

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 ACA, Stuart Mattin

NEWSLETTER No. 79

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NEWSLETTER SILVER JUBILEE!

Welcome to another newsletter. It was 25 years ago in 1985 that we issued our first newsletter and during that time we have built over 40 houses, sponsored hundreds of children and helped numerous organisations and individuals in India and Africa. It is really amazing to look back at how much we have achieved from such modest beginnings. Most of the money we collect is small amounts from supporters who generously give what they can, often when they themselves are not wealthy in western terms. However that generosity has transformed so many lives and given hope and happiness to families who would otherwise have very little of either! So THANKYOU everyone who has, or continues to support us.

We can always make use of any donations which can be paid in several ways:

- Directly into our bank account Lloyds TSB Orpington, a/c 61385660, sort code 77-91-48 (Please put the fund name in the payment reference field)
- By post to the address above.
- We can also send or email you a standing order form if you would like to make regular donations. Sorry we cannot arrange direct debits.
- Direct into our Paypal account at email address donations@east-sheen-chengannur-trust.org.uk

We currently have the following funds in operation:

BUILDING – for house building in Chengannur and repairs and improvements, water wells, toilets etc.

EDUCATION – used for schools, nurseries, scholarships etc

HUNGRY – providing rice and basic supplies to destitute old people in Chengannur

GENERAL – for one off aid requests, emergencies and uses outside the scope of our other funds

If you would like to donate an amount, however small, to any of these funds we would be delighted. Remember every penny you give is sent for project use with nothing deducted for expenses in the UK.

SPONSORED BLIND FAMILY ACHIEVE EXAM SUCCESS



Bincy and Binu are two children who have been sponsored since 1998 by our long time supporter David Cox. Both of them are almost blind like their mother. They have completed their final year of school where they have a public exam conducted by the Kerala Board. They were studying in a special boarding school for the blind in a town about 35 Kms from Chengannur. The results had just been published when they came to see Jacob to convey the happy news that both of them passed the final exam with first class marks. They wrote their exams with the help of a scribe and it was such an achievement for them that it was printed in the local newspapers. Jacob says `I have never seen a family like them who move around together all the time

and seem to be happy as ever in spite of all their handicaps` Of course none of this would have happened without their sponsorship. - We have other needy families waiting for sponsorship, so if you would like details of how YOU can change lives for the better, please contact us.

WEDDING DRESSES

Jacob reports from Chengannur `We just bought marriage dresses for a girl called Raji who is getting married on this 24th. She is the eldest of 3 daughters and lost her father about 6 years back. We bought her a nice saree (that she is hanging from her hand) which she will wear on the marriage day and her mother Sujatha Rajan is holding a packet of other clothes that we bought for her. She was very happy and thankful for the same. Many approach us for money for marriage but thought it would be better to buy them dresses instead. In this case it cost us about 25 pounds in all. We have gifted this way to a few very poor girls so far.`



ANOTHER HOUSE PROVIDED BY SHEEN MOUNT SCHOOL

Money raised by Sheen Mount Primary School has been used to build a house in Chengannur for Kunjamma, Prem Rajan and family. Jacob has sent the following report to the school: `It is with great pride and happiness that I write this letter to you. You will be very pleased to know that all your hard efforts in raising funds for a house in Kerala came to reality when we handed over our 43rd house on the morning of 20th May, 2010. For sure it was a memorable day in the life of that family especially as the big monsoon rains are to set in by the end of this month. Your love and concern for this needy family has helped them realise their long cherished dream of a permanent roof



over their head to protect them from the strong sun and the rains. We had a guest from UK staying with us, Lucy Hudson, So we gave her the honour of handing over your house to Kunjamma and family. It was a rainy day with a cyclone hitting the southern states of India but the skies sort of cleared up and we managed to hand over the house happily to the family. A board outside the house said "An Indo- East Sheen House - A gift from Sheen Mount school". The house was decorated with balloons and coloured papers. It has 3 rooms, a nice fireplace in the kitchen and shelves to stock things up. The house looks very airy and bright with enough windows and doors. Praveen and Praveena, the children were happy to decorate the

house in the morning and they welcomed Lucy with a white and flowery jasmine garland. The family served some tea and snacks on the happy occasion. Present on the occasion were well wishers and important local people. The family was very happy and thankful for this wonderful gesture from the children and thanked all their hard efforts specially and wished the children good luck in bringing about more such help to needy families. Some plastering work in the back and interiors are left and we are sure that the family will finish that with extra efforts from their side especially as we helped them reach this level. The cost of labour and materials have really gone up here and so we had our own restrictions. But truly it is an amazing effort from the children and it will be well remembered. So thank you children for all that you did for this needy family and a special thanks to your teachers. May the good Lord bless you and guide you more as you grow up. Maybe when some of you become adults and save up enough money you can come to Kerala and see what you managed to do when you were a little child!!` The photo shows the new house with their previous leaky shack in the background.

PTARMIGAN TRUST

Our thanks go to this charitable trust based in Cumbria who once again have given us a substantial donation for use in our projects.

POSTAGE STAMPS

Thanks to everyone who continues to send in postage stamps. Please remember to check the correct postage rate before sending them as most packets come under the `large letter` category which needs more than just a standard stamp.