



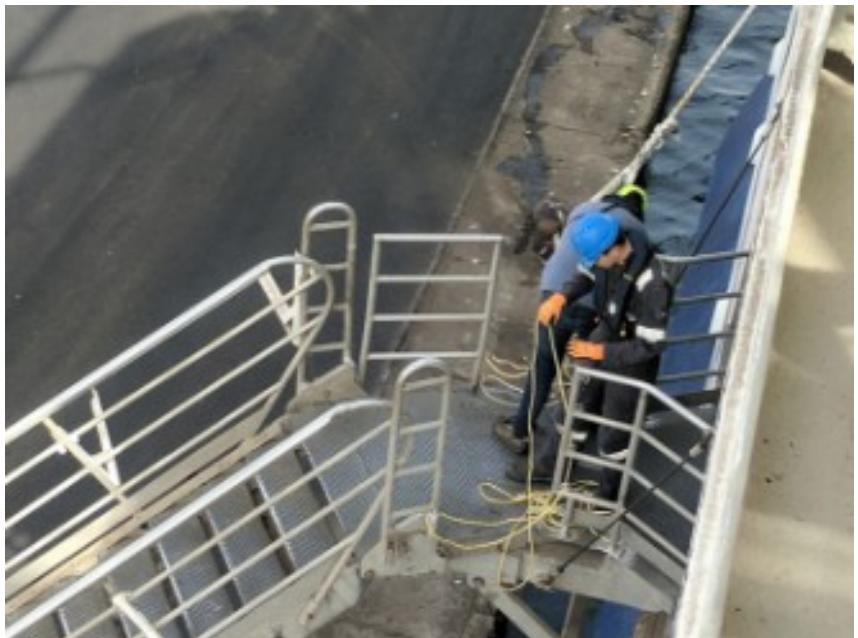
Stuart, Lynne &
Matthew Little

Serving with Mercy
Ships aboard the
Africa Mercy –
August 2019 to
August 2020

Stuart, Lynne and Matthew Little
have been serving with Mercy Ships
since September 2018.

From August 2019 to March 2020
the ship was in Senegal. When
Covid-19 hit, the ship sailed to
Tenerife where it is due to be until
April 2021.

Stuart is a
Carpenter;
Lynne is Ward
Administrative
Assistant and
Matthew a
Deck Hand.



19th August 2019
The Africa Mercy arrives in
Senegal.

(Matthew is in the blue hat)



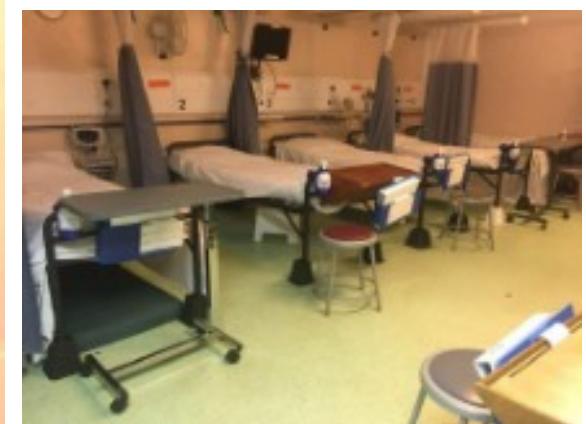
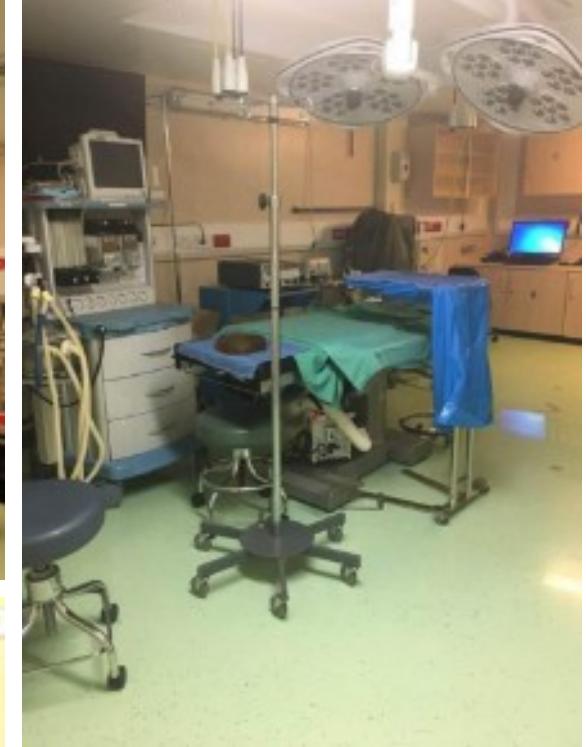
First glimpses of Senegal



25th August – visiting and celebrating the opening of the HOPE (Hospital OutPatient Extension) Centre.

