

THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

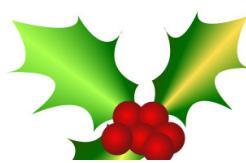
Registered Charity No 293567

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Trustees : Russell Mattin, Richard Breese ACA, Stuart Mattin

NEWSLETTER No. 84

December 2012

HOUSE APPEAL

In August we handed over our 46th house to a delighted family in the Chengannur area. This was kindly funded by long time supporters Denise and Roger Goodier. Up to now we have relied on one or two donors to provide the money for each small house.

Last month Jacob, our Project Director in Chengannur, sent us the latest case asking for our help. (Ponamma Babu and her family). This case seems so sad and deserving we thought it would be a great idea to try and raise money in a different way so we can, hopefully by Christmas, give them the promise of a house for next year!.

This time we would like to ask for everyone's help. We want lots of donations from as many people as possible. Please help by giving any amount from £5 to £1000 and ask family, friends or even strangers too! We want to try and raise around £1500 needed to give the family a safe dry home, something that we all take totally for granted. We usually store our junk in garages or sheds that are better than the 'house' they are living in.

The houses we build usually have a couple of rooms and a kitchen with cooking facilities. (one of our previous houses is shown in the picture).



Please give whatever you can to make it a wonderful never-to-be-forgotten Christmas for this family! The details of the case are attached to this newsletter, we hope you will take a few minutes to read Jacobs report.

Donations can be sent in several ways:

- Directly into our bank account Lloyds TSB Orpington, a/c 61385660, sort code 77-91-48 (Please put 'HOUSE APPEAL' in the payment reference field)
- By post to the address above. (Make cheque payable to the trust using the full name)
- Direct into our Paypal account at email address donations@east-sheen-chengannur-trust.org.uk
- We can also post or email you a standing order form if you would like to make regular donations. Sorry we cannot arrange direct debits.

PTARMIGAN TRUST

The Ptarmigan Trust based in Cumbria have once again this year kindly given us a donation to use for our work. The Lovedale school (see item below) have wanted to arrange some sort of physical activities particularly for the girls. With the money from Ptarmigan we are paying a trained dance teacher to take 3 hours of classes a week. Apparently there is great enthusiasm for this even from the boys!

ST WILFRIDS SCHOOL, RIBCHESTER, LANCASHIRE.

This enthusiastic primary school has again raised money for us. With the donation Jacob arranged for help to be given to a local school. He wrote to St Wilfrid's headteacher and children:

"I am very glad to write to you that the 4th of October was a very happy occasion for the children of the Lovedale school located about 15 Kms away from this town in a place called Chathencerry. About 70 children in the age group 3 to 9 years study there.

Your wonderful help went towards making them a strong metal swing – in fact two swings on one frame and also a slide for the children to play on. This school has been in existence for the past 13 years but unfortunately they never had any outdoor equipment to play on until now. Children from very poor backgrounds study here as it's not in town but a tiny village inland.



The staff had a tough time keeping the equipment from being used until an official handing over. We were scheduled to have the function on the 4th but the company which manufactured it fixed it a few days early. On the day of the handover all the children and staff had gathered in front of the school along with some distinguished guests who spoke on the occasion. They all had words of praise for your school and the Trust.

After the meeting at 11 in the morning, the children were allowed to use the swings and the slide and you can imagine the happiness the children had playing on it. They were making a bee line to take turns for a swing and a slide and each waited patiently for their turn under the supervision of their teachers. The children were thrilled and amazed using it and had lots of fun and happiness playing on it. Their pleasure was seen on all their faces.

Thank you for making all this possible. So you now realize what your precious contribution did to children who are in much more needy circumstances than you all. Thank you very much for all your hard efforts and it is highly appreciated. "

WEDDING GIFT

Julie Grigg-Benny, one of our regular supporters, recently got married and thoughtfully took a collection for us at the church. This raised £170 which has been sent to India partly for the family she sponsors and partly for our 'Hungry Fund' that provides rice and staple foods for destitute old age people. Congratulations on your marriage and on raising this amount!

EMAIL ADDRESSES

We now email about 50% of our newsletters and this helps to keep our costs down. If you receive this by email please send us a quick confirmation that you've received it otherwise it's impossible for us to be sure.

As email addresses change much more frequently than postal addresses please don't forget to tell us if yours changes. If you currently receive this newsletter by post but can now accept an emailed version (in standard MS Word format) please let us know.

****A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS****

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Registered Charity No 293567



HOUSE CASE 2012 - PONAMMA BABU

Ponamma's husband was the late Babu. Babu was a daily worker but he used to drink and smoke heavily. In July 2007 he had a massive heart attack and died instantly leaving the family in dire straits. He was 49 years of age then.

They have three daughters. The eldest is APARNA aged 23. She has passed her degree course but is unemployed. She is a very shy girl by nature and does not talk much. But she is keen on writing poetry and short stories. The 2nd is ATHULYA aged 22. She is learning to be a nurse in the nearby town of Kottiyam. As they belong to the Catholic church, the church is helping her to pay for the course. She has 6 months to go before she completes the course. She is good at her studies and believes in the power of prayer. She is good in singing and can draw well. The youngest is AISWARYA aged 16 and is studying at the Govt. Higher secondary school at Haripad.



Babu's aged mother PENAMMA (88) also lives with the family. Penamma has age related problems and depends on the medicines that she gets free from the local govt. hospital. So as it is they are a family of five ladies.

Ponamma has a small job as a cleaner and sweeper at the Medical College Hospital in Alappuzha which is about 36 Kms away from her home. Her duty time is from 8 AM to 4 PM for which she gets about 100 pounds a month. She has to start from home for her work at 6 AM and gets back by 5.30 PM. The bus stop is about 3 KMs away from her home and she has to walk that distance or sometimes her daughters give her a lift in their cycle. It is hard work for her and that is how she brings up the family.

They had a ruined and broken down house which they pulled down on the promise from a local government body that they would build them a new house. But when

Ponamma approached the authorities with the necessary documents, photographs etc, they pulled back their promise and told her that they were not in a position to help the family which shattered them. They now live in a little shack beside the broken down house and it is a pathetic scene.

Some equipment like a refrigerator and sewing machine are just lying in the open in the old house and it is all rusting away. Ponamma used to stitch clothes but when she got the job, she lent the sewing machine to a friend and later when she went to retrieve that, it was all worn down. I visited the house on a rainy day and could see naked electric wires running all along the old house and had to wade my way through to take some snaps of the house and premises. Even a toilet they have is run down.

They have a water well but the water is not drinkable. Parts of the wall of the old house can be seen standing up but it is all broken and damaged. As they have a foundation of stone underneath, they wish to make three proper rooms above it for the family to live in. Even the kitchen fire place lies in the open.

Ponamma had three hens but on the day she came here one of them died and she almost broke down for that also. The family lives in a very pathetic condition and being all ladies, their position is very sad with practically no one to help them. Their Catholic church has promised to help them in a small way but I'm not sure how much worth that would be. The pictures give some idea of their living conditions. With such a sad state of affairs, I can strongly recommend this unfortunate family for a new shelter which they very rightly deserve.

Thank you. T J Jacob Punnen, Managing Trustee.



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