

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

NEWSLETTER No. 95

June 2018

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

SUPPORTERS TRIP TO CHENGANNUR

One of our long time supporters, Geoff Thorsby, has again visited Chengannur to see our work and enjoy a fabulous holiday. He's sent us the following account...

"My wife Sorani (Ting) and I recently took a flight from Thailand (where we live) to Cochin and a 2 hour train trip from Cochin to Chengannur to visit Jacob and Deepa and to meet up with 7 out of the 8 children we sponsor. Jacob and his able secretary Pushpa arranged the meeting and it was just such a special occasion.

The children come from 3 disadvantaged families, 2 with single mums who get their granny to help out while they earn some money cleaning etc., and the third whose father is blind and, although well educated, makes whatever he can from selling lottery tickets. The children are delightful, as you will see from the photo, bright and cheerful, bashful at first but keen to chatter and perform their party pieces once the ice had melted. When asked what they wanted to be when they grow up we had answers like teacher, doctor, and policewoman. Great kids and we are so happy to have met them and to know that we are able to help them in some small way.

We stayed in Jacob and Deepa's self contained small cottage behind their house and ate super tasty Keralan food (some spicy and some not) around their kitchen table, cooked by Deepa and supervised by Rehan their 11 year old son and a truly cool guy. After 5 days exploring Chengannur on foot and by bicycle we headed for the hills and 2 nights in the Periyar wild life reserve bird watching and elephant spotting.

Our holiday finished with 3 days in historic Fort Kochi, shopping in boutique dress shops, eating great fresh fish and catching up on some local culture. A big thank you to Jacob for organizing everything; he has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all the children of the more than 50 families that the Trust currently sponsors and we really appreciate the patient, friendly and understanding manner in which he deals with all their problems."



Contd.....

ANOTHER SUPPORTER VISITS....



Another of our friends, Julie Neupane and her husband, Ram, also visited India recently and paid a brief visit to see their sponsored family. Julie sent us the following account of their day.

“Just to let you know we have just returned home from a long trip to Nepal & India, the last leg of which included a visit to Kerala and a day trip to meet Jacob & his family and our sponsored family Prabha & her daughters Mekha & Khavya.

We had a wonderful and emotional day. Due to the short length of our stay in Kerala state we opted to make a full day trip to Chengannur by taxi. We visited Jacob and met all of his lovely family, including his mother Lilly, and ate a delicious Keralan lunch with them then off to spend the afternoon with our sponsored family fairly close by.

We've been sponsoring Kavya, her elder sister and mother since 2004 and to finally meet them was joyful; they have done really well and we were made so welcome! They have made very good use of the sponsorship and continued to build their life around our initial (and ongoing) help. Kavya and Megha are truly delightful young ladies who are a real credit to their mother. She had a very tough challenge as a widowed mother raising and educating daughters but it is plain to see she rose to it with strength and dedication, with a little help along the way from us.

It was very touching to see their file with all our old letters and photos that they have kept safe - as we have done the same here in the UK. It was very special to hear from Kavya, who is now almost 17, that she has always known since she can remember that she had a British 'Aunty' many miles away who tried to help her and her little family.

It was an absolute delight to see how well the little family has progressed since they first came to Jacob's attention in 2003. It was a day I shall remember forever!”

SCHOLARSHIP

Our scholarship (named in memory of Chester Mattin) pays annually towards education fees and other expenses to bright children who, because of their background, would not otherwise be able to attend the best or most appropriate school. The aim is to help them to a better future.

We've agreed to give our latest scholarship award to a 9 year old boy named Alwin who lives in Bangalore. Jacob's family has contacts with him so his situation was brought to our attention. Both his parents Joshua and Joyce work but as Joyce had never been to school she and Joshua were keen to give their only child a good education and so enrolled him into a reputable school.



Having experienced poverty and struggles because of their poor educational backgrounds Alwin's parents are doing all they can to ensure that he receives a good education that help improve the future standard of living for him and his family.

Alwin's performance in school has been exceptionally good both academically and in extra curricular activities. He always finishes in the top three in class results. He is the monitor of the class, sings well and plays the drums (which he taught himself as they could not afford to send him to classes). In his spare time he likes working on puzzles.

PLEASE SEE OVER ON PAGE 3 - IMPORTANT

NEW DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (Rather boring but important so please read this as **we may need your response**)

- The Trustees have updated our Data Protection Policy in line with the change to the data protection laws.
- The only information we hold about our supporters is name, address, email and in some cases telephone number.
- This is only used for general correspondence and distributing newsletters. We don't send marketing mailshots or pass your details to any other organisation (other than the Inland Revenue when claiming for Gift Aid refunds for those supporters who signed up for this).
- We'll remove all details at any time upon your request

If you received this newsletter by email you have previously agreed to receive these so we will continue to send communications to you until you advise us otherwise.

If you received this newsletter by post please complete the form below and return it in the envelope enclosed. (or email a reply if you can) **If you do not reply we won't be able to send you any further newsletters.**

Only complete this if you received this newsletter BY POST

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Email address (if any).....

If you're happy to receive future newsletters by email please tick here

If you wish to receive newsletters & correspondence by post please tick here.....

If you wish us to delete all your details from our records please tick here

.....
Signed

.....
Date

Please return this form to:

Russell Mattin, Trustee
ESCT
`East Linton`
Keycol Hill
Newington
Kent ME9 8NA

Please remember we collect all types of postage stamps so don't forget to enclose any if you can.