Around 200 patients and caregivers can be accommodated here at any one time, before and after their surgery.

Getting the hospital ready



3rd September – Hospital Open Evening. A chance for all crew to see around the hospital before the first patients were admitted. Our young friend, Noah, came round with us.





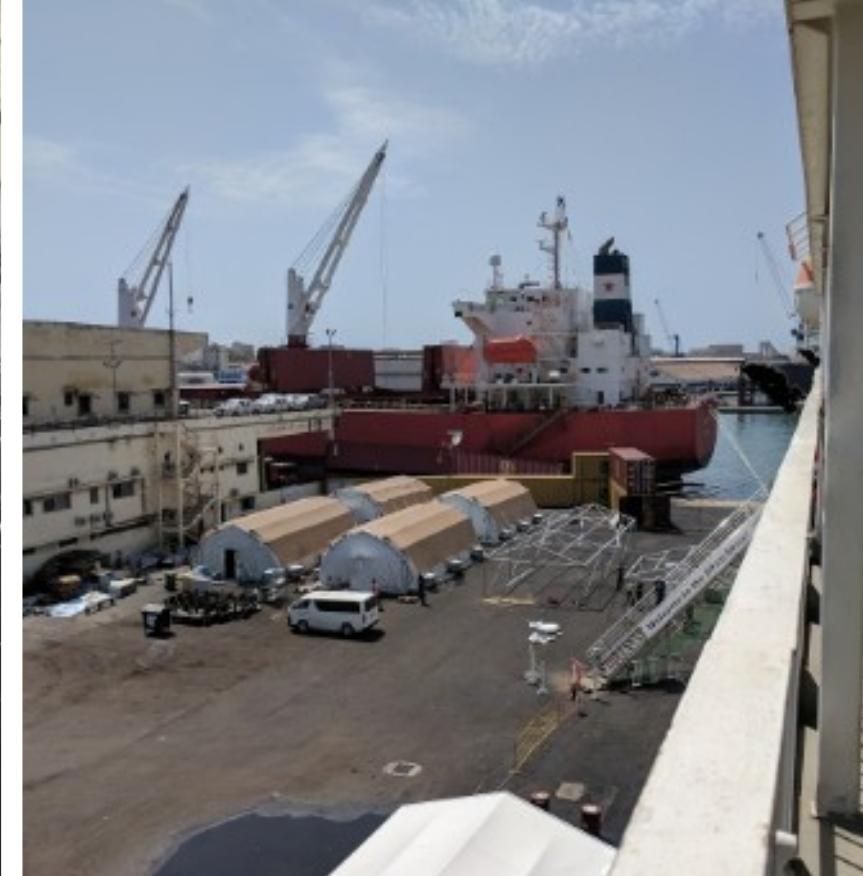
Rainy season



Stuart with fellow carpenter Mike: with Barrie, (Guinea Day Crew); at work in the hospital; trip to the market to buy concrete with Lamine (Senegal Day Crew – in the red overall); and on the sail.



Views of the port.
Above are pictures of an all-ship fire
drill; Lynne in yellow cap.



3rd October (the morning after the night before!) After the squall – containers and tents blown down or blown into the sea.



12th October- visit to Bourafaye Christian School
(Ministry of WEC that Corsham Baptist Church
(CBC) supports).

Pictured with Stefan who came to CBC in July
2019 for training.



Matthew taking the flags down at
the end of the day.
With Lawrence, the Bosun.



At dusk the Yellow Billed Black Kites
gather around the port in Dakar.
By sunset they're pretty much gone.

9th November –
Trip to '**Reserve de
Bandia**' – an ecological
wildlife reserve, about
an hour from the port.

