



Business as Usual!

(but not for our many volunteers and visitors this season!)

Last year's newsletter featured a report by special visitors, Simon and Nick Gill, about our newest school at Njalal Samba, funded by a legacy from their sister Carolyn Williams. This year we look behind the headlines and share just a few of the many essential things happening year on year - eg maintenance, repairs, repainting, stocking and replenishing schools, libraries etc, expansion to meet increased needs, making the most of all we provide. We're in it for the long haul.

Why?

For the children, their education, and hope for a better world for all.

Steve reports firstly on some of our volunteers and visitors - all brilliantly hosted and handled by Hilary and Steve (I'm happy to say this - they're too modest!):-



Esme

Esme, at just 15, came to experience firsthand what she had learnt at our fundraisers in the UK. She took to it like a "duck to water". Interested, determined, hard working and knowledgeable, even teaching the children how to play dominoes! Come back soon, Esme!

Whilst staying with Esme way up-country at Janjanbureh, we met Koke and Vanessa, yoga teachers from Spain (Inlight You). Instead of seeing the famous hippos, they chose to come to help at Njalal Samba where they held an animated exercise class with pupils and head teacher.



Koke and Vanessa

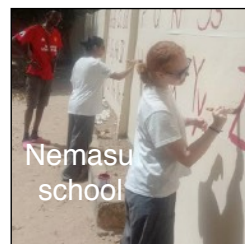


Monika

More supporters arrived, notably Monika and David, who spent five days with us at our school in Kumbija, David fixing lights, joining Monika teaching nursery rhymes and helping to sort the library.



David and Steve
JOB DONE!



Nemasu school



Loumen school

Kitt and Ashley from Denmark joined us for 2 months in their gap year, including 3 weeks teaching nursery classes, sports and providing art work and equipment at Loumen, invigilating exams at Alieu Badera and finally helping to redecorate at Nemasu.



Alieu Badera school



Dannie, Ellie and Adam
at Jamwelly

They most certainly worked very hard to support children's education in The Gambia!

Steve goes on to say:-

On their annual visit the “Jolly Boys” (George, David and Trustee Paul, pictured here with Kebba) decorated the 2 new classrooms at Njalal Samba also provided by Carolyn’s legacy.

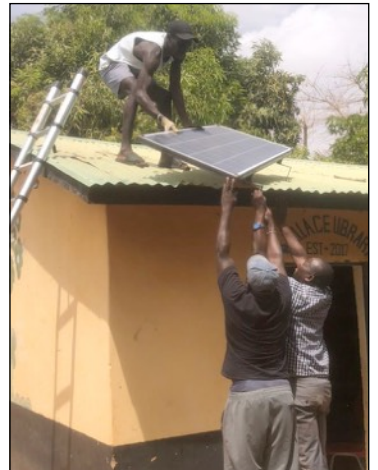


Grades 5 and 6 can now be accommodated in the next academic years.

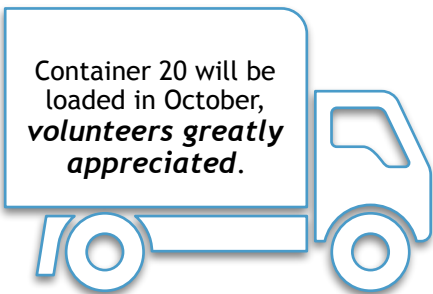
Two extra classrooms at Kumbija meant extra teachers and their quarters were extended to cope.

Paul & David also paid a first visit to Rumba lower basic school after meeting one of the villagers who said the school desperately needed support. Indeed it did! - 670 children with just 6 teaching classrooms, leaking roof, broken floors, tables and chairs, one toilet cubicle each for boys and girls, the list goes on. David has embarked on a summer campaign to raise £10k to help improve the school via GST

Solar power was added to the library at Jamwelly for lights and power, kindly funded by Peter Rooney.



CONTAINER 19, after a few hiccups, arrived mid December full of furniture which went to several schools, cabinets and books for many schools in Region 5, books and games for Region 3, and a multitude of sports equipment for many teams and lots more.



Special thanks to Anne and Steve Worsman for arranging two events at Silsden Town Hall (see silsden.live):-
8th June - “The Haleys” in concert.
15th June - “Silsden’s Big Indoor Garden Party”.

Other events in 2024 include:-
31st August - Garden Party at Briarfield Ave. Idle.
21st September - stall at Saltaire Festival churchyard.
October (date to be finalised) - Curry night.

You’ll find info on our schools, libraries, activities etc on our website and lots of topical stuff, (and more on Esme), here - Please have a look

Or, ask a trustee:-



Grateful thanks to the many individuals, schools, groups and businesses for your donations, time, effort and support. Without you none of this would be possible.

You’re all STARS

Standing order forms can be downloaded from www.gambianschools.org for anybody wanting to support on an ongoing basis.

Christine Brown, Linda Gunn, Hilary Lawther MBE (UK 07932 650644), Steve Lawther MBE (UK 07946 400475), Paul Neimantas (UK 07510 224894), David Oldfield (UK 07570 505913)