



GETS News!

Autumn / Winter Term 2013
A round up of the events at Sunrise
leading up to 2014!



A warm welcome to our new Sunrise Principal!



We were very pleased to be able to appoint a new person, with an outstanding educational background, to fill a big hole that we had at Sunrise, having worked for a month of the new term without a school principal! Here is a very brief introduction to Madam Kaddy Fofana (sitting in front of most of the Sunrise Teaching staff):-

"I live in Brikama, West Coast Region.

I am a qualified teacher with both Primary and Higher Teachers' Certificate (HTC) 1999 and 2004 respectively. I also obtained a Bachelors degree in education from the University of The Gambia. I studied women peace and security at African Leadership centre, Kings College, London from 2011-2012.

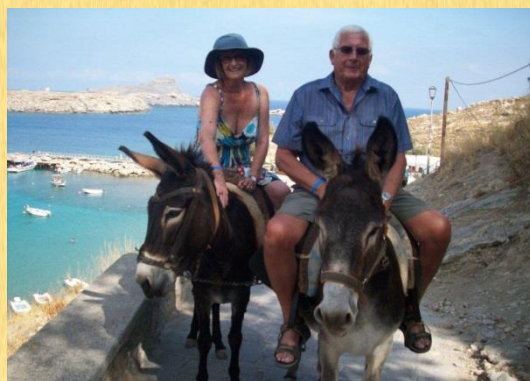
I am the head of the Gender Department at the Gambia College and also work for GETS as Education Director. My main objective is to create a conducive environment to improved teaching and learning at Sunrise Centre with the support of the charity."

What a Golden Wedding Celebration – Julie Limbrick

Trustee Julie and her husband Bryn celebrated their golden wedding anniversary recently by holding a party for 50 friends and family followed by a holiday in Greece. Rather than presents to mark the occasion they invited guests to donate to GETS and thanks to their guests' generosity raised £500 to assist in completion of the Sunrise Lower Basic School.

GETS trustees' and supporters' efforts to fundraise over the years have enabled the charity to meet many of its objectives and trustees recognise the need to find additional avenues of support if we are to continue to develop the vital resources that allow provision of a good education for so many young people in Gambia. To this end we seek your help and suggestions– new ideas are welcome, offers to actually fundraise are wonderful and leads to trust funds and organisations which may assist, including corporate sponsorship, would be worth their weight in gold. Perhaps you know someone who may wish to be involved via researching trusts on GETS behalf or who may gladly organise an actual event?

Do contact Julie@gets-sunrise.org if you feel able to assist.



New Year's Resolution? Why not 'GIVE IT UP FOR GETS'!

You may remember in our last issue we were calling on supporters to give something up and be sponsored to raise funds for GETS. Well trustee Maxine Beech gave up eating between 7am and 7pm in honour of the yearly fast for Ramadan that many of our Muslim students and staff would have also been following. "It was especially difficult as it was so long – 29 days with no lunch or snacks! Unlike many Muslims I did allow myself to drink, but missed out on lots of things like the staff end of year lunch. I had to sit and watch everyone eat! I'm glad I did it, but I'm not sure I could it again."

Maxine raised £120.63 for GETS using MyCharityPage. If you're planning to give something up for the New Year, why not contact Julie for the fundraising forms: Julie@gets-sunrise.org



A new member of the Sunrise Team...

Following the move of Mrs Fatou Cham to teach our new Lower Basic 2 class opened in September we had to find a new teacher to teach Mrs Cham's old Nursery 1 class:-

"I am Fatou Sally Ceesay (seen here drumming for a dancing session) and have been the new teacher for Nursery 1 since September 2013. I am here by saying that I am very happy to work with the staff of Sunrise Centre – in here we work as a team. I hope that with this we will achieve all what we want in the educational area.

The area I achieve most is by using the thematic approach lesson plan and the multi sensing teaching approach which I was allowed to use in the ECD (Early Childhood Development) department – it helps me to achieve all my aims and objectives.

The children are also doing well in my class and are very disciplined."



Gone but not forgotten

Elizabeth Lopyy was a sponsored skills student at Sunrise Centre from 2010 - 2013. She was a very disciplined, well behaved student and her school reports were always well above average. During her last year she went off on work experience for 3 months to Mrs Cox who runs a tailoring shop near Serrakunda - they make wedding dresses for clients.