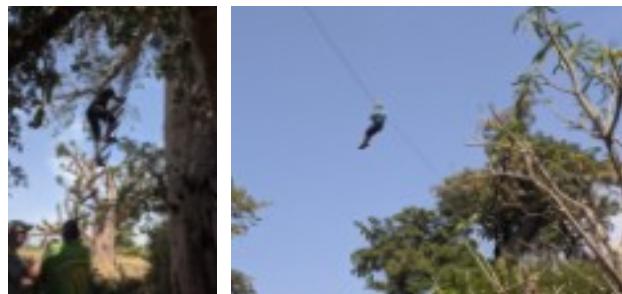
It has succeeded in
reintroducing native
flora and some of
Africa's best loved
animals.

We were driven round
in an open vehicle and
were able to take these
photos.



After Bandia, a visit to Accrobaobab – a zip wire course through Baobab trees.

Stuart and Matthew braved it with (from left) Mike (US Carpenter), Nic (UK/Aussie Deck Officer), Matty (Japanese Engineering Officer) and Rico (Japanese Deck Officer). Pictured with their Accrobaobab guide in the lime green.



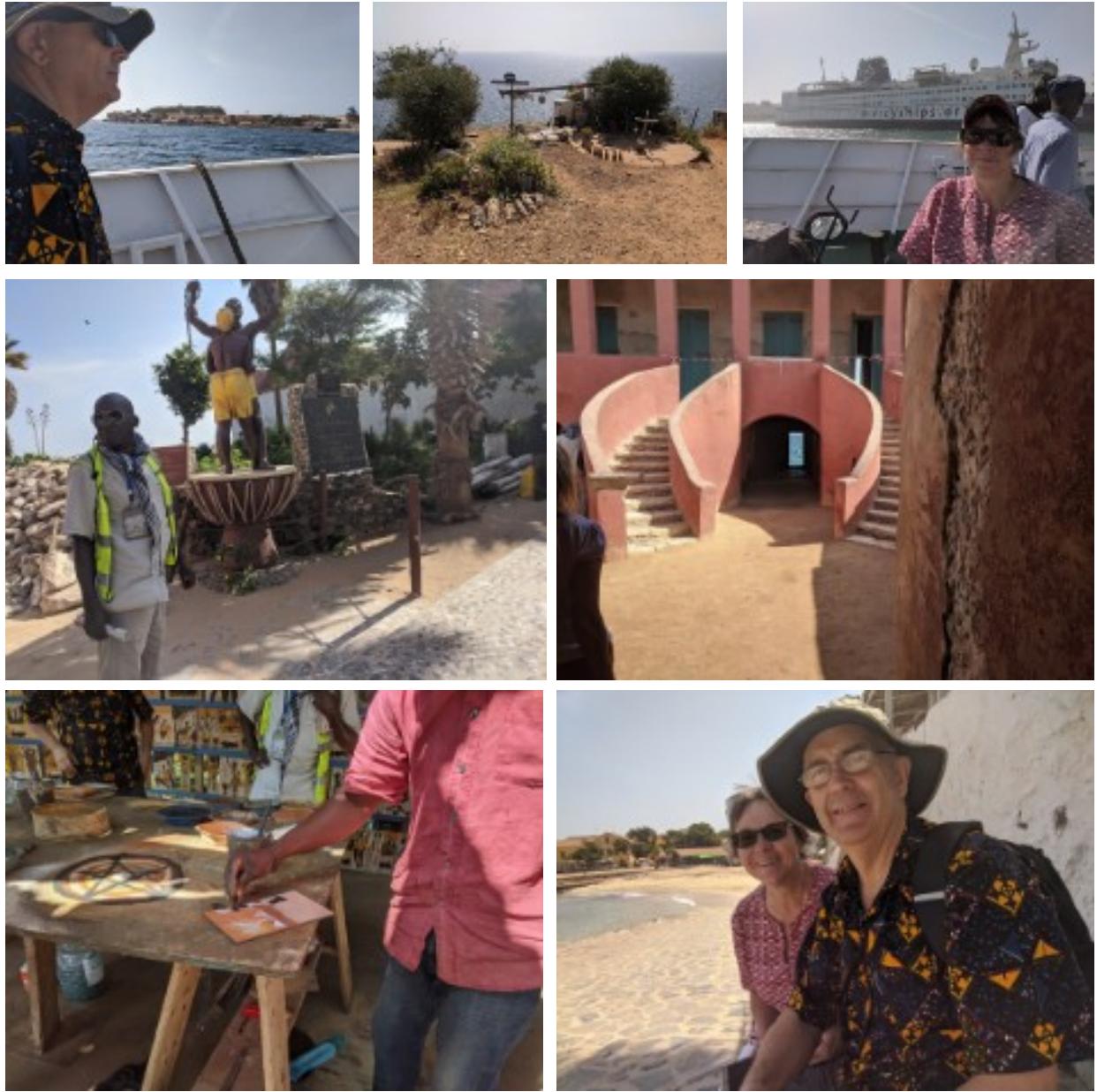


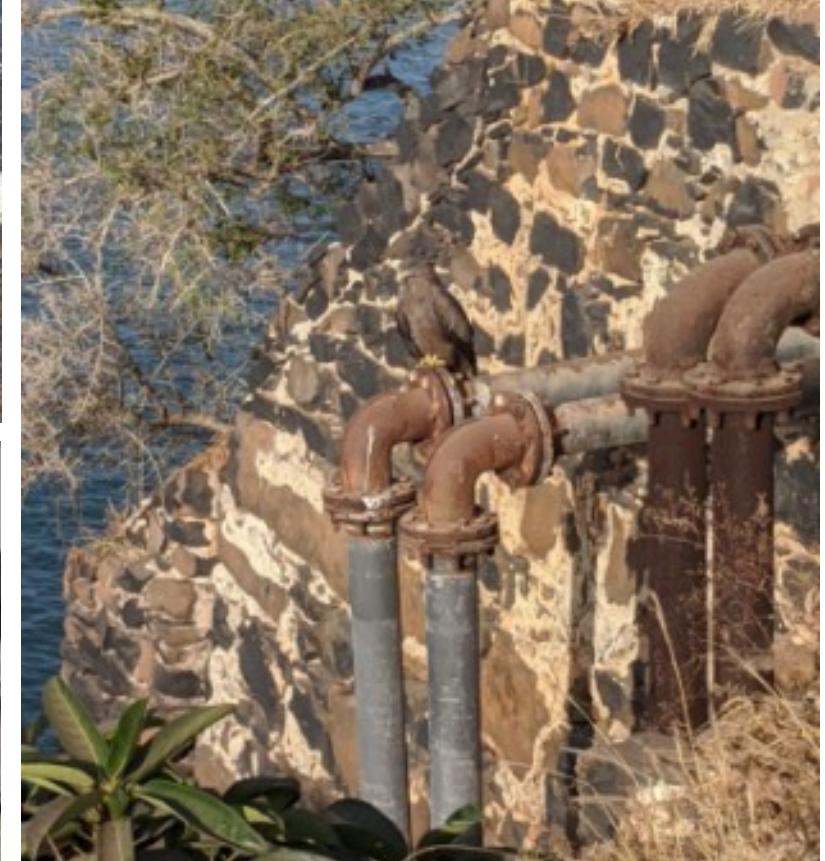
16th November – visit to Africa Renaissance Monument. This is a 49m statue made of copper and built on a 100m high hill, just outside Dakar. It is the tallest statue in Africa.

The exhibitions are inside the monument.

22nd November – trip to Goree Island. This is where slaves were sent before being sent away (between the staircases is the ‘Door of No Return’.) Today you can visit and learn more of the history.

There are also many trades and crafts people who go there to sell their wares, including this amazing sand artist.





More glimpses of Senegal



Some December goodbyes. On the gangway is our OnBoarding group who we did our training in Texas with. The Goodall family (in the front) were leaving and are now working in Sierra Leone where Liz is a Gynaecologist and Fistula Surgeon and Barney manages the centre.

Although sad, departures are still joyful affairs with music and dancing. Go Matthew! We are pictured with Nic, a Deck Officer, who is back on board!



A bit of ship life: Lynne's office decorated for her birthday; family photo by the funnel; out for dessert; Stuart donating his blood;

Stuart and Matthew in the Carpenter's shop at the weekend; and Lynne and Stuart on the dock.



