



# UPDATE

**SPRING 2021**

## **Editorial:**

Who would have thought that, as we left Hope this time last year at the end of our annual visit, when Covid was little more than a rumour, that we would still be in the throes of the pandemic with the end still a distant dream. But here we are, and we will try to tell you how the staff and children at Hope have managed.

Firstly, we would like to offer our sincere congratulations to our devoted staff who have approached their task with courage, dedication and immense creativity. They have kept themselves and the children safe, secure and entertained throughout. The children have come up trumps too with their resilience, patience and good humour in what has been a very trying time. Thank you, staff and children!

(Editorial continued on page 4)

## **Football Links:**

We are in the very early stages of developing links between the Hope Girls football Team and Lincoln City Women's Football Club. Lincoln are a very community minded club and wish to promote links with community groups whenever and wherever they can. The link was suggested by Louise Mumford, who has close links with the club and is also a supporter and regular visitor to Hope. Some ZOOM meetings have already taken place, information exchanged and plans for developing the partnership are being drawn up. It is hoped that both groups will benefit enormously by sharing experiences and, though geographically very far apart, they are united in their love for the beautiful game. Welcome aboard LCWFC.



## **Easyfundraising**

Congratulations to all of you who do their online shopping via Easyfundraising raising a significant amount for Hope at no cost to themselves, with a special mention of Morag and Shirley who are at present at the top of the leader board. If you would like to join in, go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hopeindia/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hopeindia/)



### Tharavadu Does It Again!

Our most grateful thanks to Team Tharavadu, proprietors of the famed, award-winning Tharavadu Keralan Restaurant in Leeds and staunch supporters of Hope. They and their staff undertook an Advent Challenge of 250 kms to run and 25,000 Push-ups to complete between 1<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December with £2,000 target. They exceeded both their performance and fundraising targets by a long way and handed over the magnificent sum of £2,478 to boost our funds. Thank you to Siby and his team for their amazing achievement and we are so grateful for your continuing support.

### Dear Team Tharavadu,

On behalf of the trustees and the children of Hope Community Village, I would like to express my gratitude to Team Tharavadu for their efforts during their amazing fundraising 'Advent Calendar'. You managed to achieve 26,029 push-ups from a target of 25,000. In running, you did 1,341 kilometres with a target of just 250. A very special thank you to the children who did fantastically well. Also to the adults who managed to stay sober for the whole 24 days of Advent. Your efforts raised a splendid £2,478.19. This will be a very welcome donation to HOPE and we would like to thank all your customers and the other supporters who sponsored your efforts.

Once again, we are extremely grateful for your continuing support for the disadvantaged children in our care,

Yours,

John Veitch

Founding Trustee, Hope Community Village



### News in Brief:

Since our last edition, Santhini has had a new baby girl, born on 4<sup>th</sup> January. Congratulations to her and Rajesh and family.

We can also announce the engagement of Sini to Sabin with the marriage planned for April 2021, Covid circumstances permitting. Sini has a very successful career at Le Meridien Hotel in Kochi and was one of the earliest arrivals at Hope, with her sister Seena and brother Sebi. They have done amazingly well as a family – Seena, a beautician, got married several years ago and has a lovely daughter, Angel, now 5 years old and Sebi is a successful chef, having worked in some of the best hotels in Kerala and the middle-east. They have been reunited with extended family but still regard Hope as their first home. We wish her every happiness.

In addition, another recent marriage was that of Sreekutty to Kichuraj. She didn't ever live at Hope as she was able to stay with her mother who worked as a live-in housekeeper but Hope supported her educationally to study for her Nursing Degree. Her two brothers, Sreekuttan and Richu lived for many years at Hope. All three are successful young people, now reunited with their mother who no longer needs to work but is supported by her two fine sons. Another heart-warming ending for a Hope family.

Several other young people from Hope have married too, including Linsy, Maneesha, Kannan, Athira and Deepthi. We wish them all well as they make their own successful way in life. All of them keep in touch with their Hope families.



Sini

Baby

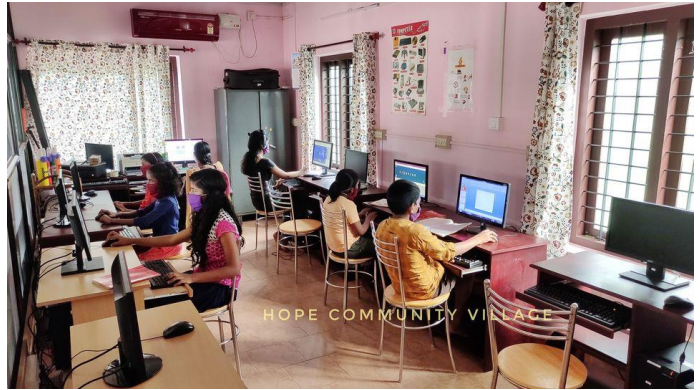
Sreekutty & Kichuraj



Here are some images showing how Hope children have been engaged in useful and interesting activities during lockdown. See more by copying and pasting this link to your browser on our sister website at: [hopekerala.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/HopeVacationReport2020.pdf](http://hopekerala.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/HopeVacationReport2020.pdf)



Gardening



IT room in full use for online lessons



Chess



Football practice



Keyboard practice



Regular classes re-start for Y10 & Y12



(Editorial continued)

The problems faced were immense. Hurriedly, they had to set themselves up for welcoming back many older children who had been laid off work and back from higher education. They all had to be quarantined for the appropriate time, away from the younger children. Lessons had to be organized on line and provisions bought in remotely. Staff had to live in or work from home and all visitors excluded. At this point we need to mention the efforts of the mothers who coped admirably with all the sudden new demands on their time and energy. Thank you, Mothers!

A resident teacher was hired to organize learning, ensuring that everyone kept up. Thanks, Gloria! A gift of 8 tablets from Litebreeze, a local IT company (see below) helped greatly with access to on-line learning. Competitions organized by the local Justice Department helped to structure leisure time. Likewise, local initiatives to develop gardening and boost food production provided huge interest among the children and kept the competitive spirit alive and well. The welcome presence of much-missed elder brothers and sisters was an added bonus.

Now, the exam classes of Years 10 and 12 have gone back to school, with every care taken to observe Covid precautions. Likewise the college and university students who will be confined to campus and hostels. The younger children continue with their online lessons and next month will see them having spent a full academic year out of school. But the feeling is that they have enjoyed the year, have managed to keep up and are looking forward to better times. They have started to mix with other houses and play out together, have cautiously started up football and other recreational activities and added food production and "Seed Club" to their long list of interests.

I would call that a great success – something of which staff and children can be justifiably proud!



Litebreeze donated and installed these new compost bins and supplied 8 IT tablets, one for each house, to help the children to access online lessons during lockdown.

### Great North Run 2021

We are able to carry over our 5 places for the 2020 Great North Run to September this year and can present you with our gallery of intrepid participants below. We acknowledge the huge physical challenge they are setting themselves and wish them every success in their endeavour. Please support them if you can, when the time comes – date for your diary – Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Liz Hall

Peter Hall

Cheryle Berry

Richard Green

Mystery Man

**Note:** Mystery Man wishes to remain anonymous for now but we can assure you he is very real. Watch this space!