



UPDATE

JULY 2017

Editor's Note:

We hope you enjoy this summer edition of our newsletter. There has been plenty of news from Hope coming through so here are some items we thought you would like to hear about. We will see you again for the Autumn Edition! Steve & Liv.

Our New Community Library

Our new Community Library is another effort to share facilities with our neighbours around Hope. This initiative was funded and established by recent visitors, Katherine Coussement and Jade Smith. It gave us an ideal opportunity to combine the needs of the Hope children and the local community. Long-time supporter and author, Patrick Moon, was on hand to cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony .

The former clinic at Hope has now been transformed to house the library. Katherine and Jade spent three weeks in February organising books which had previously been donated by Heath Junior School in Yorkshire, and adding to the stock in Malayalam by shopping at bookshops in Alleppey and Cochin, as well as online. They also trained Rajani Shaji, the new librarian, who worked hard alongside Katherine and Jade to catalogue, prepare and label the books; they were able to visit another nearby library to gain experience of how rural Indian libraries are run. Katherine, a librarian at the University of Bradford, and Jade, a photographer, had raised funds in the months prior to their visit to contribute towards Rajani's salary, as well as new shelves and books. The library hours are Monday to Saturday, 4.30 - 6pm, and it is open to all from the surrounding community as well as the Hope staff and children. By mid-April 65 people had applied for membership and we are sure that this number will continue to grow. Thanks to Katherine and Jade and well done to all concerned.



First communion Celebrants at Hope 2017

These seven children recently received their First Holy Communion at their local church. They belong to the two Christian houses at Hope. People familiar with Hope will be aware that the children at Hope are raised according to their birth faith in either Christian or Hindu houses and at present we have four Hindu and two Christian houses.

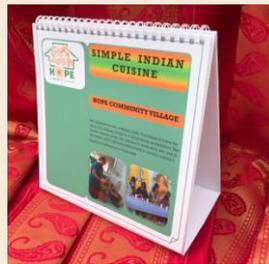


Hope Recipe Book

Our latest fundraising effort – a brand new cookery book – with a lovely collection of easy Indian recipes is now on sale. So, don't delay – order your copy today! Margaret Dennis gives all details below:

Have you ever wondered how to make egg roast, payasam or even potatoes with mustard seed? Our new recipe book of simple Indian cuisine will tell you how. There are 22 pages of recipes, both savoury and sweet and also instructions on how to make delicious, refreshing drinks. The spiral bound book will stand on any surface and all of the pages can be wiped clean. All proceeds from sales will go to support Hope Community Village. We are very grateful to all who helped with this effort.

The books cost £5 each and are available from Alan or Margaret Dennis, Danielle Miller or any trustee. Postage and packing costs are: 1st class £2. Cheques should be payable to Hope Community Village. Please send orders to Alan Dennis, 36 Nettleton Road, Caistor, Market Rasen, Lincs, LN7 6NJ



Yet Another grandchild For Hope!

We are delighted to announce the safe arrival, in early April, of a beautiful baby daughter – Jeni - for Neena and Jaison. Congratulations and our best wishes to the proud parents and all the Hope family.



School's Out

The months of April and May are extremely exciting and busy for Hope – exciting for the children because schools are closed for two months, bringing a welcome break from school work, and busy for staff because keeping so many children gainfully occupied and out of mischief for such a long time is quite a challenging task!

The staff had a wonderfully varied and interesting range of activities lined up for the children.. Here is a sample of what they got up to!

Kalady Camp.(Personal development)
Camp at Periyar Tiger reserve
Trip to Malayattor Church
Children's Theatre 3-day camp
Hand Printing
Mother's Day activities
Swimming Lessons
Movie Trip - Bahubali
'Kaliyangu' – skills development
First Holy Communion
Vishu Hindu celebrations
Visit to Lemon Tree Hotel
Cooking Programme
Table tennis, volleyball and football camps
Weekend Beach visits

However, all are back at school now and it is back to study and hard work.

Five Brave Runners at Great North Run 2017

We are delighted to report that, yet again, we have secured five places for Hope at this year's Great North Run in early September. Pictured below are our five runners who have volunteered to submit themselves to the gruelling challenge that is GNR. We will be posting further details on our website, including JustGiving links, closer to the date. Please support them if you can.

Dawn Rogers, Susan Testo, Cheryle Berry, Heather Rostron and Claire Hildred.