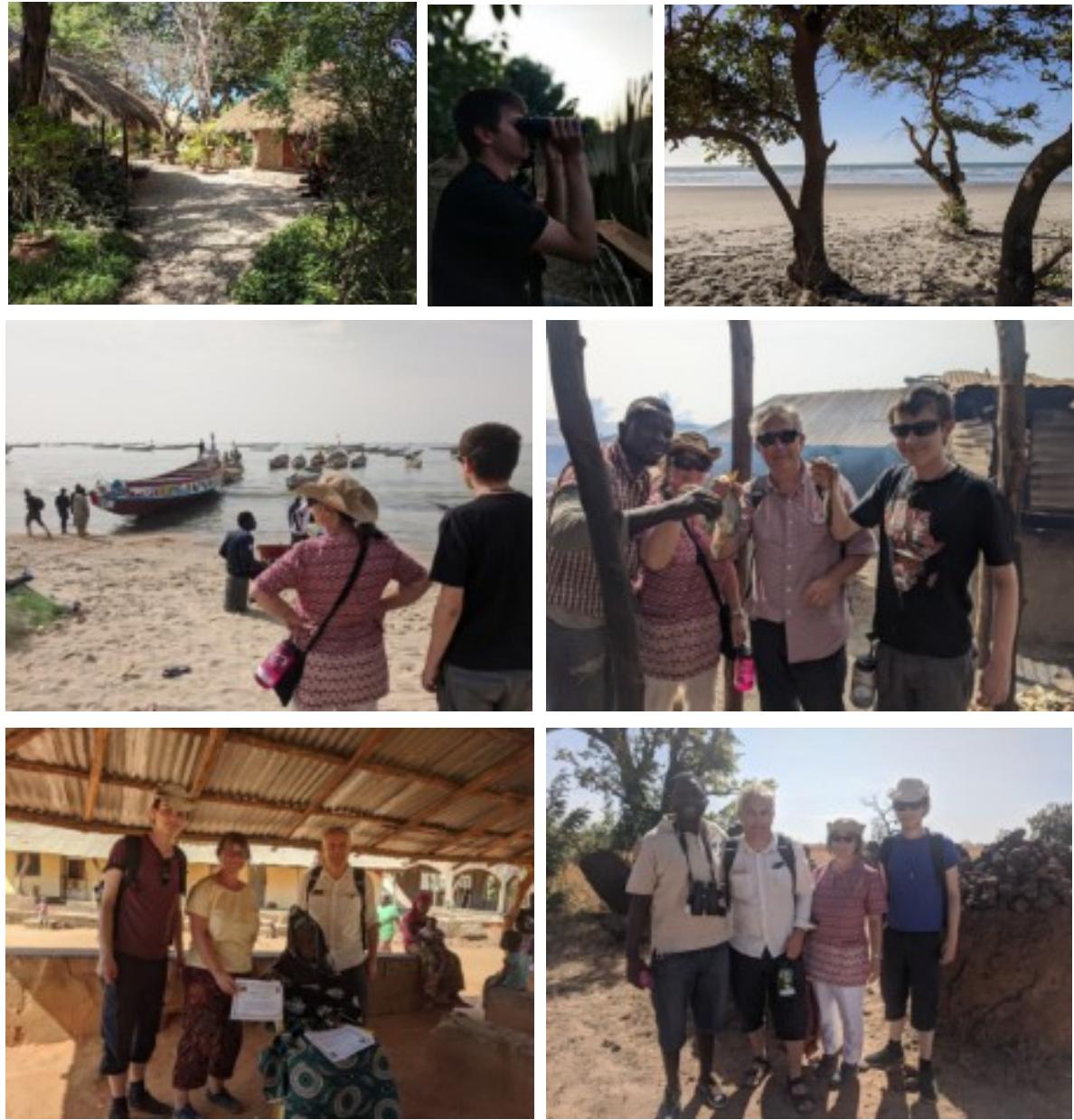
Matthew at work on the crane, on deck, and during a fire drill.



