



UPDATE

SUMMER 2021

Editorial:

Yet another three months have passed since our last edition and, in Kerala, Covid19 is as much in the news as ever. Case numbers continue to be high and tight regulations continue to be in force. The children are still at home with very little talk of returning to school. College students have been told they may be returning to classes in October and they may be offered a vaccine before then. No positive news yet for the other children. This continues to place a huge burden on the staff and children of Hope. But, as we said in our last edition, they continue to manage the situation with courage and creativity, particularly with the schooling and study. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you can read about the excellent exam results the children managed to achieve, despite these very difficult circumstances. Academic achievement has always been high on the agenda at Hope and results have been steadily improving year on year.

It must be said that "growing up in care" has never been taken as an excuse for any kind of underperformance among the children - expectations and aspirations are consistently high, with every encouragement and support given and the results are showing that. All children are encouraged to have a goal that fits with their abilities and interests and staff and mothers help in reaching those goals. It's a formula which seems to be working well!

Hoping that news on the Covid19 situation will have much improved by our next Autumn edition!

National Award in Childcare for Hope Community Village:

Hope has been the recipient of a prestigious award in the Global NGO Exposition conducted by national organization ATHMA. Entry was by telephone interviews and a virtual field visit video done by staff. While Childline India was the overall national winner, Hope Community Village was recognized as one of the best NGOs promoting impactful social practices, competing with 280 other NGOs from India. We congratulate all the staff for their achievement and it is very pleasing that their outstanding work in their field has been officially recognized.





Great North Run 2021:

This event is usually a great fundraiser for Hope and we are hoping this year will be no exception.

Due to illness, injury and some reservations, we have had a slight change in this year's line-up and here they are:



Cheryle Berry, Richard Green, Simon Giles and Ivan and Claire Le Fevre.

The run is a mammoth undertaking so we wish them every success in their training, fundraising efforts and on the day. All have JustGiving pages so please support them if you can. Our sincere thanks to them and we will update you on their efforts in our autumn edition.

If you would like to support them, go to <https://www.justgiving.com/hopecommunityvillage>



Easyfundraising

Congratulations to all of you who do their online shopping via Easyfundraising. You've raised over £4,000 for Hope since we joined, at no cost to yourselves, with a special mention of Rachel and Morag who are at present at the top of the leaderboard. If you would like to join in, go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hopeindia/



Exam Results:

This year has once again produced an excellent crop of exam results from the children at Hope. Four girls did Plus 2 (A level equivalent). Three girls did amazingly well and are off to their preferred universities for their chosen courses. One girl did less well and has cheerfully bade farewell to academia to pursue her career in the hospitality industry on a vocational course.



Meanwhile, in the SSLC exams (GCSE equivalent), there was another excellent set of results. Eight children sat these exams, all passed and there was a rash of A*'s, A's, B's and C's. All will be moving on to A levels and we congratulate all the children and the staff at Hope for managing what was, for all students, a very challenging and difficult year. Congratulations all round!



Happy Onam!

Onam is an annual festival celebrated throughout Kerala.

Traditionally, floral displays called Pookalam are made, like the one pictured here.

Making these was an important distraction activity for the children in the time of lockdown.



Open Garden Events:

After ten lovely years of opening up our garden and running an annual fundraising event for Hope, we have decided to retire! Each one has been hard work but most enjoyable. We have so enjoyed making the refreshments, planning and running the various stalls and meeting all the lovely people who have turned out in all weathers year after year to support the event. Over the 10 years, you have contributed over £15,000 to support Hope running costs and we are most grateful. Huge appreciation too for the many helpers, stall-minders, tea-makers, bakers, tent assemblers and dismantlers, sign-writers, encouragers, donors of £££ and goods, all of whom have played their parts in making each one fun and successful. Thank you all!

Liv and Steve Redmond

Weddings:

Despite continuing lockdown conditions, two weddings were celebrated at Hope this spring. Sini married Sabin and Lakshmi married Liju. Both occasions were limited by Covid restrictions in both size and scope. Nevertheless families, staff and children from Hope attended. We wish them all the best in their married lives.



Covid Testing:

Routine testing by the local health authority, of both staff and children, has become very much part and parcel of life at Hope. It is good to know that they are being taken good care of. Vaccinations are being offered down the age-groups and this has now reached the 25-30's. This means that all staff have been covered. We were able to send £1,000 to help with the local Covid19 effort for the purchase of equipment and testing kits at the local clinic – very gratefully received. Photo shows testing in progress.

