



The LISA KENT MEMORIAL TRUST

www.lisakenttrust.org

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On Tuesday 23 January, after much preparation, the official opening of the Lisa Kent Memorial Nursery School took place. We were very pleased to meet the following at the ceremony: the Regional Director, Village Alkaloo, PTS Chairman, Women's Representative and the schools director. As normal with the Gambia, time is irrelevant and after a fairly long wait the Ceremony commenced with each delegate speaking in 'Mandinka', the local language and then being translated into English. Each class sang songs and rhymes, both in the local language and English.

A lot of the parents attended, all dressed in their best clothes, accompanied by their younger children.

The Minister of Education, Mrs Dibba, was very pleased with the running of the school and thanked the Trust for all the help it had given the school. She also expressed a wish for us to meet her at her office before returning to the UK.

The local reporter from The Point newspaper was also present (see page 4).

The Kent family gave a brief speech and presented the school with a name plaque.

The chairperson closed the ceremony after which music was played and food bags were given out which contained a drink, samosa and a small chicken leg. The children were absolutely delighted by such a feast, and after about 3.5 hours made their way back to their compounds, tired



COURSES

The Headmaster has now completed his sixth month course at the College of Business Studies, to which he achieved a good result.

The Teachers also attended their second year at the Gambian College for Teachers back in July. They will complete their final year in July and August this year.

The Minister of Education is also one of the lecturers at the college. She was very pleased at the progress the teachers were making.

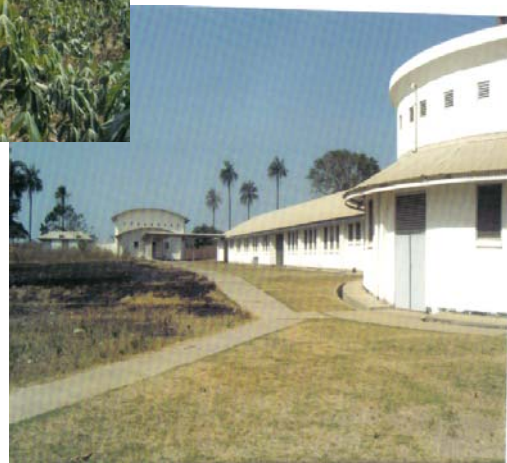
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD UNIT)

Following on from our meeting with the Minister of Education for Division 2, we were taken to Brikama to the Gambian Teacher Training College, and shown the set up and the course the trainee teachers follow. There is a model classroom set up to show all aspects of the curriculum. In many ways it is very similar to a UK classroom, with a nature corner, a shop, a hospital, number table etc. There is even a domestic science room. The whole set up is very very basic and a lot of things have been made from local materials and waste, e.g. a shape sorter was made from an old plastic container.

From here we went to Gunjur, which is 3.5 miles from the Senegalese border to look at a piece of land the Gambians are hoping to develop for a nursery school and primary school. A much needed in this area have already been told school would not be able to accommodate everyone in this



There are so many organisations and people who need help, that it is very difficult to select a few needy causes. The trust has been looking at sponsoring teacher training. The current cost is £360 for 3 years plus their expenses, i.e. transport, meal allowance etc.



NORTH BANK

As part of the Trusts constitution, we aim to help education in the Gambia, not just the Lisa Kent Memorial Nursery School.

As the North Bank is a very rural area, where tourists do not venture, the trust felt it would be a good idea to explore this area. We had been informed of an area which needed help.

Life on the North Bank has not changed very much in the last few hundred years, apart from a few cars, which are completely dilapidated and by our standards would not be considered road legal. We were taken to the village, Karantaba by a Gambian, as we needed an interpreter, plus we would not have found the village on our own. It is very hard to describe the poverty here. The people do not have any material goods, but are so happy and extremely welcoming. The children are desperate to learn, but unfortunately parents do not have the D10 20p per term to send them to school, so often they will attend for a short period of time, and then be unable to go, so great chunks are missed from their education. Education on the North Bank is slightly different to that on the southern division, in that the government are starting to pay for nursery and primary education in some of the more remote areas. The children still have to pay an administration fee, pay for their uniforms and books etc. There are not many nursery schools in this area, so often the children go straight into primary school, even though the government have expressed a wish that they would children to go to nursery first. The Vice President originated from this area, so she is very keen to encourage education particularly in this area. A lot of the schools in this area are



extremely basic and do not have the material aids needed.



SHIPPING

We are currently investigating the possibility of shipping goods to the Gambia via WYCC a charitable organisation. Any goods would have to be taken to Exeter for shipping.

