

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**

Trustees: Russell Mattin, Richard Breese A.C.A., Stuart Mattin



NEWSLETTER No. 103

November 2022

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

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Once again our work in Chengannur has been slightly restricted due both to covid and some difficult family times for Jacob our Project Manager. However Jacob has continued to offer aid in various ways to those he sees that have a particular and deserving need. Just a couple of examples are....

A lady named **Shymala** (seen standing in the picture) had a bad fall and broke her hip and had to undergo surgery. She is from a very poor background and her husband is a sewage worker which is not a healthy job even by Indian standards. She wanted a walking stick and we helped her with a tripod based walking stick with which she just about moves around. They live in a colony where the other children along with her grandchildren often gather for some games after school hours. Jacob had previously seen them playing on a run down `carroms` board and so Jacob purchased a new carrom and chess board for them. The family are seen in the picture enjoying a game of `carroms`.



Gopalan was badly affected by the 2018 floods in which he lost almost everything. Ever since he has been sleeping on the floor and so Jacob purchased a bed and mattress for him. He sells lottery tickets and so sets out in the morning to sell them in the hot sun He walks about town and goes to busy junctions and says he might manage to sell about 90 tickets a day if he is out for 7 hours and thereby making a maximum of £5 pounds on a successful day. This does not happen very often

though. By evening he is drained and tired out from walking.

Jacob sees many needs like these and also receives numerous requests for help which he has to check out to see if genuine and decide whether to help and in what way. Most cases are referred to our trustees in the UK for final approval but this is done by email usually within 24 to 48 hours. So the way our trust was started is still the basis on which we operate – many different gestures that will make a difference however small or large. Of course our main activity is still sponsorship of children and this has continued thanks to the hard work of Jacob.

FINAL HOUSE BUILDING PROJECT

As explained in our last newsletter we have now made the decision that we will no longer build complete houses although we do have one final one that we are completing in memory of our late supporter Ian Riddell. Bhadranath is 9 years old and goes to a special school some distance away and his mother Reena has to go with him on the bus and wait all day to bring him home. This also costs them quite a bit in bus fares. Most of the local children won't let him play with them which makes his parents very sad but at least he has friends at his school. A recent report from Jacob stated.....



“Thankfully it is going on well. The walls have been strengthened with 8 concrete pillars around the house to make it stronger and ready for a concrete roof to be laid. Usually the concrete day is a big affair here when they lay steel rods on the roof top and mix concrete to spread it on the roof and wait for 2 - 3 weeks for proper curing. About 30 workers worked on that day which was October 5th and they took about 7 hours to finish the job. The workers have to be given meals for the afternoon and Bhadranath and his parents Ani and Reena were involved in cooking food for all of them (as seen in the picture). I went with Deepa (my wife) to have a look at it that day and saw that they did a good job. The house has two rooms plus a small kitchen, a bathroom and a main hall and it works about 600 sq. ft. in all. The bathroom is an extension to the main structure.



The family is very thrilled about their dream home and help in whatever way they can. Ani is quite healthy and so works hard with others to reduce their labour costs. As of now they are laying the pipes for electrical works.

I hope they complete the house within the target or we might have to spend a bit more. As you are aware labour and material are getting more and more costly these days especially after covid. To add to it they live right down a hill and transportation of materials is always a problem. Once the contractor's vehicle developed serious mechanical problems negotiating the climb! But it is all going as per plans and they are aiming to finish it before this Christmas.”

SPONSORED FAMILIES LETTERS

We hope to be able to get our usual letters and drawings from our sponsored families for our sponsors and they will be posted on as soon as we can. If any sponsors wish to send additional funds for Christmas please

send to us as early as possible so that Jacob has time to distribute in good time.

We wish all our supporters a very happy Christmas and thank you for your support over 2022 which has been a difficult year for many.

