

THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

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NEWSLETTER No.71

July 2006

SUPPORTERS VISIT CHENGANNUR

This year we have had many supporters visit Chengannur. ... Here is an account of one such visit by Juliet Chaplin M.B.E....

With a couple of friends, I spent several very enjoyable days staying with Jacob, Deepa and Lilly (Jacobs Mother) at the end of January. The first big event was the handing over of the 36th house built by the Trust to the family who would live in it – although the house was not quite finished it was a very happy occasion and the new owners were much looking forward to having their own place. The house is well-built and attractive as are all the Trust houses. Then I had the pleasure of seeing Robin, whom I have been sponsoring for some years, and his widowed mother; Robin is now seventeen and training as an electrician. Before going to college he does a paper-round and he also does paid work in some of the evenings, for the telephone company. His brother is training as automobile mechanic so isn't paid much; but when both of them have qualified life will become easier. Their mother suffers from diabetes so the limited family income has to pay for her medication. I was also delighted to see Selvaraj, whom I sponsored for a few years in the 1990s and who is now a goldsmith; he is tall and very presentable and brought me a beautiful silver chain which he had made.

One afternoon we visited a local school where the children sang and danced for us, Deepa judged the contestants, prizes were given and there was tea for all the children afterwards. The local Hindu temple, which was nearby, was persuaded to switch off its amplified broadcasts for an hour so as not to drown out the performers and their music! Jacob took us to many other interesting places, and indeed made most of our travel arrangements including overnight train journeys, internal flights, and accommodation in excellent hotels in Chennai, Varkala, Bangalore and Calcutta. So he is now a seasoned tour operator, and we were three very satisfied customers. It is always a great pleasure to stay at the Indo-American Club (Jacob's home).



Our 36th house on the day of the handover.

PRAYER WORKS !!?

We have received another letter from Thomas Varghese who is the recipient of the 36th house mentioned above. He says "We are very happy to live in our new house, we prayed hard to our good Lord for a house and he kindly gave us one through the Trust. We will never forget this big kind deed of yours and we pray that many more less fortunate ones in this world are helped through the Trust.....you have made our dreams come true"

TSUNAMI EARTHQUAKE AND REGENERATION FUND

This is the fund we set up following the Asian Tsunami with a view to give longer term aid. The most recent aid that we have given is to send £200 to enable local women to buy equipment and set up a project to make rope from coir (coconut fibre). We are keeping this fund open until the end of this year.

CAMEROON SCHOOL

Despite the disappointment of not being able to open the school building when originally planned we are now expecting it to be ready, at least in part, so that it can be used at the start of the school year in September. The delay was due to lack of funds to meet increased costs including government requirement to register as a primary and nursery school. Richard has started lessons for children in his own house. He reports that they are enthusiastic and excited and loving their lessons.

HOLY TRINITY SALE (Bromley)

We were delighted to again be given a stall at the HT Church sale in June. As well as taking some money from sales and donations the Church and their charity committee both gave us large donations to help towards our work. We have divided this money between two of our school projects in Nigeria and Cameroon. This money will be used towards opening the new building in Cameroon so it can hopefully be used at the beginning of the school year in September. In Nigeria the school will use the money to finish the boundary wall and gates to make the place safe and secure for the children. We would again like to thank all those at HT for their generous and kind help.

BEE TALK

No, this title does not mean we talked about bees! We were invited to give an update on our work to the **Bromley Eating Experience** group in March. It was nice to be able to share our news and their home made vegetarian lunch!

NEW CONTACTS

We continue to get new people interested in our work who find us through our sales, talks, activities and website. This month Kizzy Wardle, who recently found us via our website, and her friend Clemmie, are visiting Chengannur. Kizzy has already raised over £400 by organising events including a games evening, speed dating and pancake making. We are looking forward to hearing of their experiences.

DONATIONS

We continue to receive donations and our thanks go to everyone for the amounts large and small including that from Don and Debbie Rosenbaum, our first contacts in Canada

JACOBS NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

For those of you who correspond with Jacob via email or may wish to in future please note his new email address is jacobpunnen@dataone.in He is still picking up messages on his old address but only for a little while longer.

We sadly report the passing of Beryl O`Loughlin who was for almost 20 years a friend and supporter of the Trust. Kay met her at One World Week fair in Twickenham in 1987 and from that time she became involved in our work, amongst other activities, sponsoring several children, to whom she became very close, and organising successful Teddington Fairs on behalf of the Trust. She will be greatly missed.