

Genieri Collections - Newsletter No.7 - October 2017

Our Plans.



The rainy season is over, the mosquitos are largely gone and the tourist season has started.

It's just under three weeks now and we're off to The Gambia again to visit the village for a few days after almost a two year gap.



This visit will be somewhat different, as we are taking out a young friend, Henry Hewison, who is particularly keen to see "how the other half lives". His school has been wonderfully supportive by encouraging this as educational leave. So - thank you Ellon Academy.

Seeing the village through the eyes of a 13 year old will be truly fascinating, as will seeing the villagers reaction to a blond youngster.

We're sure he'll have plenty of tales to tell his pals on his return to the UK, and will probably be delivering a presentation to the Academy.

What next?

We've now managed to stabilise the feeding money so that there is definitely a cooked meal every day of the year for every child, and we'll investigate how best to use the tiny wee bit of spare money. Sophie and I think that the best use is towards enhancing the schooling infrastructure, to improve the quality of education they receive, and we'll also investigate how they are funded for consumables like pencils and paper. Last time we bought 18 plastic seats so that every child had a seat. It's oh so difficult to find out what is really needed at such a distance, and when we're face-to-face it may well work better. We'll also be looking at their new vegetable gardens to see if there's any way we could help to encourage their move to cash crop from merely subsistence farming.

Needless to say we'll keep you informed on our return.

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