



LISA.KENT.MEMORIAL. TRUST

Latest Update

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NEWS

In May 40 people attended a curry evening at Pipasha's restaurant, Newmarket Road, Cambridge. Thank you to everyone who attended the evening which raised over £400 for the Trust.

As a result of such a successful evening we are organizing another



CHARITY DINNER

TUESDAY 25th September

Thanh Binh, Magdalene Street,
Cambridge

If you would like to join us for a evening of Vietnamese food and good company, please call Liz to reserve a place.

£25 a head, of which £10 goes to the charity.

Please support us.



COMPUTERS

Thanks to the generosity of a couple from Cheshire we were able to send 7 computers to the Teacher Training College at Brikama. This provides access for both the staff and trainee teachers and enables them to develop computer skills.

TRAINING

The teachers at the Lisa Kent Memorial Nursery school have attended their third and final year at the teacher training college at Brikama. Pa Camara has also benefited from training this year to ensure skills learned are fully implemented in the school.

PROJECTS

The charity has been working closely with Geoff & Julie Henson, who have an enormous commitment with both education and health in the Gambia and are currently fund raising for a clinic being built on the north bank. The Trust will have no involvement with the clinic but is looking to work with Geoff & Julie on educational projects on the North Bank.

NEW PROJECTS

We will shortly be undertaking a new primary school at Karantaba (a village on the north bank), which has 164 children.

As this area is so isolated, the government provide the teachers on a short term basis and then they are moved onto different schools. The school has just recently been repainted inside and out following Geoff & Julie Hensons visit and donations given to them.

Lisa Kent Memorial School

The school is currently holding classes in the evenings to teach extra maths and English to those children already attending the school.

The headmaster is currently interviewing for a new teacher to take an afternoon class.



The class sizes are large, it is planned to reduce some of the class sizes by holding lessons in the afternoon. The school is presently closed in the afternoons, so this will make good use of the building and maximise education in the local area.

The Headmaster, Aljuma Camara, who's role has previously been administration, school management, plus providing a local project development role for the trust, has also started this summer at the teacher training college at Bri-kama. He will study there for the next three summers to gain his teaching certificate in nursery education. This will ensure that he is able to support the teachers in the transition of the school and move their education style forward.

Note from the head master

I am Mr Aljuma Camara the head master with 3 teachers following me and they are: Marian Jarju-head teacher, Fatoumata Baldeh and Ramatu Bangura.

All the teachers are happy and are thanking the Tinkler's very much for giving them lots of priorities such as:

- Paying them good salaries*
- Providing them with good education training at the Gambia college*
- Increasing teachers salaries after completing college training,*
- Providing us electricity in the school*
- Providing us internet for the school at the headmasters office which will make our communication to you very easy*
- Head masters salary has been increase by 48%*
- And a lot more*

Thank you very much

Our Gambian Experience.

On our journey to Gambia, we all were apprehensive about our visit to the school. Arriving at the airport we were soon to find out that the poverty in this country was foremost, and as soon as we ventured out into the countryside, these people had very little possessions, but to them it was their way of life and thought nothing of it..

Arriving at Kololi Beach club, a different way of life was unfolding, as we found out throughout our visit. Those people who had jobs within the complex were lucky to have regular employment, because it would mean that their family could eat, because without their money they would starve. How very different life was compared with our life back in England. It made us feel very humble and how lucky we were to have enough food to live on.

We wandered through the sandy, dusty, rubbish stricken streets to the school. This was our first visit and it was an emotional one, but after gathering a small group of children outside the school, we were soon to feel that we were welcome, they soon posed on a bench inside the school, smiling and waving to us for the perfect picture.

We heard the children inside the classrooms happy in their lessons, utter chaos but enjoying every minute of it. When we entered the classrooms all the children rushed forward to shake our hands, all at once, their faces beaming with delight that we had come to their school. The headmaster, Pa, joined us and we were taken on a tour around his school, explaining to us about the work that previously had been done and what was to be done in the future.

Opening day arrived and as we entered the gates to the school, Pa had acquired a settee and chair especially for us with a giant parasol above to give us shade. Where did he get these pieces of furniture, as all he had in his home was boxes on the floor for chairs and tables? It was an enormous effort to arrange an opening day and with the Gambian education ministers attending the ceremony it had put pressure on Pa and his staff, but they carried it off beautifully.

After a few speeches from the honoured guests, John gave a short speech, and presented Pa with a Plaque commemorating the opening of the school officially. We were so proud to have been a part of the opening of the school, and the thing we noticed most of all, was the happiness that came out of those classrooms. The faces of those children, who had been lucky enough to have been sponsored, and to have the chance to do something with their life. That is what it is all about. To give something back in this life and this makes you feel so humble, and they know that someone cares about them. They sang a few songs and we had to compose ourselves when they sang about "pretty Lisa Kent", a real tear jerker and unexpected.

We found that Lisa's memory did live on in that school, the love and laughter is what she would have wanted and she would be very honoured and thrilled to know that her name is above the gate, and the memories we have on our visit will remain with us and help heal some of the pain we have in our hearts.

Our thanks go to Giles and Liz, because without them we would not have something to hold on to when times are hard and to see all their hard work actually working must make them proud of their efforts as I know that it doesn't always go smoothly, but it certainly does not show on the surface.

Giles, Liz and Alice, thank-you for a memorable week in the Gambia and we felt very much at home, and the experience was unbelievable and we have some lovely memories to value in memory of a loving daughter and sister, Lisa.

John, Jasmine, Lindsay and Mark.

COMMONWEALTH DAY

Every year all schools celebrate Commonwealth Day. This is celebrated on the 2nd Monday in March. Each class represents a country, in this case the UK and the Netherlands were represented. Flags are made and the children play games and sing songs. Each child dresses up and is provided with a drink.

The children below are from the Jola Tribe. During commonwealth day, they dress in the manner of their fore-fathers.



JOLAS

Amongst the earliest people in the Senegambia region were the Jolas, who had migrated from Egypt. They brought palm seed, cotton and rice with them and settled along the Atlantic coast and river mouth. They lived in small independent communities recognizing no central authority. Today many still live near the coastal areas in the Gambia and unlike many of the tribes have retained more of their traditional practices and beliefs due in part to their independent nature. The Jolas were the only tribe never to have kept slaves, although they did sell their own prisoners of war to merchants. The Jolas were themselves often victims of slave takers.

A coffee morning will be held at Caldecote Village Hall on the 30 November. Please contact Liz for further details.

PLEASE NOTE

If you are able to pay your school fees by standing order, this would help the Trust, in both time and costs.

GIFT AID

PLEASE, PLEASE, return your Gift Aid forms, as every penny helps!!

BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE

Thank you for everyone for their support. Without this the Trust would not be able to operate.

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