



KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

SERVE GOD BY SERVING OTHERS



**NATIONAL ACTION PROJECT
2019 - 2021**

**THE
JOHN FOSTER
MEMORIAL HOME**

**Kamanur Village, Mangalamcombu
in the Palani Hills of Southern India**

The John Foster Charitable Trust is a registered charity. The Trustees are Ken Hargreaves, Sheila Hargreaves and Sue Ferro. The Trust fully funds The John Foster Memorial Home in Kamanur Village, Mangalamcombu in the Palani Hills in Southern India. We feed, clothe, educate and nurture 28 destitute boys.

The John Foster Memorial Home is also a registered charity in India and we have the relevant documentation that exempts us from Income Tax, so every penny is spent on the boys.



Trustees' visit 2016 (l - r) Sue Ferro, Ken Hargreaves and Sheila Hargreaves

The John Foster Memorial Home lies on the outskirts of Mangalamcombu, in the Palani Hills of South West India. Currently it cares for 28 boys from 10 to 17 years old, providing food, clothes, safe shelter and a guaranteed education.

In a desperately poor area of India, the home gives these boys the best chance for the future instead of a life of abject poverty, the Trust cares and nurtures these boys, giving them an education so that they will be able to leave and make a way for themselves in the outside world. Every year we award a scholarship to send one student to

university. If there isn't a suitable candidate among the boys, we look for a local girl with the necessary qualifications. This last year we sent a village girl, daughter of a field worker, who works from 5.00am to 3.00pm for a few rupees a day. If we hadn't chosen her, she also would have been working in the fields with her mother. We would dearly love to be able to accommodate girls at the home but unfortunately, because of strict cultural traditions, we are unable to do so at the moment.

During Ken's term of office as Supreme Knight of the Knights of St Columba,

back in 2000, the KSC's National Action Project that had just finished was "Wells for Water". The aim was to provide 2000 wells, one for each year since the birth of Christ. Thanks to the Supreme Knight who followed Ken, Tony Britten KCSG, the John Foster Memorial Home received a grant to bore a well. To this day that well provides good clean drinking water for the boys.

In 2015 the John Foster Charitable Trust in the UK financed several projects at the home. A new house, which the boys named "Sheila House" was built, the perimeter fence was renewed and a new bathroom block, for the boys, was built.



Murugan, the JFMH Manager



The boys studying at the home

Because of new regulations in India the JFCT have had numerous works to carry out to meet the Indian Government's requirements and these have had to be prioritised.

In February 2017 the Trustees visited the Home. Ken and Sheila arrived first with Sue joining them a few days later. During this time discussions took place about ways to further develop the buildings to comply with the new legislation and to expand space to allow

the number of boys accommodated to rise back to 40 again.

Our most desperate need is to rebuild our old original house. During the winter in the middle of the night we had an electrical fire, luckily all the boys escaped safely, with the the help of the villagers and our fire buckets. but the upper floor of the original farmhouse was destroyed. The building was made safe, just by removing the top floor. This incident coincided with more new regulations being introduced by the Indian Government and we have now to provide 40 sq. ft. of floor space per boy, so we had immediately to drop our numbers to 28 boys to comply with this regulation.

Many other regulations were introduced at the same time but we had already met the standards they were requiring for example, better nutrition, fire buckets, regular medical checks - this is provided by the nursing sisters from the local convent. Unfortunately 60 homes in Tamil Nadu didn't meet these new requirements and were closed

immediately on inspection.

To be able to take 40 boys again we need to demolish the old wattle and daub building and replace with a new purpose built house, with bathroom and toilet facilities, solar panels for lighting and solar batteries for power, as in the monsoon season it is not unusual for there to be no electric for days at a time. When we have no power it is impossible for us to pump water from the bore well.

Our trusty jeep has now come to the end of its life. It was 10 years old and regularly needed costly repairs. Every Monday, Murugan the John Foster Memorial Home Manager, in the jeep drives for one and a half hours down the mountain to Batlagundu to the market for the weekly vegetable shopping. He has to go to Madurai which is a two and a half hour journey to go to the bank and regularly to Dindigul to the local Authority Offices for the numerous documents that have to be dealt with. These journeys had become very dangerous, as if he breaks down, he is not only a danger to himself but to other road users, as the mountain roads are very narrow and extremely twisty.

