



KERALA PARTNERSHIP

**Meeting people, Meeting needs,
Making a Difference**

Registered Charity No. 1088159

NEWS FROM THE VISIT MADE IN JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2017

August 5th, 2017

Dear friends and supporters,

We are writing to let you know what has been happening since the last newsletter sent in March. On the home-front Jane is now as good as she will be in terms of the new hip and has returned to the furniture restoration and 'up cycling' activities. I find her crawling over and under tables and chairs in her work room with paintbrush in hand! Jane is selling the items and giving all proceeds to K.P. If you use social media then you might be interested in looking at the Facebook page: [MakeDoAmend](#)

We have been keeping in regular contact with the volunteer leaders of the schemes and here are the current highlights.

Old Age Home:

Peter continues to keep the home going along despite the tight financial position. He and the other volunteers at the home have been making real efforts to raise funds locally and for the last two months those efforts have been very effective, with them raising more than the monthly K.P. grant (about £350 per month). This is keeping the home out of serious (recurring) debt and so we hope the sponsors over there will be able to commit to some sort of regular donations. The accumulated debt we talked about last time has been cleared by one local businessman.

There are 23 residents; Kuttan has settled in well (see photo of Kuttan), and a new resident arrived about four weeks ago. His name is Nyanaseelan and he is 68 years of age, and blind. He was sent by the police and local Authority; he has no immediate family. See also the photos of Nyanaseelan.



Left:
Nyanaseelan
after settling in.
Right: at the
time Peter
went to meet
him and offer a
place in the



Below: Kuttan,
looking well!



When I left Kerala in February Peter has just dug out part of the land next to the home to create a fish pond. A month later the pond was finished and he purchased some 400 small fish plus fish-food. Peter had taken advantage of a local government scheme to 'grow your own healthy food' (my words), and these are fish for eating once they have grown.

I understand all 400, more or less, are thriving and will be fully grown by October. Peter got a local person to pay the £300 needed to create the pond; this will have to be repaid but the person does not want any interest to be paid and has said there is no immediate need to repay the £300. The plan is for the fish to feed the residents rather than be sold. 25 to 30 fish will be needed to feed all in the home for one day. When talking with Peter on the 'phone I started to do some mental arithmetic as follows (although I reckon all of you are already ahead of me here): 25 to 30 fish per day divided into 400 fish gives (say) 14 to 15 days of food. Set this against the investment of £300 and 6 to 7 months 'cultivation'....

However, the cost of purchasing fish from the market for one day is about £2.40 / £2.50 and the cost of purchasing 400 small fish is £2.50.

So 15 days of 'home reared fish' saves the cost of £36 at the market, with an outlay of £2.50.

It's a good scheme but it might be better if there were thousands of fish! We'll have to chat.

Well done Peter – all savings will help!



Pond under construction in February



Photo taken about two weeks ago!

Of greater concern Peter has been telling us that significant numbers of people in Kerala have become ill with fever and Dengue fever in particular. This is another of the mosquito-borne diseases and in its severe form it is killing people. Five of the residents and Peter himself have fallen ill with the mild form and needed hospital attention; all have recovered. But there were 86 deaths from severe dengue in Kerala in June alone as reported in the UK Independent newspaper in late July.



Left: some of the residents chatting with volunteer visitors
Right: Visiting Doctors on their rounds.



Pension Schemes for 60 people in the 6 villages;

All going along well with each person receiving £2.40 per month.

FLAME: Women's Co-operative:

The ladies continue to be very happy and the business is growing! There are now 11 students in the sewing room, and the clothing manufacturing / repair, paper-bag making and 'edibles' production are all in demand; great news.

Housing:

Late in 2016 we set out to try to find some funds that could help two to three families with house renovation work. Some special fund-raising took place and it has been possible to send funds indeed for three small schemes each costing about £300.

In the last newsletters we have talked about Amala (see last letter; lady with one leg), and Bindu (lady who lives on a rock face whose home had been partly renovated using locally-raised funds after we asked for something to be done to help her). Both ladies live in the area known as Pandymanpara and both are K.P. pensioners. Amala's house will now be improved by making part of the existing structure watertight and new window and roof fitted in that part. The improvements to Bindu's house will be finished off. Both homes will have a basic toilet. Both ladies you will remember are in their 80s and so through the kind efforts of those who raised these 'special funds' they will now have a basic, dry and serviceable home. Thanks to all involved.

The third home-renovation is a bigger one and K.P. has made a contribution toward the project. It is in Kattakkada district and Peter has been working with various local individuals and organizations to try to improve the circumstances of one family.

Here are Peter's words given in two recent 'WhatsApp' messages:

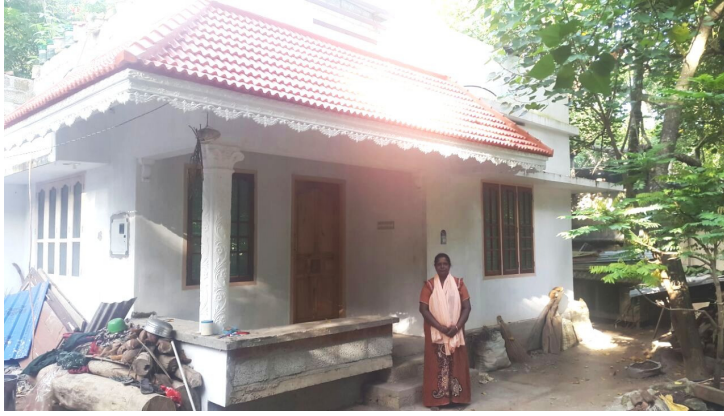
'Dear Mr David, house owner name is Mr Jayan 50 yrs he handicapped man wife name Mrs Laila 47 yrs. Husband and wife are sick. They have 2 children. One boy degree student. Daughter married. Government has given two lakhs rupees. Now not live their home. But not finish the work. They will balance work. Floor, kitchen and electric. Now they have debt 4 lakhs between daughter married expenses. KP funds used to front and back doors and four window shutters and toilet plumbing work. Now there is some more work. They are astma patients and allergic. So dust more problem. They are thinking floor work it will be do after move to new home. Next month they get a loan from bank. Then they will do floor work. They will move new home. Now they still living old house.....'

In the photos you can see where Jayan and Laila are currently living, and we can see too the front of the new house. As Peter reports, the local government (Panchayath) has given the Rs 2 lakhs grant that is available to poor families to go toward the building of a new house. Conditions are placed on securing and using this grant. For example the money will only be granted after the beneficiaries have build the new place up to a certain level (typically, built to lintel level). Jayan had received other help and contributions to get the house up to roof level, and to add the roof, but then all came to a full stop. The K.P. donation has meant the house could be made secure and fully watertight, and provided the toilet.

We can read from Peter's note that to complete the work Jayan will seek a bank loan in the coming weeks. The son is due to complete his degree course soon and the plan is for the earnings from his (hoped for) job will cover the repayments to the bank. Not exactly a mortgage, but more or less that.



Current house of Jayan and Laila



New home!

We'll keep you posted on all three of these home improvement projects. As always thank you for your interest and continuing financial donations. We assure you that your support is making a real difference for people who are in real need.

Best wishes,

David and Jane.

www.keralapartnership.com

A couple of photos of the Old Age Home again:

