

THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

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NEW 'FEED THE HUNGRY' FUND

Many years ago we introduced HelpThe Aged to Mr John (Jacobs father) who then worked together to set up an 'Adopt-a-granny' scheme in the Chengannur area. This work has continued successfully under the guidance of Jacob and until this year up to 133 elderly people have been given regular aid. This has been a vital help to these very poor people who looked upon it as their 'pension'. Unfortunately this scheme ceased in January 2004. We have received the following report from Jacob:

"Over the years we supplied the grans with help and provisions, personal needs and a bit of pocket money every month. Life has to go on with these poor grans but some of them are so poor that they solely depended on this help and it seems our duty to support them somehow. So I appealed to the Trust, which is already under pressure with child sponsorships and house and school projects, for some sort of help to these grans. I would request you contribute to a General Fund for grans so that once in a couple of months, I can arrange to buy the most needy grans some provisions at least. The grans when they become old and weak are a neglected group in Kerala and so your help would be most worthwhile. As always thank you for all your kind support."

In response to this the Trust has now set up a fund to help those who have no family or others to support them and we have sent out £350 to enable Jacob to buy emergency provisions such as rice and clothes. **If you would like to contribute to this emergency 'Feed the Hungry' fund to help alleviate the present suffering you can do this either by a one off payment of any amount or by regular standing order from as little as £2 per month.** Please contact us for a standing order form or ask your bank to pay to ESCT LloydsTSB a/c 61385660 sort code 77-91-48 quoting 'Hungry Fund'. (Please note regular donations would have to be by standing order as we do not have direct debit facilities) If you were in the Help The Aged Adopt-a-Granny scheme and would like to continue to help your family we can arrange this through our own sponsorship scheme.

CAMEROON SCHOOL PROGRESS

Richard, our Project Manager, has been working hard to make progress with the building of the school. The picture here shows the roof being added (since then it has been covered). There was a rush to get this done as heavy rains were beginning to damage the walls so he had to arrange a bank loan as we did not have sufficient funds available. We are now looking to raise money to pay off this loan and then complete the building inside.



HOUSE 34 COMPLETED IN CHENGANNUR

In September we handed over our 34th house to Shoba and family who were living in a shack with no doors, windows or even basic facilities. They now have a brick built 2 roomed house with veranda thanks to our finance, the supervision by Jacob and the enthusiastic efforts of Reji, a local man, who took special interest in helping the family and influenced many people to contribute to the work. A local priest who officially handed over the house was full of praise for the Trust and its supporters and said that this was a wonderful house and he hoped we would complete not 34 but 344 houses! Shoba wrote to us to say `a house was only a dream for us, today it is a reality and we are so grateful`

PRIZEWINNERS

Our free tuition classes in Chengannur are becoming even more popular under the excellent guidance and teaching of Mr Kutty and his staff. Our photo shows Mr Kutty, his two teachers and the five children who received prizes for full attendance throughout the year.



DONATIONS and THANKS

Our thanks go to everyone who has generously given amounts of all sizes throughout the year for sponsorships and other projects. Included are the following:-

- £100 each from Mrs Bailey and Mrs Bamford
- £750 from David Cox to build a house for one of his sponsored families
- £100 from Nancy Mauger to help a nursery school in Chengannur
- A large quantity of interesting household and collectable items donated by Christine and Dermot Doyle who have recently given up their house to live on a boat!
- A laptop computer from David Pugh at Computer Assist UK, an IT company who service the commercial market. (This will be taken out to Nigeria in February to be used in our school.)
- Management of our website by Rob Dubery at Websites for Small Businesses
- Bill Salmon for his paintings and greetings cards (see our greeting card below) which are selling well. He has offered to paint original oil or watercolour paintings from any photos in exchange for a small donation to the Trust. Please contact us if you are interested.
- Madhi Penny for her delightful painted notelets and floral designs



OTHER ACTIVITIES

During the year we have been involved in many other activities including provided some sewing machines to Jacob to set up tailoring classes for women in Chengannur so they can learn a skill to provide a much needed income. Deepa (Jacobs wife) has also been helping with this. Nancy Mauger has given a talk following her visit to India and raised money for us. Bromley Eating Experience, a vegetarian club, invited us to give a talk to them about the activities of the Trust and also kindly gave us a donation. We have held stalls at Holy Trinity Church (Bromley) fairs and have also started selling donated goods at auctions which is proving successful and of course we continue to sell the quantities of donated used stamps and coins kindly sent in by our supporters.