

WOW! last year's future plans are this year's blocks and mortar.

A special thank you to all who attended our fundraising events and donated to our special appeal.



LOUMEN now has an additional two-classroom block, quarters for six teachers, extra toilets and a perimeter wall for the new orchard. (See page 3)

You made it happen!



KUMBIJA continues to expand with the addition of an extra year group (Grade 2) in September 2018. The school now operates a double shift system. ***Another classroom block will be needed by September 2021.***

We have provided all three of our rural schools with solar power to provide light at night and charging for mobile devices, and have already installed solar powered bore-hole wells at Loumen and Kumbija.

JAMWELLY will also soon have such a well, thanks to Bradford Bronte Rotary Club.



A perimeter wall will also be added shortly to protect the garden and new orchard (See page 3) from livestock.



NEMASU, our four-classroom urban school, hosted some of the various visits facilitated by GST. Plymouth University's regular trip involved taking part in activities and observing classes. This school continues to operate successfully, pleasing both visitors and students alike.

KUNKUJANG ANNEX NURSERY, one of our two “urban” schools, is very popular with local families and is full to capacity. It is the first of our schools to introduce the government’s new “Reading in local language” initiative and continues to receive “*Excellent*” school inspection ratings.



Most of the children move on from here to Kunkujang Keitaya Lower Basic School.



LIBRARY No 12 was completed and operating in April 2019 for the 2100 students at Kunkujang Keitaya Lower Basic School. We were surprised and delighted to benefit from Otley Lord Mayors Appeal - thank you Councillor Nigel Francis and supporters. The official opening ceremony will be in January 2020 - all are welcome.



CONTAINER NUMBER 15 was loaded in October 2018 by willing volunteers at South Bradford Enterprise Centre and unloaded in November at our Gambia storeroom. **900** banana boxes of school materials, over **100** desks and **300** chairs. Metal cupboards and much more to fill every inch. All delivered to our GST schools and libraries and also to many others throughout The Gambia.



NEW LOOK WEBSITE now live

www.gambianschools.org

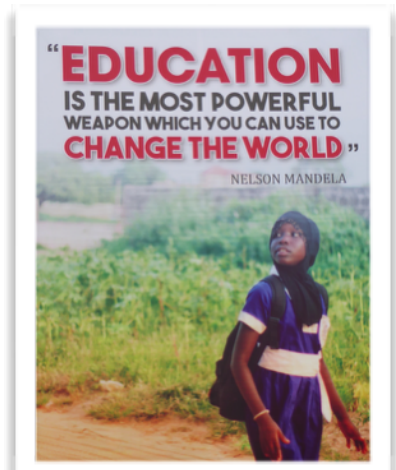
Thank you to Hassan Jallow and his team and also to our own Paul Neimantas for all their hard work. Congratulations to Hassan (one of our earliest library users), founder of Assutech (www.assutech.gm), for winning the West African Entrepreneur scheme in 2018.

And he still has time to donate his services to us!

Careful management, expertise and hands on experience throughout ensure we spend wisely and without waste. Everything possible including labour is locally sourced. All GST Volunteers and Trustees are self funding. All admin is free. Thus we keep our costs to a minimum.

This applies not only to the “Headline” topics above but, equally importantly, to all the “under the radar” essential activities - building maintenance, redecoration, wear and tear, emergency repairs, flood and storm damage, bore-hole and mechanical well pump replacement, preparation of donated computers for local use, storage logistics, distribution, transport planning etc etc etc. The list goes on! All of these are absolutely fundamental In ensuring the longevity of what we create or enable, and in getting best value for money from every single donation.

Every penny, whether given or spent, is equally important.



TREE PLANTING PROJECT



In response to the alarming news from the Climate Change Conferences, and the

deforestation taking place across The Gambia, we decided to ensure that all staff, pupils and, if possible, parents were aware of the vital Importance of Trees. Literature and posters were sourced, classes held, seeds planted and saplings secured. Planting will take place in July just before the rainy season.



A chance meeting with a senior Government worker at Loumen **has resulted in the project being rolled out at all rural schools across The Gambia.**

STILL LOTS TO DO... Education is at the forefront of the Gambian Government plans and significant progress is being made. Our three rural nursery schools have been such a success that they have now added primary school classes in each. Buildings are being used all day long often with double shifts thus helping pupils to access education locally rather than having to travel, or not at all. Literacy levels continue to improve amongst the younger generation who have had the opportunity to attend free schools due, in no small part, to GST efforts. Senior Schools are being built or classes added to existing schools to bring education within reach of the increasing numbers, and help further develop the country.

With your much needed help we can continue to make a major difference well into the future and turn hopes into reality....

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE

Trustees:- Christine Brown, Linda Gunn, Hilary Lawther, Steve Lawther, Paul Neimantas, David Oldfield