

CHIT CHAT May 2018

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Please address correspondence to Howard Mathers, Chair of Trustees

Overview

Our last CHIT CHAT was an appeal for help when, by the end of 2017, we were facing a severe financial shortfall and asked you, our supporters, for help. **Your response was magnificent, and has given us the confidence to maintain all levels of activity through the next year.** While we were in India we were further encouraged by projects Babu outlined that would raise new sources of funding in the future. Meanwhile in UK, we are wrestling with big changes in the charity sector including bad publicity in some quarters, changing giving patterns, and the implications of the General Data Protection Regulation. You have probably received GDPR consent requests recently from other sources: I also need to ask you, please, to give us your consent to hold and use certain information if you are content with our commitment. There is a separate section on this overleaf.

As always, on behalf of all the children and young people who are benefiting, I want to thank you for your generous support.

Howard (CHIT Chair)



George Kent is retiring!

After 13 years as Chairman and latterly President of CHIT, George Kent has decided to retire from the trustees. Over many years his effect on Indian children otherwise lacking hope, is incalculable, and we will miss the deep compassion that drove him to many hours on the phone and in person, encouraging many of you to support this life-changing work. We are planning an event in Kenilworth on 15 September and invite you to join us to recognise his work. As with our 10th anniversary, we hope to include a video link to Babu and Hepsy, and the children in India. You will find more detail in a separate invitation. enclosed.

Appeal - update and closure

At the end of 2017 we had the funds to meet our commitments in India to the end of the school year, but faced an annual gap of around £40,000 thereafter. We advised Babu to tell staff and parents that if we were unable to raise this, there would need to be significant cuts. Babu undertook again to look for ways to raise money locally, but recognising that these would take time to realise, we appealed to you to help us in the short term. We are delighted to say that with a combination of gifts, increased standing orders, and a small recovery in the exchange rate, much of the £40,000 has been found for this year. With our sights moving towards 2019, we are pursuing more effective use of the internet (see New approaches in UK, overleaf), and as always are keen to recruit new donors. Please consider how you could help us in this.

For the longer term, Babu has two front-running initiatives. The first is to raise the school standards as an English Medium school that will attract fee-paying students to off-set our education bill. Also, extending the school to year 11 and 12 could reduce the cost of sending our young people to Intermediate College. This development had stalled for the lack of space, but in January Babu concluded arrangements for a long term lease of the extra acre needed. He has also taken a first step in raising the quality of teaching by recruiting Joy (pictured), the first of up to five new staff from Kerala where there is a surplus of English speaking teachers. Our sister charity in the USA is launching a fund-raising campaign to fund the costs this will incur, and some of the existing costs of the school. We will support this campaign: as with some very generous gifts already received, donations specifically for education will be combined with it in India to maintain the current work and route to self-sufficiency.

The second initiative is to develop the Nidamaru site commercially, recognising that in the development of the state capital around it, there will be hospitals and colleges that need local accommodation. Working in partnership with a developer, Babu believes it will be possible to build an accommodation centre that will repay the investment cost and bring revenue into Christiana Children's Homes. He has had discussions with a potential partner to get a feel for what might be possible. This will not be quick, so there are no plans to move the Nidamaru children, but if successful, they can be accommodated in Bapatla.

In addition to these initiatives, we have learned that Indian companies are required to divert 2% of their net profits to socially responsible causes, and a third potential income stream may lie here. We are aware of another Indian charity that depends on this, but we need a good local marketing team capable of working in Telugu, Hindi and English.

Much depends on delivering these new initiatives, for which we value your help, suggestions and prayers.



General Data Protection Regulation

While we have assumed that you are happy for us to hold and use your name and contact details, so that, for example, we can send you our CHIT CHAT, we are now required by law to have a positive statement of consent from you. We are enclosing one with this CHIT CHAT, and request that if you are content with our commitment, you complete it and return it by email or post.

Without your consent we will not be able to keep you up to date.

The GDPR has underlined the risks we face when receiving sensitive personal data from India, where the consent, often from illiterate people, is uncertain. So we are filtering stories and using pseudonyms when necessary, to limit the increasing risk the internet brings from such information getting into the wrong hands.

New approaches in UK

Communications. We are aware that our communications could improve and plan to introduce a monthly update to bridge the gap between CHIT CHATs. This will replace the "as and when" blog on the website, and by using coordinators in our key areas, we hope to reach many of those who don't use the internet. If you feel you could help in your area, please contact us.

Web-based fund-raising. We will develop our web material for those who wish to fund-raise for us: there are some very good ideas out there. And for those who buy on-line, we have registered with Easyfundraising and Giveasyoulive, so please consider using one of these portals to access on-line traders who give a proportion of their profits to charity, and nominate CHIT to receive them. If you purchase on behalf of a business, you can use these portals too. We have already raised over £100 since starting in March !

Education update

Many will be aware that for over 10 years Stuart and Claire Brown have visited each winter for several weeks to help the children and staff improve their English. With long days to give every class an English lesson each day, followed by tutoring for staff, they now feel it is time to wind down. They have had a tremendous impact which we will sadly miss. Although we hope to see them again in India, on behalf of those they have helped we want to say a big thank you to them for their dedicated service. We also need to find ways to fill this gap just at the time when we are making the big push towards school recognition. If you would like to discuss how you might help, please contact us.



Update

You may remember Clement, the little boy with a hole in his heart, but whose operation has been delayed until he recovers from a separate illness - TB.

We received around £1,500 in response to our appeal for post-operative care, which we are holding separately from our general budget until this fully unfolds. But he remains weak from the TB, and is awaiting further medical treatment to accelerate his recovery before receiving the operation.



Rani's Recipes



This year visitors Judith Vorley and Karen Wintle took away a number of Rani's recipes that they had enjoyed while in Bapatla, and turned them into a small, illustrated, recipe booklet. They are happy

to make it available to anyone to use to help raise funds for CHIT. If you could use a few copies (or more, or arrange your own printing) to help promote CHIT and raise some funds for us, please contact us.

Formalities

Please let us know any changes in your contact details. If you are receiving this by post please let us know if we can switch to email. Our contact details are at the top.

Please make donations by cheque, payable to CHIT, to Mrs V Gillman, Littlecombe, Portsmouth Road, Hindhead, Surrey GU26 6TQ, or BACS transfer to CHIT Acc No 04631086 at sort code 30-90-54.