

THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

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NEWSLETTER No. 89

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

TRUSTEE DONATES £800

Richard Breese one of our trustees has generously donated £801.47. This was raised from sales of an update on one of his board games. He invents, produces and markets his own games at a fair in Germany and elsewhere. You can see them on <http://www.boardgamegeek.com> - search for `Keyflower` or `R&D Games` The money has gone to our Building Fund.



PRIMARY SCHOOL AID

After our last newsletter Jacob managed to give out some sports equipment to a local government school. We've helped this school before as they are struggling to keep going and actually get little aid from the government. They don't have the facilities parents want so have trouble attracting pupils. The school has been in existence for 148 years but the government will close them down if they don't increase pupil numbers.

The children in the photo are just about all the pupils they have! Here they were all dressed in their best clothes for a Christmas party where we supplied footballs, badminton rackets and other play equipment.

HOUSE BUILDING FUNDS

We mentioned in the last newsletter that we're using our building funds for lots of smaller projects such as roof repairs, toilets, wall repairs, contributions towards construction and other help to many different people. There's not sufficient room here to detail more than two of them but Jacob has been very busy over the last 6 months on these activities. Just after our last newsletter Michael Cooper from East Sheen generously donated a substantial amount which has helped fund these latest works.

HOUSE REPAIR FOR KUNJUMOL

We received a request from an elderly lady named Kunjumol. Her house was totally run down and repeatedly needed some sort of repairs. It was so bad that it could have fallen in at anytime. So we gave her about £350 to repair the house. Her brother Thomas was able to do a very decent job for her and put on a new roof and plastered the walls and it looks much more watertight and secure now. Each time she used to come to see Jacob she could hardly walk but with a `new` house to live in, her approach to life seems to have totally changed. She appeared much more energetic and happy when she came to thank Jacob and the Trust.



HOUSE FOR SOPHIYA

Last month there was a special day for Sophiya and her children Alphiya and Aliya. They were so happy to move into their new house. We contributed about £1000 and she said it was the best start she could get and everything just fell into place after that. When we made the first donation, her other friends and well wishers started helping them and she managed to finish her dream house consisting of a `sit out`, 3



spacious rooms, a toilet and a

neat kitchen. She even built a side staircase so that she could dry clothes on the roof top as space was a constraint and stray dogs play havoc with anything lying around!



The whole community were around and it was a festive mood when the house was completed. The monsoons had just begun but the clouds stayed away for the occasion. She had tears in her eyes when she said everything became possible just because of the initiative that we took in making the first donation.

ST PETERS CHURCH PARKSTONE DORSET

Sylvia Cook has been a long time supporter of ours and sadly her husband Ken recently passed away. During this difficult time the congregation of her church near Bournemouth continued to raise money for us. Their idea was that members of the congregation could take a collection box and fill it with any loose change they got. This would then be returned to the church who would double the amount before sending it on to different charities. We were selected as one of their charities and were honoured to receive a cheque from them.

CHESTER MATTIN SCHOLARSHIP

A young girl called **Archana** from a very poor background has asked us for some educational help. She was very good in her school studies and scored 75% in her school leaving exams. She wanted to do a degree course in computer science but did not have the money to go for that. So as an alternative she joined a three year course in Business Administration. Her hard working uncles, who are just labourers, gathered £50 towards her fees but she still needed more, plus exam and accommodation fees. We've decided to help her under our Scholarship scheme. Jacob says she's a cheerful girl and helps to the maximum at home and deserves a chance to better herself. Our photo shows her with her mother and grandmother.



Another girl called **Ayana** who's sponsored by Mr & Mrs Brazier scored 83% in her school leaving exam. She's very keen to be a Doctor but getting a place in medicine is very tough in India. She needs to write an entrance test and she has to aim for a 90% mark. There are many expert coaching centres nearby which prepare students to take the exam which she plans to take in May 2016. Realising her performance and also her desire, Jacob and his wife Deepa recently took her to Darsana Academy at Kottayam run by Catholic priests. He says: `It's a very popular place with the students and we had to stand for about 4 hours as the place was crowded with about 5000 students and parents. Her mother and sister also came along. She had to take an entrance test with further tests every month once she's admitted. The father says the competition is so tough that she could find it difficult. Anyway we will have to wait and see how she performs. We also had to buy her a mattress, pillow, lunch box, files, mug, flask etc for her hostel. It was sad to see the mother and sister leave her at the hostel for the first time in their life and even Deepa shed a tear but we know we've given Ayana a chance that she wouldn't otherwise have.`

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.