Elizabeth came back to Sunrise Centre in April 2013 for her final exams and graduated with flying colours a couple of months later. She was fortunate to be offered a job by Mrs Cox working 6 days a week from 9am - 6pm. Elizabeth called into Sunrise Centre a couple of weeks ago and was brimming over with excitement because she had made her first wedding dress for a client. **Well done Elizabeth!**

Craft Fair for Tourists in Senegambia – Helen Touray

Just before Christmas we had a table outside GTS bar & restaurant to try and sell products made by the Sunrise Skills Training students. Volunteer, Angela Longoni-Sarr had come to school the day before and helped students make Christmas biscuits, 234 in total. These were packaged in cellophane with a pink ribbon and I'm pleased to say that **all were sold**.

Donations were given to the school in exchange for these biscuits, jewellery, rag-rugs, tie 'n dye scarves and other items

The tourist area was very quiet and I guess most have gone home for Christmas however we plan to hold another such event towards the end of January.



Denise Green, Angela Longoni-Sarr and I were accompanied by 3 skills students and Alimatou Jammeh, the cookery teacher (pictured left), raising more than D3,000 towards school funds.

Pictured right is Marokey Bojang (Skills Classroom Assistant) and the start of a growing board of necklaces and other items.



To keep up to date with Sunrise activities follow our [blog](#).

How do you fill four empty classrooms in The Gambia with school furniture?



Well at GETS we have a secret weapon, Dawn Webster! Dawn goes out locally and finds first class equipment that is being discarded by wealthy British schools who can afford the latest desks, chairs and drawers etc. She manages to get them given free to GETS to support an African school and brought to her house near Newport (Gwent). Desks and chairs for more than 100 children take up a lot of space!

Then Dawn, with lots of help from husband Paul, cleans them up (lots of chewing gum to remove - Yuk!) and then it's onto the next challenge, packing and delivering to The Gambia in a container. A new container is destined to go out in early summer-time (UK).

Reminder – As there will be spaces under desks etc, if you have any resources you would like to send in the container for Sunrise, please send your parcels to Dawn - dawn@gets-sunrise.org – Greenacres, Broadstreet Common, Nash, Newport NP18 2AZ



The very full shed!

Sunrise Peer Health Excursion to Albreda (Picture shows Sunrise group plus some local people)

The Peer Health Society of Sunrise had yet another successful excursion to Albreda North Bank of the Gambia. The trip was on the 13th to 15th December, 2013. Thirty-eight students and six staff made the journey. We left sunrise after school and crossed Banjul to Barra at 17:00. Our car had a break down on the way where we nearly spend two hours. We finally arrived at Albreda at 20:30. The host were eagerly waiting for our arrival who came to receive us a mile away from where we were supposed to lodge. A special dinner was organised by the Albreda school which we enjoyed. On Saturday morning, we had our breakfast and then visited the Juffereh museum. We ended the afternoon at Kunta Kinteh Island. In the evening we had lunch followed by a basketball match which we won by 31 to 27. At 18:00 we had a meeting with the principal of Albreda Upper and Senior Secondary School who was pleased with us for choosing his school as friends. In the night we had dramas from both our school and the host to enlighten the young people about peer pressure and how to tackle them. There was later a musical jamboree where we also took first in dancing. Finally, on Sunday we had a cleansing exercise where we cleaned the school environment, we had our breakfast and then departed. It was really a great experience for me. More details on Peer Health [here](#).

We try and support lots of activities that teach new skills and broaden the outlook for students beyond the classroom. One such activity is the trip of the Year 3 Skills Training Students to Albreda, The Roots Museum and Kunta Kinteh Island. The story is ably told by Sulayman Jobe (Head Boy).



A Successful 2013 AGM in Cheshire

The Trustees were very pleased to go on tour again this year with the AGM and we met up with another raft of our supporters, many of whom said that this was their first AGM. They were also kind enough to say that they enjoyed the experience (maybe it was just the lunch!) The only thing that went a little awry was that Tony forgot to take a picture but by the wizardry that is Photoshop, here is a late entry, with the Trustees shown at the top.

A key change in the Trustee team was that Ian Ward-Dutton handed the baton for Secretary to Sue Nelson and stood down. Our thanks go to Ian for all his dedication and hard word.

The next question is where do we hold our AGM in 2014?



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Have you visited our Sponsor a Class website yet?

www.sponsoraaclass.co.uk

For only £5 a month you can sponsor not one child, but up to thirty! You can choose to sponsor nursery, primary (lower basic) or skills. We will send out termly updates on your class so you can see how they are progressing. A great gift idea too!



Wishing all of our supporters a very Happy New Year and a prosperous 2014!



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