



# GETS News!

Spring 2014

New from the second term at the  
Sunrise Centre, Gambia

(psst – [click here](#) to access our printable version)



## Our first Sponsor a Class stand (- what do you think?)

Over the Easter weekend, trustees Maxine Beech and Helen Touray, together with enthusiastic volunteers Erica Wren, Tony Bound and Richard Beech, ran a 'Sponsor a class' stand at the Chester Food and Drink Festival. Since we'd never done any fundraising of this kind before, we weren't sure what sort of reception we would receive.

It was very nice to be able to reach a whole new audience, and meet so many new people so quickly. We are happy to report that the event was a big success, and we now have seven new class sponsors and two new student sponsors – a big welcome to all of our new supporters! It was surprising how many people we met that had been to Gambia, or had family members who had.

It was a fantastic result from three days' work and it really goes to show how many kind and generous people are willing to support young people in a country over 2,700 miles from our own.



## Fund-raising in Gambia - Making gifts for tourists at Sunrise

One of our talented Skills Training classroom assistants, Boubacar Diallo, came back to help us again at the start of May this year.



**Boubacar Diallo**

He has been of great assistance already, repairing the hard working sewing machines and is pictured here in a cap that he made today. Perhaps something new to offer our visitors when we have put some decoration on it or the name of the centre. Is there anything you think we could make to sell to visitors? [Send us your ideas!](#)

Bouba is one of 19 staff (including cleaners) who are employed by GETS in a variety of roles.

## Sunrise Nursery visit 'My Farm' (by *Fatou Sally Ceesay* and *Mbacho Jallow*)

We the Sunrise Nursery School has visited My Farm on 21st March at 10:00am, staying until 3:00pm which was one of the most Educative day for both teachers and the students. When we reached My Farm, everyone was happy to be there and the staff were also very happy to receive children from Sunrise Centre.

We were taken to the farm bantaba where they sang a welcoming song for the children. There was a man by the name Alhagie who explained so many things to us about MyFarm. There he also explained that the farm is open to everyone especially the young ones who are living within the community who visits the farm everyday. Some of these young ones are going to school while others are not.

**continued...**





We then divided children into three different groups then began to do and see different things in the Farm. We were taken to a pool where there were fishes, we also saw rabbits, pigs, duck and ducklings and also lots of tress in the Farm. There were also lots of fruits and vegetables, we then went to the computer room with some children, where they find it more enjoyable and interesting. Children were later given some block puzzles to fix as a big house and some were given number puzzles and some were given shapes to fix as well

Lunch was served in individual plates of 'benechine' with a local drink called wonjo. MyFarm staff confessed to us that our children were the best-behaved school they ever had. Students were listening, well controlled and above all very discipline. We all enjoyed it a lot.

*Fatou Sally Ceesay is our nursery 1 teacher, and Mbacho Jallow is the classroom assistant.*

- This trip is so valuable for all of our students. If you feel you could offer us support to ensure we can offer this trip in the future please click [here](#).



## Exciting Developments at the Sunrise Centre

We were also able to build a **new sports area**, following a kind donation from Driffield 873 Squadron Air Cadets, mentioned recently, following support from Angela Longoni-Sarr who acts as their Civilian Chairperson. Angela and their leader CO Adrian Hanrahan have both visited Sunrise but sadly the Cadets themselves have had to delay their trip until 2015.

The sports area was only constructed in February 2014 using donations raised and given to GETS by the Air Cadets, as part of their "Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award".

The sports area has posts and courts marked out for football, netball and volley ball, though we already use it for many other games too.

The picture shows our youngest Nursery 1 children (aged 4/5) practicing for sports day with their teacher Mrs Ceesay and classroom assistant Mbacho Jallow. We are so grateful to our funders for providing our children with such a wonderful facility!



## New classrooms almost complete..!

Since the turn of the year Dawn and Paul Webster have been collecting school furniture again to send out in a container. Before this happens all the furniture is checked for completeness and cleaned, often of horrible chewing gum.

This furniture has been given to GETS free of charge but of course we have had to pay for transportation and packing, since this must be done by professionals.

