

THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

Registered Charity No 293567

*East Linton, Keycol Hill, Newington,
Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8NA
Tel: 01795 841720
Email: russellmattin@btinternet.com
Web site: www.east-sheen-chengannur-trust.org.uk*

*And at:
16 Trinity Close,
Bromley, Kent BR2 8ND
Tel: 020 8462 7043*



Trustees : Kay Mattin, Russell Mattin, Richard Breese ACA

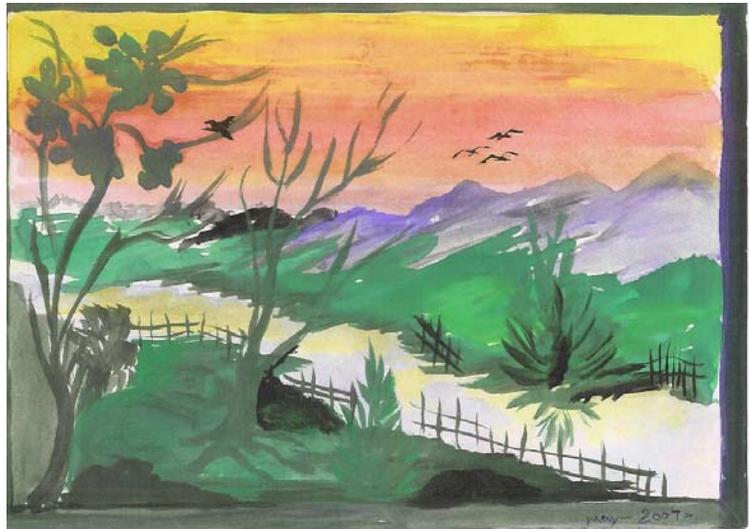
NEWSLETTER No. 74

December 2007

WISHING ALL OUR SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SPONSORSHIP

Our sponsorships in Chengannur have always been a major and very successful part of our work thanks to the commitment and organisation of Jacob our Project Manager. We always have a waiting list of children and their families needing help. A full individual sponsorship is £10 per month but we are delighted to receive any amounts, however small, for our general education fund.



This painting is by Santhosh Kumar one of many he regularly did over the years for his late sponsor Beryl O`Loughlin. Santhosh is now an artist working mainly in theatrical work, he is happily married and the proud father of two young children.

A LUXURY LIFE FOR RESCUED BATTERY HENS

For over 25 years all our aid has gone to India and Africa but we recently heard of a project in the UK that we felt deserved some help. We have been happy to give a small donation to Georgina van Aswegen and her husband Henk to help them in their compassionate work rescuing battery hens. Georgina says "we get them from battery farms every time they are due to be culled. Some of the poor things look almost oven ready when we get them as they are generally short of feathers. However after a few weeks in `Hens 5 star Hen Hotel` and plenty of tender loving care they soon perk up. I was amazed to see them scratching away so vigorously at the ground. I am quite sure they have spent their whole lives in wire cages so it just goes to show that the instinct is still there. Henk is a keen gardener and has an enormous compost heap which is an excellent breeding place for worms so every now and again he puts huge forkfuls of compost into their pen and they go wild for the worms! Of course, like humans, the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. It`s never enough to grab your own worm and just get on with eating it. The other hens` worms always appear bigger and juicier and it is hilarious to watch them chasing each other trying to wrestle the worms from each others beaks! Of course we give them all our vegetable peelings too and buy a nice mix of grains for them. They reward us with lovely free range eggs!"

CHENGANNUR TUITION CLASSES

We are very pleased with how Mr Kutty, the headmaster runs our part time school classes and he recently wrote to us to report on progress:

“The free tuition classes are conducted for the poor children of the locality. There are 3 teachers including myself, a lady teacher left the centre and a new teacher was appointed and took up her duties in September. She is very able to handle classes. There is a total number of 44 pupils, 32 boys and 12 girls. Mr Jacob on one of his regular visits to the centre distributed notebooks and pencils to all the pupils. We the teachers are proud of our pupils as all of them secured comparatively good marks in the first term examination. The centre has been shifted to the Government Boys High School Chengannur, this school is situated in the heart of this town so it is more convenient for the children to reach the centre”

TAPES FOR NIGERIAN SCHOOL

Efiong recently requested cassettes of songs and hymns for the children to sing to at his school in Oron, Nigeria. Grace and Tom (our supporters) are spending Christmas in Nigeria and are taking some cassettes for us. If you have any cassettes (not CDs) that may be suitable Efiong would be grateful if you could send them direct to him Mr E Idung, No4 Road 3, Federal Housing Estate, Box 769, Oron, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. You will need to stick a post office customs form on the front which should say `used cassettes` with Nil value.

AID TO MADRAS CHILDREN

Chennai, a metropolitan city on the east coast of India, is an area where the Trust has for many years made contributions through Asha George who identifies poor neglected children needing financial support for a basic education. Currently there are 10 children from impoverished or broken families receiving full or partial financial help to meet the cost of tuition and books. This has proved to be a blessing not just to the children but also to their families in their quest for a better future. Among the recipients are Shiv Kumar, age 10, and Anu, age 13 who have both been receiving aid from the Trust for 4 years and continue to be enthusiastic students. At Christmas special gifts are given to all of these children, and others, from the funds sent by the Trust.



PAPER BAG MAKING

One of the recent projects that has been started by Jacob is the setting up of a paper bag making unit for local women to help them make a living. He describes this “As usual things really take time here but the moulding unit for which we paid about £250 finally arrived by parcel service. Last Saturday the trainer came from the next city and gave training to 4 ladies, Priya, Maya and their mothers. He taught them how to make the bags on the mould which came out very well. He brought along 100 Kgs of imported paper and we had to pay about 50p for each kg. It comes in rolls and they are of 4 different sizes to fit the 4 moulds on the machine. They also bought along all the tools and gum to start the unit here. The training went on for about 4 hours and the ladies are slowly learning to gain speed. When they are all set they say they should be able to make 750 to 1000 bags per day - all 4 of them together. The trainer would come for inspection when they make about 100 and they have

promised to buy them back at a margin which would be the profit for the ladies. They are allowed to sell in the local market also if they want. Earlier I had been to Maya's house where they are hoping to start the unit. They have a spare room where they will work. Priya lives next door so that is handy. Yesterday after the training they took all the stuff to their place and must be busy making them now. Their house is about 5 Kms from here and so I should be able to visit them once in a while to check the progress made. I hope for the best. The girls seem to be interested and keen and so hopefully it should do well. In addition to the machine cost we spent another £100 for paper plus other tools and training costs. This should see them through and once they start selling the bags back to that organisation, they should be self sufficient to run it on their own. I thought the bags are very impressive. “