

THE INDIA VILLAGE PROJECT

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the Session ending 30 June 2009

The Trustees submit their report together with accounts for the session ending 30 June 2009.

Objectives

The objects of the Society are: the physical improvement of the village and St. Marcellin School in Mangamanuthu, Tamil Nadu, India, through liaison with St. Paul's RC Academy and the wider community of Dundee.

Activities

Since the year 2007, following a preliminary visit by two of the trustees to Mangamanuthu and Trichy, India, an intensive process of fund-raising has taken place to address three areas, as decided by the Trustees in agreement with members of staff, parents and associates of St. Paul's RC Academy. The methods used to raise the funds will be listed in the next paragraph.

Phase 2 saw five volunteers spending their time working in the three areas: the village, the school and the Rainbow Project. These volunteers financed their own flights and transport to Trichy. They were given free accommodation by the religious order of the Marist Brothers, who also arranged their visits to the above-mentioned places. Having arranged with the elders of the village to see the foundations of the first five houses laid, the sum of £10,000 was then handed over for the construction. At the same meeting the elders discussed with the villagers the best use of approximately £1,000 for livestock. The villagers voted unanimously for goats and a cooperative was agreed concerning the sharing of the present goats and any goats born subsequently. There is still a need for more live-stock and we are currently raising funds for this through money donated by each register class in St. Paul's.

Money was given to the Rainbow (AIDS) Project to finance a volunteer for one year and a sum was provided to help the women and children with AIDS travel to the Rainbow Project for the requisite medication and food.

Phase 3 involves the continued raising of funds for the project, specifically for more housing, livestock and materials for the Secondary and Primary schools in the Mangamanuthu area. The money which is being raised, an estimated seven thousand pounds, will be taken out by the three volunteers who are going to Mangamanuthu during the summer break. They are also paying their own fares and making use of the same accommodation offered by the Marist Brothers in Trichy and Mangamanuthu, which means any money collected will go directly to the project.