

NEEM TREE TRUST UPDATE JUNE 2004

HOW HAS YOUR MONEY BEEN SPENT TO HELP THE BOYS?

Money raised by **The Neem Tree Trust** last year has been spent in the following ways by Dr Karuna Chelliah for the benefit of the boys:

- Payment of medical expenses for boys needing corrective surgery.
- Purchase of special oven for the manufacture of body braces for the more severely disabled boys.
- Purchase of equipment for boys who are following vocational training.
- Contribution towards a two day educational trip to Kerala for all the boys.
- Purchase of a small motorbike for the use of the wardens.
- Contribution to the creation of a new sensory garden on the campus in which the boys can meet their families when they come to visit and have fun.
- Construction of aviaries for the breeding of doves which assists with the rehabilitation of the boys and which makes a small contribution to the finances of the home.
- Financial contribution to the establishment of a day care centre for children with learning difficulties.



ONE OF MANY SUCCESS STORIES



Alagurajan lived at the Boys' Home for most of his formative years, from the age of six to eighteen. Like the majority of the boys at the home, Alagurajan had suffered from polio and came from a very poor background. He was nonetheless a very happy boy, growing up in the company of the other boys, benefiting from the guidance and support of Dr Karuna Chelliah and the wardens and learning essential skills which would help him in later life. Like the other boys resident at the home, he was given the opportunity in his spare time to learn many things including woodcarving, cycle mechanics, music, drama and dance. He was educated at school in Palayamkottai, after which he attended college where he completed a tailoring course. During my annual visits to the home he was one of the first boys who enthusiastically helped me make the bags and cushion covers which I would later sell back home in the UK for the benefit of all the boys.

In 2003 when Alagurajan reached the age of eighteen he left the boys' home and returned to his village to live with his family who have a small farm. On the day of his departure he was presented with a sewing machine paid for by **The Neem Tree Trust**, and he now works from his family home stitching clothes for the women and children in his village. There are more than eight tailoring shops in his village which has a population of approximately 500 inhabitants. It is much cheaper for people in this part of India to have their clothes stitched by tailors than it is for them to buy readymade clothes. In the afternoons he helps his mother on the family farm. They have a few cows and sheep and supplement their income by selling the milk from the cows, and selling the lambs after six months. Alagurajan has grown into an independent adult, living a dignified life, able to earn a living as well as making a contribution towards his family. This has been made possible because he was given a chance by Dr Karuna Chelliah and the Board of Directors, who run the Boys' Home in Tirunelveli. **The Neem Tree Trust** feels privileged to be able to help the doctor achieve his aim of enabling every boy to live a self-sufficient and rewarding life once they leave the home and return to their villages.

RAISING FUNDS FOR THE BOYS

WHAT A HERO!



Graham Dove dared and succeeded, running the Bath half-marathon in aid of **The Neem Tree Trust** well within his ambitious target of two hours.

Despite the biting wind and at times driving rain he had enough left for a sprint finish down Pulteney Street, cheered on by Neem Tree Trust supporters.

It was a wonderful effort reflected in his personal satisfaction in reaching his goal. He carried with him the knowledge that the boys in Tirunelveli were praying for him and waiting impatiently for news that he had completed the race successfully.

The boys' home has benefited by over £800 raised by Graham's generous sponsors.



NEW PROJECTS

Mike & Phyllis Prior and their daughter, Helen, of BML Print Management, Trowbridge have helped us launch a new venture by designing greetings cards with illustrations which the boys sketched during my last visit, using coloured pencils kindly donated and posted out to the boys in India by Mike & Phyllis.

The cards are sold in packs of 8 cards @ £3.00 per pack. If you would like to order some please use the attached form. There will be no charge for postage or packing.

The Neem Tree Trust has recently joined a scheme that enables us to receive income by referring customers to online shops.

Retailers who have joined the scheme include Marks & Spencer, Comet, Oddbins, Cotton Traders, mfi and many more.

Simply shop online by clicking on the link below and the retailers give us money towards the boys home when you shop with them.

Try it by just clicking on the link and you'll see they have created a dedicated shopping page for **The Neem Tree Trust**.

www.buy.at/neemtreetrust

Remember every purchase must be made through our webshop, at: www.buy.at/neemtreetrust.

BOYS GENERATE MONEY FOR THEMSELVES

By selling goods produced by the boys at the Bath German Christmas Market and other market events, and by Kathy's talks to local groups, whose members also bought goods, the boys generated over £7,000 themselves last year.

David Raj, Katiresan and Koil Durai sewing some of the items which we sold on behalf of the boys' home.



Ken selling goods at the Bath Christmas Market

IF YOU BELONG TO A GROUP WHOSE MEMBERS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN HEARING ABOUT THE BOYS' HOME AND SEEING OUR PRESENTATIONAL VIDEO, OR IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER FUNDRAISING IDEAS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW!