

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. 100

Centenary Issue

December 2020

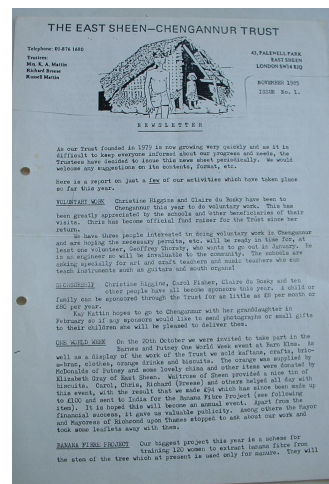
Welcome to our latest newsletter which will also be available to view on our website.

100 NEWSLETTER MILESTONE !!

When we issued our first newsletter back in 1985 using a typewriter, photocopier and post we could not envisage at the time that 35 years later we would still be producing them! But here we are, so thank you to everyone who supports us and shows an interest in helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Some of our original supporters are still contributing to our causes so a special thanks goes to them.

Although we cannot claim to be at the cutting edge of technology we have made some progress through the years! Here's a summary of how our newsletter has progressed along with our work:

- 1985 Issue 1 hand delivered around East Sheen and posted out
- 1998 50th issue
- 2000 Issue No 55 the first with colour pictures
- 2003 Issue No 64 the first to be emailed
- 2006 Issue No 71 included Tsunami Fund supplement
- 2007 75th issue
- 2010 25 years of newsletters with issue No 79
- 2018 Kerala Floods special appeal issue No 96
- 2020 100th issue



Our first ever newsletter in 1985

ACTIVITIES DURING COVID

Our activities have been rather disrupted recently both in the UK and India with problems on movement, arranging bank transfers and distributing funds in Chengannur. However we're pleased to confirm that our work has continued although at a slower pace.

As far as we are aware at the moment the virus has not directly affected any of our sponsored families from a health point of view which is good news. The Kerala state government were quick to impose a strict lockdown. Unlike the UK the people in India have not received state aid so it makes their difficult position even more perilous. Over the coming months we will continue to help people in difficulty in Chengannur. Maybe a drop in the ocean but a drop that may seem like a bountiful well to those we can support.

Jacob our Project Manager has sent several reports of how he has been continuing to help and here are some parts of these

The distribution of funds is going on despite the lockdown. The sponsored families just call me and come here one by one and I give out a form for them to go to the bank to collect their sponsorship money. I also give out some cotton masks and a sanitizer for each family. The govt. has made these compulsory for a year under the epidemic act here in Kerala.



Jacob managed to give notebooks to a local school ..
(needed as the children had to mainly work at home)

In the picture is Savitha (192) and her mother Valsamma, when they came to collect their funds. Usually I give out the chits through the gate but let them in for the snap.

We managed to distribute about 100 sanitizers and 200 masks to most of our sponsored families and a few others too. For masks I bought good cotton cloth from the handloom market and sought the help of a local tailor who did a good job of it. They are much more breathable than the ready made ones and it also helps the local economy in a small way. I think it is useful to them as the material is breathable. You can see I am wearing one in the picture.

The distribution of provisions worth about £10-£12 of basic provisions (under our Hungry Fund) has become very handy for many and I have managed to give about 50 kits so far this year. I have an arrangement with a local shop here and when I give a needy person a



slip, they go with that to that shop and buy things that they need for Rs.1000 Usually they get items like 5 kgs of rice, 1 kg of sugar, dal, coffee, oil, soap, paste etc. That should last a family of 2 about a month.

Times are difficult for many when jobs are lost and business are

closing. People aren't engaging persons for daily wages too and so income is limited and this is when the Trust becomes even more essential for them.



CHESTER MATTIN SCHOLARSHIP

We have recently awarded the Chester Mattin Scholarship to a 9 year old boy, called Alwin, in Bangalore. While this is not in our usual Kerala area we do have a link with the area. This scheme helps pay for education, uniform, transport etc for gifted children from very poor backgrounds.

Alwin and his parents live in a small rented flat costing them £100 per month, Although this is a large amount compared to their total earnings they have to pay this because of the high rents in Bangalore.

Having experienced poverty, lack of education and struggles, Alwin's parents are doing all they can to improve the circumstances for Alwin by seeing he receives a proper education at a local reputed school leading hopefully to a better standard of living for him in the future.

Alwin's performance in school has been exceptional both academically and in extra curricular activities. He is always in the top three in class results, he's the monitor of the class, sings well and plays the drums (which he taught himself). In his spare time he likes to do puzzles. The scholarship is reviewed annually to ensure it is being used effectively.

GOAT FOR SPONSORED FAMILY

Premalekha and her children Aayush and Anusha are being sponsored and out of their sponsorship money they managed to buy a goat. The children are having a great time feeding, playing with and looking after their new 'family member' particularly as they are at home much more during the pandemic.



The Trustees wish all our supporters a very Happy Christmas !