December on board – Dutch Sinterklaas on the dock;
posing and music in the decorated Midships;

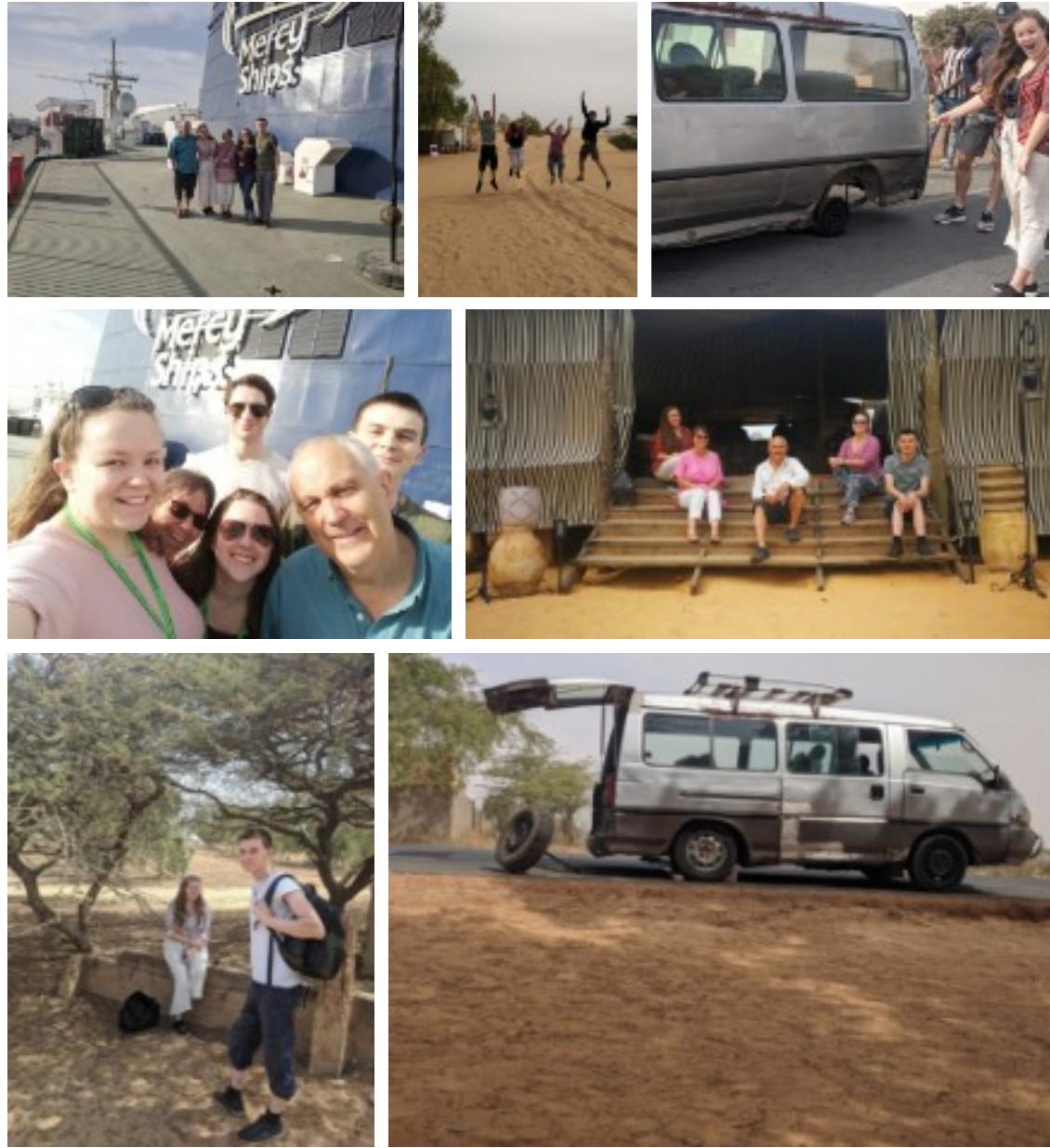
the Brits were invited to the British Embassy for mince
pies and mulled wine; and Brits Christmas party.

26th December to
2nd January – we
had a wonderful
break in The
Gambia



11th to 18th January –
what a treat!

Our girls, Hannah and
Zoe, and Hannah's
boyfriend, Nick, came
to visit. We had an
eventful journey back
from our night in the
desert, when the
wheel flew off the
car! It took us
several hours to get
back to the ship!





Zoe was able to stay on for a couple more days.



