

Dear Member,

I do apologise for the long gap since my last letter. However a lot has been going on in India and in the UK in recent months.

Tamil Nadu has seen one of the hottest and driest summers for several years and this meant the delayed start of the new school year and the registration of the most needy children into the residential units. This is always an exciting time despite the inevitable anxiety about making new friends and in some cases leaving home for the first time. I am always amazed however to see how quickly our children do settle in and become the happy youngsters we see in our sponsorship photos.



Unfortunately we have not found any volunteers to work with the children this summer and production of Child Profiles on the newly admitted youngsters will be delayed for those sponsors who have a change of youngster on completion of training or education.



In Tirumangalam the Francois Meyer Matriculation School has opened in its brilliant new buildings and a record number of 270 children are now studying there - from kindergarten age to standard 6.

Boys Town Society have decided again this year not to reduce the number of residential projects they keep open and the eight homes will have about 50 youngsters in each, IWGT and RCV slightly more.

In Madurai the Sevashram Girls Home has admitted many new girls direct from poor families and has taken on girls who were left in limbo after the local Children's Welfare Committee closed down a nearby hostel.

Inba Seva Sangam in their rural location always have plenty of requests for admission and this year with the assistance of new donors based in Coimbatore they have been able to take on 50 boys and girls under their financial support.

The Thailand Boys Project continues to strengthen now that it has gained further support from donors and volunteers from Australia. And most importantly we wish Dr Anukul happy birthday today – 1 Aug 17.

Visitors from Perth Australia at Boys Project

In the UK we have been working hard to meet the challenge of finding a replacement for Jon Crouch after his forthcoming retirement at the end of April next year.



The Trustees have appointed a recruitment company called Charity People to help us and they are currently in the process of seeking outstanding candidates to replace Jon – obviously a hard task and a great challenge for the person we appoint. The location of the new office will depend on who is appointed but the chance of finding someone in the Peterborough area is quite small so we have made the decision to close that office at the end of April 2018.

I have included some of the background notes we will be supplying to potential candidates so they can get a feeling about the sort of charity we are and in particular the story of how Joe founded the charity and developed it over so many years. You may find this interesting and further inform you about how JHC works and our plans for the future.



Talking of Joe, the Joe Homan Memorial Fund is still growing and has had a boost from BTS in India who are contributing a substantial sum. You will remember that we have an ambitious target of £100,000. If it can be reached the money will help considerably in developing the Joe Homan Campus in Tirumangalam where some of the buildings now need urgent attention. We intend to highlight this on social media. *The Joe Homan Memorial Garden will flourish once the current drought is over.*

Trustees have recently had presentations from a group of experienced social media experts - most of them ex- Volunteers - who have taken on the challenge of revamping our social media presence. One of the most important tasks of the new Manager will be to develop this further with a view to raising more of our funding through these channels.



Recent volunteers Kim Smith and Tina Sahota



St Francis Parish Centre Kenilworth

Finally I look forward to meeting many of you again at the AGM in Kenilworth on 7th October. The focus at this AGM will be the Future of JHC and supported Non Government Organisations.

With all good wishes for your August holidays.

Peter Church