The Story of Another Hope Family

Following on from the much-appreciated life story of Hope “graduate”, Biju, in the last edition, we are pleased to bring you an equally heart-warming story of another Hope family below:

Three of our children – Sreekutty, Sreekuttan and Richu lost their father and bread-winner at a very young age and their mother had no choice but to get a job. The only position she could find was as a live-in housemaid to a wealthy family on quite a meagre salary. She was allowed to keep her daughter, Sreekutty, with her in the living quarters provided but not her boys.

Consequently, her two boys came to Hope and spent their childhood and teenage years with us, all the time being able to keep in touch with their mother and sister. Meanwhile, with her mother’s support, Sreekutty finished secondary school with excellent grades. She desperately wanted to become a nurse so Hope financed her through four years of nursing school from which she graduated this year with flying colours. She now has a good job in a local hospital and lives with her mother and brothers.

As for the boys – fifteen years later Sreekuttan is a qualified chef with an excellent job at a top class hotel – Taj India. Rich is also working, having qualified as an air-conditioning mechanic. They are now able to rent a small apartment in Kochi and bring their mother, who no longer needs to work as a housemaid, to live with them.

Another story of a family reunited with the support of Hope and three well-qualified working children able to support a parent into advancing years. As a Hope supporter, you can be proud of your role in their story.



Sreekutty



Sreekuttan



Richu

News of our I.T. Facilities at Hope

We have consistently tried to offer the children of Hope good access to technology, believing that it is an essential life-skill for them. In addition, offering shared access to our local community in the neighbourhood helps us to be very much a part of that community. Alan Dennis provides this update:

Gradually the IT Suite is being developed to provide the best training and education possible for the children at Hope and members of the local community. The Suite is used for a minimum of nine hours a day for six days a week.

The children of Hope have a timetable for when they attend lessons. The lessons cover all aspects of computer skills including typing. A curriculum has been developed, which includes regular assessment.

The Kindergarten use the Suite every day to develop their computer skills and improve their mathematical and language skills. Twelve hours of computer use and training per week is offered free to members of the local community. At present, the opportunity is taken by up to eighty-eight females. They either use the Hope curriculum and assessments or are following up school work.

There are 12 work stations that, over the next few years, will need upgrading. This January, through the offer of a donation, we have added a data projector to help the teacher work with large groups.

Athira Appukkuttan, the I.T. teacher, has done much to develop the Suite and improve the children’s knowledge and skills. The Trustees are really pleased with her dedication. We, and Athira, also appreciate the support we have from Boban Cleetus and Abhilash Kumar.

As for the future, we need to improve hardware and software. There are no educational programmes to improve mathematical, language (Malayalam and English) and scientific skills. An introduction of a Smart Board would also improve the teaching.



Exam Results 2017

Every year in March all our children, in common with children all over the world, undergo the challenges of state exams. There is particular emphasis on classes 10 (GCSE level), 11 and 12 (A level) as these are the key stages for deciding future pathways. Below is a list of how our children fared this year and, in the final column, what they have chosen to do next year. We would like to say that, regardless of outcome - often with much ground to make up due to previously disrupted education and very challenging difficulties – we are very proud of their achievements. It is also fair to say that, as in any community or family, children will vary enormously in ability and Hope values each child’s result. Focus on hard work and ambitious plans are at the heart of Hope’s approach to school life.

You will notice that, after year 12, two children are off to university – a marvellous achievement. Congratulations to all concerned.

Std	X				
Sl No	Name	%	Board	Stream	Future plan
1	Nivitha	77	Kerala State	All subjects	Std XI- Humanities
2.	Nikhil Rajesh	40	do	do	Vocational
3.	Sherima	78	CBSE	Do	Std XI - Science CBSE
STD. XI					
1.	Sanika	78	State	Science	XII
2.	Renjitha	71	do	Humanities	XII
3.	Shabhitha	66	do	Science with IT	XII
4.	Manjusha	53	do	Humanities	XII
5.	Athira	51	do	Science	Xii
STD XII					
1.	Akhila	76	do	Humanities	B A Degree
2.	Arun	65	do	Science	BBA/ Aviation

Of the above 10 children, 8 are girls. Education of girls is a real focus at the moment all over India, with the underlying belief that education for girls is the key to a decent future for families. In addition to these 8 girls, we have a further 4 girls in our outreach programme – Anjali, Megha, Sreelakshmi and Vrinda - in classes 11 and 12 and two girls at Nursing School.

We are particularly grateful to the **Peter Stebbings Trust** who have generously given us a grant to cover the costs of Higher Education for our girls over 16 years old over a three-year period. Such generosity helps us so much to enable the children to realise their ambitions.

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