Trip to Ngor Island with our friends, the Womacks.



21st to 23rd February- 'Five go to St Louis' – with our good friends, Ian, Sarah and Merryl. The goat travelled with us back to the ship on the roof! The goat was picked up just outside Dakar and taken on a bus for the next stage of their journey!



29th February – visiting the ‘Food For Life’ Programme graduation.

Developed and managed by one of our Benin crew, this 22-week programme trains and mentors local people, using their culture, to build sustainable, nutrition-based farming systems.



21st to 23rd March. A quick pack up and farewells.
Goodbyes were never so fast and so hard.

Many crew were able to get repatriation flights and we had a celebration for the remaining Day Crew.



31st March – an emotional day.
After safely discharging our patients and
an incredibly quick pack up we left Dakar
for Tenerife.



The sail, worship on the bow and
arrival in Tenerife

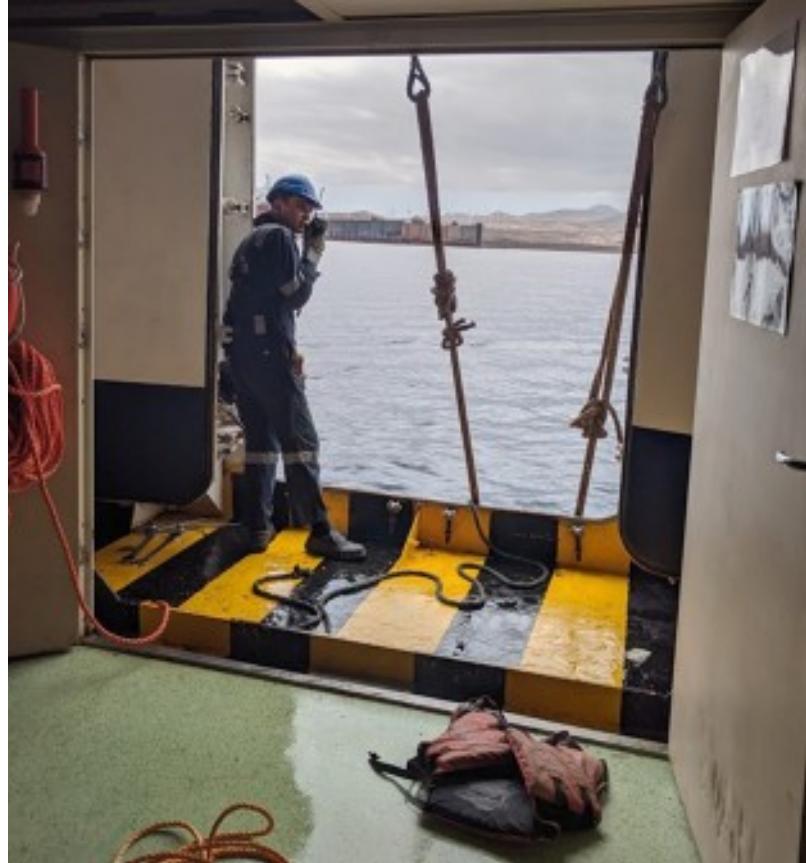


Lockdown activities in Tenerife: AFM Olympics and the British Team; we won the 'pub quiz' one week.

No escape from the Escape Room! and the Brits hosted a traditional cream tea!



Easter Day Sunrise Service on Deck 7; our first baptism on the AFM; St Patrick's Day music; celebrating with friends: Barry & Cheryl's 45th wedding anniversary (Ian and Sarah got married in July in Germany, sadly we couldn't get there!)



Matthew at work and being awarded his promotion to Deck Rating.

Ship life in lockdown
(from top): mostly Brits
at our weekly 'Brit Tea';
Matthew and friends'
funky socks; marking
100 days of lockdown;
sunset; making masks;
making music at the
fashion show; on Deck
7; the fashion show;
celebrating being
allowed off the ship!





0630 18th August 2020 – leaving the ships, with some friends seeing them off from the top of the gangway.

Matthew is now at university studying History and Archeology with Foundation Year and Stuart and Lynne returned to the ship on 17th November: Stuart continuing as Carpenter and Lynne as Assistant HR Director. The ship is due to return to Senegal to finish the field service in April 2021.