

The East Sheen Chengannur Trust

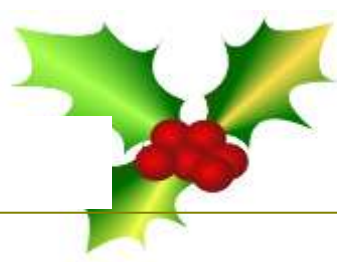
Registered Charity No 293567



**'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. 107

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Welcome to our latest newsletter which will also be available to view on our website. In this issue we'll give you news and updates on just a small sample of our work.

SEWING MACHINES ARE STILL IN DEMAND

One of our very earliest projects was to provide sewing machines to enable recipients to earn a small income to help support themselves and their families. We are still active in this way. We managed to give an electric machine to a lady named Jayanthi who knew tailoring but did not have enough money to buy a sewing machine of her own.

Her husband is sick and not able to work so she works as a cleaner at a local car showroom but it's hard work with long hours. She also goes to a tailoring shop to do some piece work but with this machine from us she can sit at home and earn a little more in her spare time (beside cooking and cleaning at home!).

As she has arthritis a manual machine would have been difficult to pedal so it is perfect for her. She bought it from a friend who was not using it and so ended up paying only about £70. She was delighted with it as it will make her life just a little bit easier.

House repairs

We continue with helping many families repair or improve their basic homes. In the picture below are Gopakumar and his sister Remadevi.



Neither of them have been married and both have health issues and so don't have a proper income. Their house is about 80 years old and was run down with broken roof tiles and the wooden rafters were eaten by termites. It needed repair to prevent it from collapsing. A good carpenter named Pradeep who we had used before helped us by repairing this one and we spent about £300 on it. We completed it before the monsoon rains set in and so these elderly siblings were happy to be staying indoors without a leaky roof and expressed their gratitude for this timely help from us.



Simi Monachan was previously sponsored by us when she was a young girl. She and her mother Sunitha used to live with her grandparents but had to vacate the house. She had a piece of land on which she hurriedly constructed a small house with government aid. We contributed about £500 which she says was a great help.

When several of her friends and well wishers saw what we had done they followed suit and helped her



in small ways with some gifts and loans. With this help she managed to finish the house (though some works are still outstanding) and moved in and they now happily live in their small but cute house Sunitha and her mother are seen in the picture in front of their smart home.

HUNGRY FUND FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS



We managed to give out 25 kits of provisions during the Onam week. Many of the recipients were old and bed ridden and so we hired an Autorickshaw and had them delivered rather than asking them to come and pick up from us. Jacob reports "We don't have to really say how happy and grateful they were to receive these kits which consisted of 22 items mainly Oil, curry powders, toiletries and daily usable items. The government usually gives out such kits during Onam but they never include this many items. Also, because government funds were tight, only the very weakest in the community were receiving help this time. So they were all very thrilled about our help and some of them contacted me personally to say that never in their lives had they received such big kits full of useful items."



SPONSORSHIP HELPS EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

Some of our sponsored children do very well in their studies especially in their final year 10 public exams at school. These exams enable their entry into good institutions for further studies. In our picture is Gopika who obtained A+ in all subjects which would be in the 90 to 100% category. Jacob also tries to further encourage them with a gift for their good achievements. Gopika was given this complete new school Uniform. Being a single child with a sick mother it was a great financial help. She also learns classical music for which we pay the music teacher. Other sponsored children also got fantastic marks for the same exams.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Don't forget, please let us know if you change your email address



WE WISH ALL OUR SUPPORTERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