It is very pleasing and rewarding to learn that the boys are equipped through their education to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. This year, 2018 - 2019, they have achieved outstanding school results.

S.No	NAME	MARKS
1.	Naganaj	~ 391 School first
2.	Chitraiswaran	~ 379 School second
3.	Logeshwaran	~ 378 School third
4.	Krunkumar	~ 372
5.	Nishan	~ 349
6.	Sathiyameerthi	~ 334

100% Success
Congratulation to each student for their Success
BY J.F. HOME COMMITTEE

Publicised school results

“It costs about £10,000 per year to run the home. The main increase in costs will be the extra food required to feed the extra intake of boys.”

**Mrs Sheila Hargreaves,
Secretary of the Trust.**



The boys with their new blankets

WHAT IS NEEDED?

A NEW HOUSE



The new house which will be called “Columba House” will cost approximately

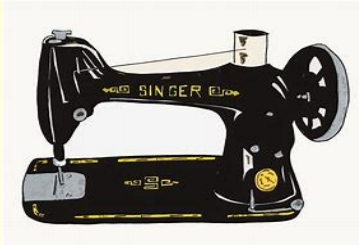
£45,000.00

to clear the site and rebuild



COMPUTERS, I.T. EQUIPMENT, STATIONERY and SEWING MACHINES

It is important that the boys learn about modern day technology and practice sewing skills, as the boys may take up the tailoring profession.



Computers, I.T. Equipment, Stationery
and Sewing Machines

£5,000.00

A NEW JEEP

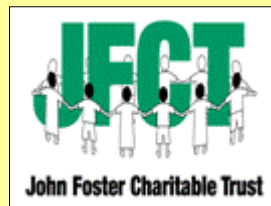
£12,000.00



HOW CAN YOU HELP?



The Smarties Challenge



Be a 'SMARTIE' and fill a tube with
20p or £1 pieces!

Buy a tube of Smarties for you to eat,
But the empty tube you must keep,
£1 or 20p pieces you need to find,
Ask friends and family, they won't mind,
Fill up your tube right to the top,
Return in a few weeks for our fundraising pot.



How to take part

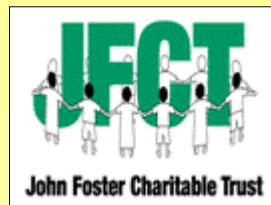
- Buy a tube of Smarties.
- Eat and enjoy, but save the tube
- Collect money from family and friends to help fill the tube.
- The Knights or another designated person will collect all the filled Smarties Tubes.

A Smartie tube will hold £12 in 20p pieces and £27 in £1 coins!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



Fundraising Ideas



Coffee Mornings

Sponsored Walk or Cycle Ride

Horse Race Night

Bingo Night - Quiz Night

Cheese & Wine Evening

Summer Barbecue

Bake a Cake Sale

Car Boot Sale

Organise a Car Wash

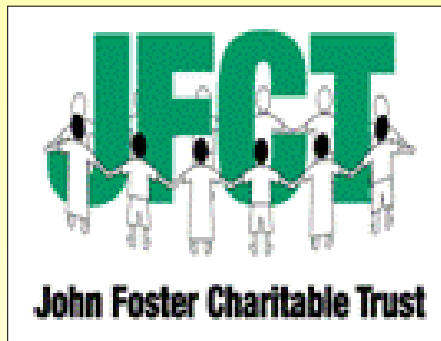
Donations

**Cheques made payable to :
"Knights of St Columba"
On the reverse please add "NAP-JFCT"
and post to
Knights of St Columba
75 Hillington Road South
Glasgow G52 2AE**

THANK YOU



TM



Check out our website and social media

www.jfct.org.uk

On Facebook

@johnfostermemorialhome

Booklet produced by
The Trustees of the John Foster Charity Trust

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