



Charity no.1093083

ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR



This banner, produced by the local people, and poem by Headteacher, Mr S Bah, sum it all up.

OUR BIGGEST AND MOST DEMANDING PROJECT TO DATE

As announced in our 2021 newsletter we have now replaced the "Haystack School" at Njalal Samba as planned. Thanks to the incredible legacy from Carolyn Williams, we have built not just a 4 classroom block and toilets, but a Library, Kitchen, Teachers' Quarters, borehole well, school garden and a 220 metre perimeter wall.

Kebba and our regular team of builders began work in November 2021, UK volunteers helped with the finishing touches in February this year and the Grand Opening took place on 3rd March; what a joyous emotional ceremony that was!

Some 40 trees, mostly mango, orange, lemon and pomegranate have been planted inside and outside the school perimeter.



The build was demanding because Njalal Samba is a 350km 6 hour drive from our base at the coast, 12 km from the nearest road and hot! The highest shade temperature we saw was 47 degrees Centigrade.

Water for building had to be brought in from Senegal by donkey cart initially as completion of the borehole (actually 78 metres deep) was delayed by the rainy season. Building supplies are difficult to source in the rural areas and many items had to be arranged and delivered from the coastal area by Kebba and the Regional Office.

POEM OF APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE



You have given us light
It is the light that ignites our minds
With education and knowledge
The light paves the way for our youth

Our children shall be schooled
They shall no longer sit on stools
For you have built and furnished
To see our seeds of tomorrow flourished

Our teachers slept in hots
Those are bygone days
School Gambia Trust UK wills it; it occurred
Library! We no longer learn in fantasy

Caroline William gone yet, never gone
For her pledge is like a river and we swim
Trust UK stands and see her words done
Our community smiles and wins

Sixty-five meters deep well, our mothers toil
Your monumental gesture, makes that history
For it shall be told for generations in tales
We appreciate it for you have given us victory
You indeed have given us light.



Special thanks must go to Kebba and the building team including Pa Sallah (see below), to the Headteacher, Mr S Bah, who kept us posted with any developments, to the Alkelo (village chief) for his indefatigable support, to Madam Jallow, Regional Director of Education, for advice and support, and to Paul, Steve, David and George not just for their painting skills but also their after work activities cementing a great relationship with the children and the villagers. Finally, special thanks also to Ousman Bah, deputy Governor of the Central River Region, who brought the charity, the village and the Government together to build this amazing legacy for Carolyn Williams.



School enrolment is increasing already, especially after one of the builders, Pa Sallah, gave an impassioned speech at the opening ceremony insisting the villagers send ALL children to school, not just some, with one notable student eagerly starting work before the library was finished!



ALIEU BADERA LIBRARY

Taking advantage of the Easter School Holidays (and the fact that this school is only 10km from our base) we converted a disused classroom into a Library. A new roof, sliding glass windows, tiled floor, shelving, furniture, ceiling fans and lighting and, of course, books!



Our 5 existing schools -

In view of the uncertainties regarding the Covid situation, we took the difficult decision not to visit the urban areas nor visit anyone at home. Our support continued through Kebba who made deliveries of educational materials to all the 5 schools and arranged any necessary repairs to boreholes and wells, broken windows, shutters and especially holes in the roofs before the beginning of the rainy season again in June/July.

Following the success of school trip arranged by Loumen in 2018 to visit educational and historical sites around The Gambia, the charity funded 2 such **Educational Trips** from Loumen and Kumbija this spring. Both involved around 50 pupils and staff, visiting locations over three days around the country, especially Important as most pupils (and some staff) have never travelled further than their local market town!

NORMAL ACTIVITIES are being resumed in the UK. Please watch our social media sites for information on Curry nights, Garden Parties and Sales. Presentations to schools and organisations can resume.

Once again **THANK YOU** to all our supporters who continued to donate cash and goods to keep our essential work going over these difficult last two years.

To see how you can help, or to look for updates, please check our website and social media, or contact the trustees:-

Christine Brown, Linda Gunn, Hilary Lawther, Steve Lawther, Paul Neimantas, David Oldfield