



THE LISA KENT MEMORIAL TRUST

NEWSLETTER Issue 11 - February 2009.

SPORTS at School.

Football—The Lisa Kent Memorial Nursery School now has its own boys' football team. The boys are practising hard and playing in local matches against other youngsters. It is hoped that they will soon be playing in a league against other local teams from nearby schools. The school are looking to form another boys team and a girl's team.



The Trust is extremely grateful to Bob and Naomi Taylor for donating the kit, which the boys are really proud to wear. If anyone knows of spare football kit which could be donated we would love to hear from them.



PE Lessons—Giles, Liz and Alice recently joined the pupils for one of their PE lessons. Together with the headmaster and two of the teachers they took two classes of children to the local 'playing

field', the boys to play football and the girls to play team games. The children had all changed boys into their football kit and the girls into their shorts and tops in order to preserve their school uniforms. As the girls played at the side of the road they had to keep moving each time a car wanted to pass by! New games were played along with their favourite game, 'winner or prisoner'.



Trust News.

We are pleased to announce that the Trust has achieved one of its goals and is now fully registered as a charity in the Gambia.

The Trustees are also pleased to announce the appointment of a new Trustee, Jane Exton who will be looking after our accounts as well as helping out in many other areas.

Report submitted by Clive and Gill Hick 's following their visit

Our first visit to the Lisa Kent Memorial School was on Saturday 22nd November, we had arranged to meet the headmaster, Aljuma Camara and Halimass Sanneh, the child we sponsor and his family.

On arrival the headmaster welcomed us into the school and introduced us to Halimass and his family. The headmaster told us Halimass had done well in his last year at nursery and was doing well at the primary school that he now attends, and that he is a bright and clever student.

We had gifts for the family including a sack of rice, Halimass' mother was overjoyed with this as the cost has risen from 500D to 900D in a few months and is the staple diet of the Gambia. This will last the family about a month.

We had pictures taken with family and Halimass spoke to us about school



and we gave him a book about West Sussex so he could see where we live. We arranged to visit the

school during lessons on the following Wednesday. We left the school with crowds of children waving to us.

Wednesday 26th November

We arrived at the school at about 10.30am and were met by one of the teachers and taken into the middle class. The children sang us a welcome song and then the teacher carried on with the lessons. We were impressed with the teaching materials, which included the alphabet

strung across the class, counting using bottle tops on strings, plants and shapes.

The enthusiasm in the class room was wonderful with the children and the teacher obviously enjoying themselves immensely. The room was full of smiles with lots of participation from the children who all seemed to enjoy being there.

We then went on to the top class where the lessons were a bit more advanced with the children filling in the missing letters from words, two letter words, days of the week and months of the year, parts of the body and how many of each bit, again the enthusiasm was great.

After this we went to the first class, the youngest children at the school where the children sang to us. We then met with the headmaster who told us a bit about the school and his plans to start a football team.

We left the children with pencils, sharpeners, note books and lollipops (I think these were a mistake as 150 lollies with a whistle in the handle make a lot of noise).

We were very impressed with the school and enjoyed our time back in class. It was lovely to see the children so obviously enjoying themselves and learning at the same time. We were made to feel very welcome and will hopefully get to visit again.



Update on Land at Busumbala, Jumbur

After months of negotiation with the Planning Office, it is hoped that permission will be granted to start building the school at Busumbala. As the land is in a very remote area, the planners had great difficulty reaching the land during the rainy season and on one occasion even had to abandon their vehicle and walk the remaining distance!



On our last visit the Trustees negotiated with the villagers for the existing roadway and adjoining field to be moved gaining an extra 5m of land required in order to obtain planning permission. Once the final paperwork has been completed, construction will start.

It is extremely important that the land purchase be conducted in the correct manner and formally through Solicitors in order to avoid the land being taken back by the Government at a later stage.



School at Lamin Daranka

Whilst we were in the Gambia recently, we were asked by the ECD (Early Childhood Development) department at Brikama if we could help a small nursery school where the head teacher was struggling as her husband had recently passed away.



The school, situated on a large plot but without any facilities, is desperately poor and the standard of the classrooms is very basic with worn out blackboards and very little on the walls. The roof needs replacing as the wooden roof structure is crumbling. Water is collected each day from a local compound in containers.

The children are extremely well behaved with 90 children in 3 classes. In the reception class there are two teachers and the children do not move into the next class until they are at the appropriate academic level.

Many of the parents struggle to find the money to send their children to school and as a result there is not always enough money to pay the teachers salaries each month. Initially a sponsorship programme will be started for this school with 10 of the most needy childrens' details put on the website.





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FUNDRAISING

The Trust has been extremely fortunate to have had the help of the three Huntingdon Rotary Clubs, being chosen as their overseas charity of the year. Several events have been held including a piano recital by Alexander Karpeyev, at which a cheque for £1,000 was presented to the Trust. An Auction was also held at Brampton Golf Club, with some 30 items including beautiful ceramic garden pots, a weekend away, flying day etc. being auctioned.

A cheque for £1500 was presented by the Hinchingsbrooke Rotary Club at their breakfast meeting, these funds were raised from several events including a quiz night.

Karting Evening

This evening was organised by Lloyds TSB Commercial at Kartsport, Caxton in November raising in excess of £3,500. It was very well attended; 10 teams entered a 2 hour endurance race with a prize for the winning and losing teams. Following the race an auction was held with some great memorabilia items including a signed print of Lewis Hamilton. Robert Huff (one of Chevrolet's FIA World Touring Car drivers) attended the evening and donated some great items for the auction. He also presented the prizes to the winning and losing teams.



If you would like to hold a fundraising event in aid of the Trust, please do get in touch with the Trustees who would greatly appreciate any ideas support or assistance

For all up-to-date information, including information on future fundraising events, please log into the website.



In supporting the education Issues in Africa The Trust is very aware of the need to be environmentally friendly. We are looking to email future copies of the Newsletter. Please forward your email address to Liz@Lisakenttrust.org.

Many thanks to Trevor Benton & Danwood Working Solutions for their support printing this edition