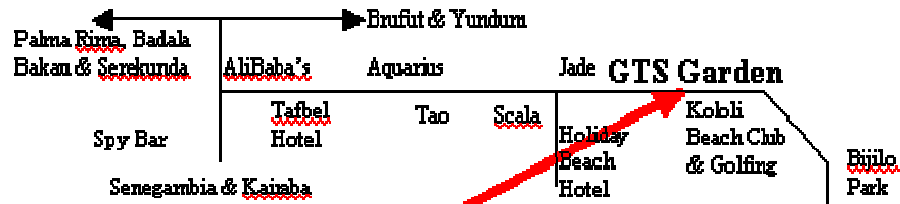
Any offers?



Learning to count at a GETS funded school



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.

Redevelopment of Restaurant and Office at GTS in Kololi



Work-in progress December 2005



Finished & looking good! March 2006

BBC Essex Radio interview with Shirley

Shirley, our fundraising secretary, was recently interviewed by BBC Radio Essex about another School Reunion which takes place at the end of May. Radio Essex was interested in the unusual entry requirements. To attend the reunion, "TWO BRICKS" for the Classroom Appeal must be bought and a gift aid form signed to maximise funds for our sister charity in the Gambia, Gambia Tourist Support.

Stop Press!

Clare, a member of GTS and a regular visitor to the Gambia broke her arm and dislocated her knee in a traffic accident in Serrakunda last autumn. While she lay helpless at the roadside she had her valuables stolen. Four Gambians came to her aid and took her to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Banjul. In the New Year she returned to Manchester and after having her plaster cast replaced—anyone who dared to look at her arm was persuaded to sign her cast and pay up for GETSuk! More surgery is planned so she hasn't finished collecting yet... Clare's love of the Gambia and Gambians remains undiminished and is very eager to get back to the "smiling coast".

FINAL NOTE: FUNDRAISING HELP NEEDED!!

We are in desperate need of people to fundraise! Members, would you please think about asking your family and friends - perhaps someone already has a flair for this but does not know about GETSuk.

Maybe there is someone who would appreciate joining us; they will be sure of a warm welcome from the Fundraising Team at GETSuk.

Please contact me, Shirley on 01277 366165
email: fundraising@GETSuk.org

Attention, all Members!

Accommodation in Kololi is now finished and offers self-catering facilities to members of GTS and GETS.

Three double rooms are available:

One at £65 a week, with exclusive use of the shower and toilet.

Two at £70 per week, both with en-suite showers and toilets.

All three rooms share the large living room and galley kitchen.

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 £140 a week whether fully occupied or not, as this house is let as a single unit.

We now have the luxury of a constant supply of water from a large roof top tank which gives power showers and running water in all taps.

Both the house 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 & book any of the rooms, please contact Francis with your visit dates by email on

Rooms@GambiaTouristSupport.com