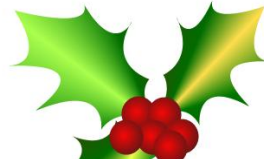


THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

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NEWSLETTER No. 88

December 2014

Welcome to our latest newsletter which is also available to view on our website.

‘FEED THE HUNGRY’ FUND CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Many years ago Mr John (father of our Project Manager Jacob) worked with HelpThe Aged to set up an ‘Adopt-a-granny’ scheme in the Chengannur area. This work continued successfully until 2004 when Help The Aged pulled out. Up to 133 elderly people were given regular aid. This was vital help to these very poor people who looked upon it as their ‘pension’.



At that time we 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 for these poor people 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 appeal to the Trust, which I know is already under pressure with child sponsorships and house and school projects, for some sort of help to these grans. I can arrange to buy the most needy grans some provisions at least once every month or two. When they become old and weak these people 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 in 2004 the Trust set up a fund to help those who have no family or others to support them and we have sent out regular payments to enable Jacob to buy emergency provisions such as rice and clothes. We have several supporters who have or do contribute to this emergency ‘**Feed the Hungry**’ fund. If anyone else would like to support this cause you can do so

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 The East Sheen Chengannur Trust, Lloyds Bank a/c 61385660 sort code 77-91-48 quoting ‘Hungry Fund’. (Please note regular donations would have to be by standing order as we don’t have direct debit facilities)

In the latest distribution of this aid we were expecting about 50 people to turn up but 85 did. They were each given some rice and sugar.

DONATIONS

We’ve continued to receive donations for our work throughout the year and our thanks go to everyone for the amounts large and small received during the year. Special thanks go to the representatives of the late Susan Nedwell who donated a substantial sum to us. **We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.**

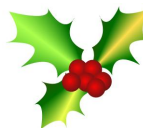
CHENGANNUR DRUMMER BOYS

You may recall that in our last newsletter Jacob told us of some talented boys who did rhythmic drumming on bits of wood, old sinks, tins and anything they could get their hands on. For a few pounds we bought some proper instruments and the photo shows them with their new equipment. On our website is a very brief video of them – its under the Education tab on the left of the home page then right at the bottom of the page. <http://www.east-sheen-chengannur-trust.org.uk/images/VID-20141030-WA0000.mp4>



SCHOOL BAGS

Also in our last newsletter we reported on our donation of 35 school bags with contents to a school for the poor. There wasn't room for a photo in that issue but this shot shows a lot of rather happy children and adults!



HOUSE AID 2014

Because of the rising costs of house building we're spreading our aid across more families. Rather than spending up to £2000 to build a house for one family we're giving smaller amounts to help towards construction, completion or repair of houses. We'll still construct complete houses when we feel it right or when a supporter wishes to fund one. Here's a couple of examples of recent aid :

Sreeraman and Vijayamma are in the process of building a house. They asked us for 1000 hollow cement blocks for the walls. These are government funded houses but they give only about £2000 and expect them to build a house according to their plan which would easily cost about £5000 and could be too large. If they don't follow their plan they don't give them the next instalment of their payment and often they get stuck with the construction and approach us for help. You can see in the picture the shack they currently live in – looks more like something we in the UK would cover our building materials with not an actual home!



Sulekha lost her husband and has two young children. She is also getting help from the local govt. body to



build a house but has asked us for help. She has just finished the basement. To make things tougher, the house is on a hill top and the material has to be manually carted up which increases the basic cost of the house. If you would like to help with our building projects please get in touch.

Don't forget, please let us know if you change your email address or if you can now receive our newsletters by email as this will save on the printing and postage costs so that we can use the money for our projects instead.

If you've received this by email kindly confirm receipt so we know we still have your up-to-date email address.