



KERALA PARTNERSHIP

*Meeting People,
Meeting Needs,
Making a difference.
Charity Number 1088159*

December 2025

What's been happening since the April newsletter

Hello to all; Jane and I thought you would be interested to hear about some new schemes we have been happy to support and fund since April. We are in contact with the main volunteers each week with the nurseries send photos and videos of the 'egg and milk' days, and the Pakal Veedu centres also using WhatsApp giving photos and short videos.

Here are some examples of 'what's been happening'.

GOAT RECYCLING - that may have got your attention but don't worry it's nothing dramatic!

You may remember in the February 2024 newsletter that a number of goats were given as part of the 'self-employment' projects – in the photo on the left we see Jane handing over a goat.



The arrangement for this type of project is that the new owner is expected in due course to raise a kid-goat and then hand that back to our volunteer. This lady did just that and in the photo on the right there's Peter handing the 'kid' (now grown somewhat) to the next lady who had asked to be



included in the project. The project is ever increasing just from the goats already purchased and given, and there's always scope to buy more to expand the project!

SUPPORTING STUDENTS FROM POOR HOUSEHOLDS – you will remember that each year we are asked to help with the purchase of clothing and school equipment before the start of the academic year for students whose parents struggle to pay for all the items needed.

In June we were happy to support 20 students, aged between 5 years and 15 years, and the photos below shows Peter with some of the youngsters. Peter leads on this project for the primary and secondary school students and most of them are known to Nurse Kavitha as part of her community nursing visits.



NURSING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Grants have given to 4 undergraduate students all of whom are studying nursing at university. These 4 received our support over 12 months ago to enable them to enrol in year 1 of the course and so KP has given £100 to each as a contribution to the year 2 costs.

'PETTY BUSINESS' SELF EMPLOYMENT GRANTS

4 more grants, each of £50, have been given and you can see the ladies who have started their new ventures in the photos below.



You may remember Alphonsa (on the right) is the N.I.D.S. Women's Empowerment Coordinator and takes the lead in arranging and mentoring the 'petty business' projects. Here she is with Nirmala, a 60-year-old widow living alone, who wanted to set up a 'petty shop' selling coconuts and vegetables – great!



Here is Usha who asked for a grant as she wanted to start making and selling 'dolls and toys' – this is a first for our petty business projects and no doubt Usha will do well with affordable toys for the local children.

Alphonsa wrote:

'...for doll making she wanted to buy fur clothe and start making the doll and will sell in the market to earn her livelihood...'

Usha is 54 years of age and also a widow.



Alphonsa wrote to us explaining:

'... Mrs Sreelatha was a weaver and she has a loom for weaving. Now she wanted to start weaving as an income generation program. But to start weaving she has to buy thread and start weaving. She can sell the clothe she make in the local market...'

Sreelatha is 48 with 2 children.

The 4th petty business grant was given to Prasanna to set up a vegetable stall. At the time these photos were taken she had been admitted to hospital and her daughter was minding the shop until Prasanna had recovered.



You may remember there was a similar photo to the one on the left in the April newsletter - this is the Women's Cooperative KARUNYAM.

It continues to do well and this photo was taken in September.

PARTNERSHIP IN A HOUSING PROJECT – individuals who are assessed as ‘below poverty line (BPL) can apply to the Local Authority (Panchayat) for funds to build a small and simple house. But the grant is not enough to complete the home so the person must find money to finish. KP has previously worked in partnership with local individuals living in the community to fund works like floor tiles, or electrical wiring, or plastering.



This time we were asked for a contribution toward the supply and fitting of doors and a toilet. The lady and her disabled daughter live together and were anxious for these last work items to be carried out so they could move in – they were living with no doors and no running water so were going to a neighbouring house to use the toilet, and had run a hosepipe from that house to the rear of the ‘new’ home for washing.

After discussion we agreed to fund £300 a ‘mains water’ connection, fitting a sink in the kitchen with drain, toilet and cistern, and making a drain to a nearby cesspit. Peter managed the work and got some further money from a local sponsor to buy and fit an electric pump and water storage tank. A good joint effort – finished job seen in the photo!

NUTRITION - ‘EGG AND MILK’ – the schemes continue across the 20 nurseries and we just thought you might like to see one of the photos received recently. We are sent lovely photos most weeks from the teachers. This one has been sent by Nithya who is the teacher at ‘Little Flower Nursery’ in the village of Cheenivila. From the left we have: Leo, Sanjo, Evanika, Nainika and Izra.... looks like they are waiting for their eggs before drinking the milk!



POSSIBLE NEW WOMENS COOPERATIVE – Alphonsa has been approached by 8 ladies in the village of Vellarada who have a plan to make and sell a range of daily items ranging from rice and wheat flour, pickles, vegetables and similar; also soap, lotions (washing liquid) and candles.

We are waiting for more information from Alphonsa and if the idea has a good plan to support it this might go ahead in the next couple of months so we can meet the ladies and see the production unit in action when we visit (hopefully in February).

PAKAL VEEDU – VATTAVILA

30 to 35 group members come together twice a month to meet, socialise and chat in a group discussion about their worries and concerns. Tea and snacks are given and at the end of the morning all receive a basic ‘food kit’

See photo overleaf on the left side.



Photo on the right has been sent by the Sisters who organise the Pakal Veedu at Mulluvila – the first established by KP. You may remember that up to 40 ladies meet once a month for the full day to socialise and have company. These ladies either live alone or who feel lonely.

As well as running the Pakal Veedu the Sisters take food-kits to 10 housebound and lonely ladies living in the nearby area; here we see a photo showing 9 of the housebound ladies.

VIZHINJAM INTERNATIONAL DEEP WATER PORT – this important economic project was mentioned in the last newsletter (under the heading 'school books and uniforms'). Since that April newsletter two events have taken place. First the port was officially opened by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 2nd May. Second on May 25th the container ship MSC ELSA 3 sank off the coast of Kerala having left the port on 23rd – it was carrying a variety of oil products and hazardous cargo and has caused considerable pollution along the Kerala coastline including Vizhinjam and Kovalam. A major problem remains the presence of 'nurdles' (tiny plastic pellets). There have been extensive clean-up operations underway since the incident carried out not only by the relevant Authorities but also by volunteers trying to clean the beaches. The local fishermen's activities have been badly disrupted. We had planned to go to see the port anyway but the impact of this pollution is something we need also to look at, perhaps in conjunction with Joy and his Adimallathura community (see April article). The photos below give a sense of the port and this tragedy.



FAR LEFT – before
LEFT – part of the port complex
RIGHT – plastic waste that is still washing up on the shoreline 6 months after the ship sank.



CHRISTMAS 'EXTRAS' – We will give extra funds to Mullivala and Sister Kavitha (Community Nursing Service and Welfare Support) so additional food kits can be distributed. Vattavila had a special extra sum a few weeks ago as the group had the opportunity to go on a trip but could not afford the coach hire cost so KP covered that cost as their 'Christmas extra'! Joy at the Coastal Brains Charity has asked if a small donation might be possible to buy school clothing for some of the children; he gathers donations from a range of sponsors and we would be joining in the 'partnership' approach; we will aim to give some support.

Thank you for your continuing support and encouragement in keeping the regular projects going, and enabling new schemes to receive grants. All your donations make real differences to those who receive help and certainly improve their lives.

Best wishes,
David and Jane.