GETS have arranged and sent a container from Newport to Banjul packed full of all that we need to complete our Lower Basic classroom, just in time to start up a new Lower Basic 3 class in September 2014. We also need to recruit a teacher of course (and a classroom assistant too!)

*Our furniture was sourced for free, but our transport and packing costs were £3,000, which we will need to fundraise.*



**How many tables and chairs can you get in a 20 foot container?**

Not enough apparently because we have a few spares in Newport (but they did really well to get nearly 50 tables and more than 160 chairs plus lots more things into quite a small space)!





## Sunrise Garden – blooming marvellous!

At the Sunrise Centre we are trying again to get the garden going to teach the students the benefits of different methods of growing plants. They have all been to a local centre called MyFarm, whose staff have demonstrated many ways to get the best out of a garden.

The first fruits of the garden, now fully walled off to protect the planting from wildlife, are now available. The staff have been cutting Sorrel leaves as a salad vegetable and have been selling lettuce. All this aids school funds, of course. Helen is pictured with a huge crop of lettuce, which grows very quickly here.

Mr Ali Bah (English and Maths Teacher) has taken the garden under his wing. He is often in it first thing before school begins tending it.



### - A need for seeds!

Our vegetable garden is going so well we could do with some more seeds! If you'd like to contribute you can send via our [Amazon wishlist](#), [contact us](#) to send directly, or bring some out if visiting Sunrise!

## Who are the Trustees? (by latest recruit Sue Nelson)

Hi there! We thought you would like to know a little more about us, the Trustees of the charity, so as the most recent Trustee to join, I'll start the ball rolling.

My name is Sue Nelson and I am the Secretary of GETS. I am a 59 year old mother of three and grandmother to four boys and four girls. I work full time as an archaeologist but I also have a background in special needs education.

I first became involved with the charity through my husband, Tony (our Chairman) and his sister, Rose. I'll let him tell his story of how that all started when it's his turn! He had been going out to the Gambia and getting steadily more involved with Sunrise Centre for about three years before I finally got the opportunity to join him for a holiday. Since we are both keen bird-watchers, The Gambia is a paradise, with over 550 species of native or migrant birds, so we travelled inland to near Janjanbureh, the former capital, and stayed on an island in the middle of the River Gambia.

At the end of the holiday I was able to pay my first visit to the Sunrise Centre and was immediately captivated by its happy and bustling atmosphere. I think my days were numbered from then on! I supported and helped from the sidelines for a while, then met the rest of the Trustees at the AGM two years ago. Last year the post of Secretary fell vacant and I was invited to become a Trustee and stand for the post. I accepted and the rest, as they say, is history.

I look forward to meeting or seeing again many of you at this year's AGM in Lichfield on 30th August and to thanking you personally for your amazing support through sponsorship and gifts.



*Sue with Sunrise Principal, Madam Fofana*

## Helping where it's most needed



*Mariamma collects fees for her son's education*

We had an urgent request 2 weeks after the Easter holiday from a mother of three sponsored students. **Mariamma Jallow**, who works as a nurse at a local hospital and is a single mum, had been told that Modou-Lamin, her youngest child, was about to be sent home by his school. It is normal for GETS not to pay sponsorships until parents bring in reports to send off to sponsors, but the report has not yet been issued by the school. They have, however, told her that fees are payable immediately. You can imagine the worry that this gives caring parents like Mariamma, whose children are sponsored by friends at the West Country company, **PB Design**. On this occasion, Helen was able to help pay the fees and send a very happy mum on her way.

## AGM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To all of our friends, old and new, please consider joining us for our annual general meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> August. Our venue this year is Martin Heath Hall, Lichfield (WS13 8AY). Lunch is provided, free, at 12pm and the meeting starts around 1pm. It's a great chance to meet the trustees, other supporters and get a round up of the year's events. It also give you a great opportunity to ask questions and have a say in how we spend your donations. For more details please contact our secretary, Sue: [nelsonsue4@googlemail.com](mailto:nelsonsue4@googlemail.com)



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