

THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

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CAMEROON SCHOOL PROGRESS

Richard Tambe our project manager has been able to employ a Headmaster, Mr Charles, for the school and Richard says:

“The headmaster is a young adult and a professional teacher. He loves to teach children and is very fatherly in his approach and the kids love him as well. He has the qualities that a teacher needs especially teaching nursery school kids. He is patient, duty conscious, tolerant and skilful. He also has a mastery of the new teaching approach (the discovery approach) and to crown it all he is very understanding. He is the one in the picture behind the girl on the tyre swing in the school playground”



Thanks to money raised by Sheen Mount School the school now has a well and some small areas set aside for growing fruits, vegetables etc. Another donor has also provided 40 fruit trees which when fully grown will no doubt give the children a tasty snack and help supplement school funds.

The photo on the left shows Richard (seated in centre) with pupils, staff and parents in front of the school building.

The photo on the right shows Mr Charles (behind the girl on the swing) in the play area. The school building is in the background.

There is still a long way to go to fully develop this school as a major part of the community but Richard's tireless work in very difficult circumstances is already proving popular with local children and families.



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BROMLEY

Our thanks again go to HT Church who allowed us space at their traditional old English summer fayre and despite the showers it was a very enjoyable day. They also kindly gave us a generous donation towards our work.

A CHENGANNUR WELCOME

Last year Kizzy Wardle and Laura MacKenzie who have supported the Trust, made a visit to Chengannur and they kindly sent us an account of the trip and here are some excerpts:

"It was the most amazing experience of our lives, it was great to see for ourselves the work that the charity is doing. We visited the houses that had been built and we met the deserving families who live in them. We shall never forget the amazing feeling we had when visiting the part time school where so many children were eager to meet and practice their English with us. Towards the end of our visit the sponsored children of the ESCT organised a show for us. They had gone to so much effort, arranging drama, sketches, songs and dances. We were truly touched by their enthusiasm to meet and entertain us.

We did so much during the 3 weeks but we both agreed that all this would not have been possible without Jacob, his lovely family and helpers. It was an absolute pleasure to see first hand the work of the Trust. We would definitely recommend this place as a wonderful destination for an incredible experience. Given the opportunity we would love to return"

TUITION CLASSES ANNUAL OUTING

Once again we have funded a trip to a water theme park for 41 of the children attending our tuition classes in Chengannur. Many of the children seldom leave the town where they live so this is a very special day for them. Jacob ensures this is also an educational event with the children writing and drawing about their experiences. The best essay, by Sandhya, was awarded 1st prize and here is an extract from it:

"It was with much excitement that our bus moved out of town. We sang and danced on the bus. We passed many canals, waterways, temples, old palaces and towns. Jacob explained the importance of these to us. After travelling 3 hours we reached Cochin. We got in to all the wet rides first, it was scary but it was fun all the way. Then we went into the swimming pool and a scary cave. At 2.15 we assembled for lunch then we got into the toy cars which were run on batteries and we could bang each other. We took some snaps of beautiful trees and plants. We left at 7pm and arrived home at 10pm where all our parents were waiting to collect us. It was a wonderful experience something we could not have done on our own. It was a day of fun for all of us and for some a lifetime chance. Thank you for making all this possible."

NIGERIA SCHOOL SPECIAL APPEAL

The school in Oron that we have helped support from its early years is in need of some secure ongoing funding. We have recently sent £250 for new desks and chairs but there are now around 100 pupils so there is also a need to pay more teachers. Our supporters, Chris Higgins and Dermot Doyle, already very kindly donate £30 per month for this purpose but we desperately need more income to ensure Efiang can employ and pay regularly the best teachers available. Efiang also has some children in the school who are disabled and he would like to be able to employ a special teacher, either full or part time, to give attention and help specifically to these and other less fortunate children.

If anyone would like to help this appeal with a regular standing order to our education fund we would be so grateful. We can accept any amount from £1 per month upwards! A standing order form is attached and you just need to complete it and take or send to your own bank or to us.

HUNGRY FUND

We continue to provide food aid to destitute older people who were previously supported by Help the Aged. Jacob (our Project Manager) distributes rice and other staple foods on a regular basis. He also recently asked us if we could help a local old peoples home by providing some rice each month. We have gladly agreed to this. We have also donated £100 from our general fund to buy clothing for many of these needy people in the home.