

FRIENDS OF METTUPALAYAM TRUST

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1054673

www.irdt.co.uk

Facebook- Friends of Mettupalayam Community

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Droughts, storms, floods...

We have heard and seen dramatic news and pictures recently of flooding and the effect of extraordinary weather here in the UK. We know that some of our friends have been personally affected, so we wish everyone well and hope things are beginning to return to “normal”. Global warming, record temperatures, extinction rebellion... a recent survey suggested that people in the UK are more concerned about the future effects of climate change than ever before. You may also have read about the deadly flooding in Northern India but at the same time the very severe drought affecting parts of the south and Tamil Nadu in particular, with massive lakes and reservoirs in Chennai completely dry. Our project team had to take special measures at our schools to provide extra water and protection for the children. Farm plans had to be altered, with no paddy planted and crops that do well with little water, like groundnuts, being substituted.



But then, at the end of July the early monsoon rains did fall. The lagoon (pictured) and wells around Mettupalayam are now healthier than the recent normal for this time of year. How quickly things change. When I spoke to Venkat about all this he was as philosophical as ever. “Ah that is India, the highs and lows, the rich and the poor, drought and flood!”. We will continue to work with him and his team to help them plan for what we must now expect in terms of extreme weather.

Boupathi.

Over the last few years we have reported on the progress of a special student at our Crakehall school in Mettupalayam. Boupathi (pronounced boobady) has cerebral palsy. When he first came to school, he had difficulty with walking and coordination. His speech was almost non-existent. The teachers and project team have worked tirelessly to support his progress, which has been remarkable. It has also been lovely to see how welcoming and supportive his fellow pupils have been (this photo captures that rather well). Boupathi finished school with us this year and Venkat managed to persuade his family to allow him to go to a special residential school less than an hour away from his home. We understand he has settled in well and work now continues to improve his speech and handwriting. And we were very proud to hear that Boupathi has been made head boy! It is a good news story which encapsulates the life-changing differences your support provides. Thank you! from Boupathi and his family.



School and local news



This photo shows some of our 5th standard pupils on their last day at our Crakehall school. They have all now progressed to local secondary schools, armed with the unique and broad-ranging education our primary school has given them. This year we have seventy five students at Crakehall school and thirty five students at our Nambikki school on the Bay of Bengal coast.

We provide nutritious lunchtime meals for the children in Mettupalayam and have increased the provision of food for local elderly people, who

tend to be at the “end of the queue” when it comes to family provision in poor Indian households. There are now more than twenty local elderly people who receive sambhar and eggs on a regular basis.

Our New Website



We are pleased to announce the launch of our new Friends of Mettupalayam website, which you can find www.irdt.co.uk

Our aim has been to create a simple but impactful site, where people can easily learn about our charity and its key objectives. We are linking with the Charity Aid Foundation, to allow quick and easy donations. At the time of writing, this link is not yet working, but will be very soon.

We have also included a live link to our facebook page, where news is updated on a regular basis.

So, please do have a look at the new website. Our intention is to keep it up to date with news and developments, both here in the UK and in India. We would be delighted to get feedback and to receive any ideas you have.

UK News

We are planning a number of fundraising events in the autumn and the run up to Christmas, with two fairs already in the diary.

We are also proposing a “global coffee morning” for the weekends of 23\24 November and 14\15 December. Our idea is to encourage events here, and at the same time at the project in Mettupalayam. We hope it will be a time when we can educate people in both countries about the other. Three of our trustees are going to be at the project in November, so we will be able to provide the latest updates and information so that as many of you as possible can join in and share news about our project with friends and neighbours – over tea, coffee and cake! Please keep a look out for further information on the website, through facebook, or get in touch with one of us by the contact details provided at the top of this newsletter.

With our very best wishes to all our friends and thanks as always for your continued support.