

# THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

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Trustees : Kay Mattin, Russell Mattin, Richard Breese ACA

NEWSLETTER No. 66

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*We would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year and thank you ALL for your support however big or small, as without you, we would not be able to help all the families that we do.*

## CAMEROON SCHOOL APPEAL

We have given Richard Tambe, our Project Manager, the go ahead and work on the building has started with groundworks, foundations and water supply. This is a major undertaking for us and we now need to get the funds rolling in to keep up with the pace at which the work is going! We would like to say a special 'thank you' to Ms C Marks, Mr G Thorsby, Mrs F Bamford, & Mr & Mrs W Bailey who have each donated at least £100 to the project & Holy Trinity Church, Bromley for £150 who also kindly again gave us space at their Christmas Fair where we raised £80 in sales & donations. We also received the proceeds of All Saints, East Sheen Harvest Fair which amounted to a wonderful £638. If you would like to help in this project your donation, however small, would be greatly appreciated.

## NIGERIAN DEVELOPMENTS

We have recently linked up with Idem and Akan Udoekong of Sustainable Development Network Ltd (SDN) a charity based in the UK that works in Nigeria. Idem & Akan are now helping us in our dealings with our Nigerian projects firstly by evaluating various business options with the aim of providing some form of regular income that is needed to subsidise our school in Oron and secondly in transferring money safely (which has always been a difficult business for us) to Effiong our project manager. Of the various projects proposed it has been decided to set up a bakery which we hope will be operating on a small scale in a few months time and will initially produce pies and pastries for sale locally. This assistance from SDN has been of enormous benefit both to Effiong and ourselves as it is difficult to manage our ever growing activities in 3 different countries. If you would like more information on SDN please look at their web site [www.sdnetwork.kabissa.org](http://www.sdnetwork.kabissa.org) or phone Idem on 0117 9871300

## CHESTER MATTIN SCHOLARSHIP

The aim of this Scholarship is to enable a student that has a particular talent or aptitude for a subject or education in general to obtain a good education that would not be open to them without our help. This generally means they are from a poor background and the scholarship will last several years subject to satisfactory annual reviews. Currently we provide a scholarship for one boy, Manu, in India to pay for his education at boarding school. Thanks to careful selection by Jacob this has so far been highly



successful with Manu making good progress and fitting in well with his fellow (wealthier) pupils.

With the help of SDN (see above) we have now extended the scholarship to a boy and girl in Nigeria.

**Nsidibe** is a talented girl whose family cannot afford to pay for her continuing education and she has been presented with her scholarship and enrolled in a good local girls secondary school. At her presentation Nsidibe made a short speech saying "Thank you very much for helping me" her father also made a short speech "thanking ESCT/SDN very much for choosing someone such as himself and his daughter, from a very humble background, to help, that the help came totally unexpectedly and that it is what happens when one stays close to God." Others at the occasion also made short speeches all expressing

gratitude and advising Nsidibe to be serious with her studies.

**Godwin** is a young boy who is deaf and dumb & met Kay when she was in Nigeria a few years ago. It was felt that he deserved help as despite his disabilities he has a cheerful disposition and attitude to life. Effiong and SDN contacts helped trace him and enrol him in a special boarding school for deaf and dumb children. His mother was delighted that he was offered help `out of the blue`. Apart from the actual fees we have paid for a uniform, bed, books and the like all of which are not provided by the state. We wish him well and will get regular updates on his progress.



**Elizabeth** is another child we have helped with education costs and the latest report from Nigeria says: Happy to inform you that Elizabeth Etok has passed her JS (Junior Secondary) exam with 3 Distinctions and 4 credits. She is now in SS1 (Senior Secondary, Year 1), studying Sciences.

### **SPONSORSHIPS**

We are told by many of our sponsors how much they appreciate the individual letters received from their sponsored children and although the children/families sometimes seem to find difficulty knowing what to write they are more personal than sponsorships obtained through many larger charities. Jacob often tells us how much the children also enjoy receiving letters from abroad as this is a rare occurrence in poor Indian families and it also helps them respond with more personal information. If you wish to write to your sponsored child you can send a letter to Jacob Punnen, The Indo-American Club, Chengannur 689121, Kerala South India. Alternatively you can email him at [alp\\_nikkita@sanchanet.in](mailto:alp_nikkita@sanchanet.in) If you know the case number please include it.

From time to time Jacob asks us to change sponsorships from one child to another, this is usually because the child finishes education, gets a job, moves away or the family obtain another income. We understand that our sponsors often feel disappointed about this but we are guided by Jacob, who is on the spot, as our charity is based on close personal/individual contact and assessment of need. If you still wish to maintain contact after a sponsorship has ended, this can usually be arranged.

### **JACOB & DEEPA VISIT EUROPE**

Jacob and Deepa paid a quick visit to France and the UK in October thanks to free flights from Sri Lanka Airways and generous accommodation and travel arrangements by many of our supporters. This was again a super opportunity for them to meet or speak to many of our supporters and also for us to update and plan future trust work. In an email sent after their return to India Jacob said ; "It was nice to meet you & family again and thank you for all that you did for us there. Our friends through the Trust gave us such a fantastic time. We are ever so grateful to all of you. On our own we just cannot imagine going around Europe the way we did & we are really lucky that way & ever so grateful to each one of you. "

### **DIGITAL CAMERA**

Currently when Jacob takes photos for us he has to use up a whole film before having them developed and sending to us. We have decided it would be of great benefit if he could have a digital camera so images can be sent by email to speed up, simplify and reduce the costs. If anyone comes across a cheap digital camera that they donate we would be very grateful.

### **UGANDA AID**

For the first time we have provided some assistance in Uganda after an appeal from St James Nursing School in Kampala. Margaret Nakimuli is a student on a two year nursing course but lost both her parents and the aunt who was then looking after her. She has two younger brothers who she cares for and without our funding she could not complete her course. She will now be able to finish her qualification and get a job so she can support herself and her brothers. Her words were "I don't know what I can say...thank you very much for the good spirit and parental love you have extended to me, please send my greetings to all the trustees and supporters"

\*\*\*\*\***CHANGE OF ADDRESS**\*\*\*\*\*

Please note C of A and telephone for Russell as shown in heading. Calls and post will be automatically redirected for a while but please make a note or keep this newsletter handy. Also if you move don't forget to tell us as we have two supporters still sending money who we can't contact!