

THE INDIA VILLAGE PROJECT

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the Session ending July 2012

The Trustees submit their report together with accounts for the session ending July 2012.

Objectives

The objects of the Society continue to be: the physical improvement of the village and St. Marcellin School in Mangamanuthu, Tamil Nadu, India, through liaison with St. Paul's RC Academy and the wider community of Dundee. However with the involvement of more schools in the Project the objects have been widened to include other schools administered by the Marist Brothers in Tamil Nadu, specifically in P.Udayapatti, another village closer to Trichy. The success of the Project has encouraged a number of other schools to join in the fundraising and take a more active part in the targets of the project. This will be reflected in Phase 8 of the Project.

Since the last report we have continued to raise funds for the project. We have continued to develop our strong relationship with the local Bharatiya Ashram. The members of the Ashram have generously shared their Indian culture with St. Paul's by providing the pupils and staff with workshops on Indian dance, music and costume displays. They also demonstrated Indian cooking. The India Week was very successful, bringing together the staff, pupils and relatives to share their cultures. It is our intention to have another India Week in the coming session.

As part of the auditing process a visit will continue to be made annually by representatives from the Project to Mangamanuthu and Trichy, to inspect and monitor the progress of the Project and bring a report to the trustees to inform the next stage of the project.

Phase 4: Three members of the St Paul's school management accompanied four senior pupils to Mangamanuthu. Their remit was to spend time building closer ties with the pupils in Marcellin's school, explore ways in which they can better communicate with our school of St. Paul's. The Senior Management, together with the Head Teacher of St. Marcellin's, decided on the most appropriate ways forward regarding curriculum exchange, and staff-pupil liaison. The group took over the £10,000 raised this year. This was shared among the three areas: St. Marcellin's school, Mangamanuthu village and the Rainbow (AIDS) Project.

In the next three years we will continue to raise funds for these three areas. We are anxious to add more solidly built houses in the village, but this will involve a significant amount of fund-raising. We may approach other charities to help us in this. Obviously this is becoming more and more difficult due to current circumstances. Post Commonwealth games in Delhi, the cost of building materials has gone up by 700%. This means that a house now costs in excess of £4000, and in the remoteness of the village means that it is uneconomic to build less than three at a time.

Phase 5: Two staff from St. Marcellin's spent time in Dundee in August **2011**. This gave them the opportunity to take back their own particular impressions of our school, give more information to the pupils, staff and friends of St. Paul's, and prepare the way for the electronic transfer of some of the funds targeted at specific areas of the project. This money is to be used specifically for science materials in St. Marcellin's School, three new houses in Mangamanuthu village, the school fees for 75 children in the Rainbow (AIDS) Project, now renamed and registered with the Indian Authorities as Operation Rainbow, and finally, a new computer for the Brothers' Community in Trichy to facilitate electronic communications between the various parts of the project and us in Scotland.

Phase 6: St. Ninian's P.S. Hamilton is liaising with the P.Udayapatti primary school in Trichy. The head teacher and a member of the parent council visited P.Udayapatti in June 2012. They spent time in the school with a view to sharing some curricular ideas, correspondence, interaction of staff and pupils. They also brought out materials for the school. During their time in Trichy they lodged with the community of the Marist Brothers.

St. Peter's P.S. Partick continues to raise funds for the primary school in Mangamanuthu.

St. John's High School in Dundee sent out staff and pupils in the summer of 2012. As a result of their visits they have undertaken to support the High School in P.Udayapatti.

St Paul's RC Academy and St John's High School in Dundee, two primary schools, St Ninian's Primary School in Hamilton and St Peter's Primary School in Glasgow will all function under the umbrella of The India Village Project.

Phase 7: Staff and pupils of St. Paul's visited Mangamanuthu in the summer of 2012, spending time with the villagers of Mangamanuthu and the pupils in St. Marcellin's High School. They also visited Operation Rainbow. This served as an annual inspection of our Project.

Phase 8: We are continuing to explore the possibility of a member of staff spending six months or a year working in St. Marcellin's, helping them improve their English. This will involve a significant amount of fund-raising. We will also continue to investigate the possibility of grants from the local Education Authority.

As outlined above the objects of the Project have been widened to include fundraising to support the Primary and High Schools in P.Udayapatti and also to support Operation Rainbow by contributing to the school fees of some of the children from families where there is AIDS.

Other information: Change of Trustees

Ade Brennan is no longer available as a trustee. Four others have been approached- Frances McLachlan, Charlotte McLachlan, Charlotte Jones, and Fiona McLagan.

Initially Charlotte Jones and Fiona McLagan will join Robert Welsh and Anthony McLean as signatories to the account held in the name of the Project in the Bank of Scotland. They have been involved in the India Project since its inception

They will take office in September 2012. Robert Welsh and Anthony McLean exchanged roles in the Project. Robert Welsh took over as Project Secretary, and Anthony McLean as the Project Treasurer.