

from

# BATEMANS



## Plot on!

Help kickstart our campaign to raise the £70,000 needed for a plot of land in Chennai – by filling in our 2013-14 Wish List.

Thanks to your support of the Wish List last year, we raised the £10,000 we needed for a Batemans Bus – and now we're calling on your support again.

Just complete the Wish List inserted with this newsletter – and give a Christmas gift you know will make a real difference! Alternatively, download the wish list from

[www.batemans.org.uk](http://www.batemans.org.uk)

# Building a brighter future

New era for Batemans, as it launches a major project to build its own school and boarding home

The Batemans Trust has announced exciting plans to buy land to develop its own school and boarding home in Chennai.

This major project forms the key part of Batemans' strategic plan for the next five years, which revolves around ensuring the charity can reach out to a greater number of children and control the ever-increasing costs of some of its projects. The building would include a primary school, an Open School (for secondary-aged children with special needs) and a boarding home for five to 18 year-olds.

As part of this strategic plan, Batemans' involvement with St George's School will be reduced. The partnership with St George's has been very beneficial to a whole generation of children over the last 15 years and the trustees have expressed

their gratitude to the Bishop of Madras, Rt Rev Dr V Devasahayan and Dr GK Francis, Correspondent of St George's, for their friendship over many years. However, as the fortunes and focus of the school have changed, there is no longer any particular need for Batemans to be funding the boarding home, which today houses only 40 children (20 of whom are sponsored by Batemans supporters).

By contrast, the charity has seen an expansion in the numbers of children

housed in hostels and being schooled in projects run directly by Batemans. An all-Indian management and teaching team now support more than 100 young people in various projects across the city.

But there are significant financial challenges, as Mike Sewell, chair of trustees, explained. 'The cost per child has almost trebled in five years, with spiralling rent and school costs. It's great to be running more projects, but they are on different sites and this inevitably leads to higher costs.'

'Our ambition to buy land and then build our own modern and sustainable home – in a less expensive part of Chennai – will mean that, in the long term, our day-to-day

## Batemans' projects your money is supporting

- **Open School** – for children who struggle in mainstream education
- **St George's School** – boarding home for Anglo-Indians at St George's School
- **'Lisa' Bhavan and Boys Bhavan** – hostels for girls and boys at school or in higher education
- **School fees, books and uniforms** – for more than 80 children
- **Higher education and vocational studies** – support for a further 20 young people



Donate to Batemans and make a real difference...

Visit our page at [www.justgiving.com/batemanstrust](http://www.justgiving.com/batemanstrust)

→ running costs will be significantly reduced.'

The Trust will be undertaking a fundraising drive, with the first milestone being to raise the £70,000 required to identify and buy a suitable plot of land. This year's Batemans Wish List – inserted with this newsletter – gives you the chance to help kickstart the process.

To support this – and to help ensure Batemans' ongoing projects are effectively supported – the trustees are also advertising for a part-time fundraising expert, who will focus on applying for grants from public and private bodies.

The plans were unveiled in September at a 'Spice Lunch' in Oxfordshire, which was attended by many people who have supported the charity since it was first created. 'With changes in the nature of our partnership with St George's – and with these exciting plans to build our own school and boarding home – it feels like we are embarking on a new era,' said Mike. 'Thank-you to everyone who has helped us get this far – and we trust we can count on your support in the future.'

### How you can help

- Sign up a new sponsor
- Fill in the Wish List
- Buy Priya Goes To School books
- Make a one-off donation via [www.justgiving.com/batemanstrust](http://www.justgiving.com/batemanstrust)

## Tributes to loyal supporters

We are sad to announce that four very special supporters of the Batemans Trust have died.

Mike Eliseou was a trustee since our early days. He was based in Chennai and provided much-needed support to Alex Jacob and our local team over the years. His wisdom and guidance will be much missed and we plan to name a space in our new home after Mike, as a recognition for all he did for the charity.

Barbara Johnson, Roberta Floate and Guy Robinson each made a very significant and much valued contribution to the work of Batemans. We are deeply grateful to all of them for their long, loyal and generous support.



# Top triathletes!

**Four children from south Oxfordshire raised around £2,000 for the Batemans Bus appeal by taking part in a sponsored triathlon in Wales over the May bank holiday weekend.**

The youngsters, Mia, Marita, Rosanna and Jamie, began the triathlon by cycling

around the Beddgelert Forest Park, after which they kayaked around Lake Gwynant. Our picture shows the four 11-year-olds as they completed their impressive feat by climbing Mount Snowdon. Two of the youngsters are involved in Cholsey Church, which is a wonderful supporter of Batemans.

## Batemans Bus: £10,000 target reached



**Whether it was donating through last year's Wish List, making a contribution via [www.justgiving.com/batemans](http://www.justgiving.com/batemans) or taking part in a special triathlon (see above) we have raised more than £10,000 as a result of your generosity**

That means we are almost ready to invest in a bus that will help us address the logistical and costly challenge of transporting our children around the busy city of Chennai via rickshaws, taxis and hired minibuses.



# Events with a purpose

We have run a series of Batemans fundraising events during 2013.

These have included a six-a-side cricket and football tournament in Cambridge (right), spice lunches in Oxfordshire and Cumbria and a series of visits to interesting sites, including Coton Manor Garden in Northamptonshire, Whitchurch Silk Mill in Hampshire and Hughenden Manor, in Buckinghamshire, where supporters enjoyed a performance of Romeo and Juliet.

Mary Thompson, who once again co-ordinated and arranged the programme,



said: 'Each year, we look to arrange new and interesting events and visits. I am grateful to everyone who supports them and if anyone has any suggestions for good places to visit in 2014, do please let me know.'

# Priya makes the perfect present



**Have you ordered your copies of Priya Goes to School yet?**

This heartwarming picture book, co-created by Batemans children and volunteers, tells the story of a girl from Chennai who was unable to go to school... until her life was changed forever.

Hundreds of people have already

bought copies of the full-colour book, with each one containing with three 'tsunamica' finger puppets that were made by women living in villages devastated by the 2004 tsunami.

The book would make a wonderful Christmas present for anyone aged between four and nine. So why not order your copy now, by sending a cheque payable to the Batemans Trust (Priya) to Stocks Lane Farmhouse, Steventon, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX13 6SS. Or visit [www.justgiving.com/batemans](http://www.justgiving.com/batemans), make your payment and then let us know you have done so by emailing [mail@batemans.org.uk](mailto:mail@batemans.org.uk)

The suggested donation for each copy of the book is £7.50 to £10, including postage and packing.

# Expert fundraiser wanted

The Batemans Trust is on the lookout for a fundraiser to join our team on a part-time basis.

In the past we have always prided ourselves on the tiny proportion of our income (less than 5%) that is spent on administration and other expenses.

However, as we enter the next phase of our development, the trustees have agreed that some expert support and leadership in this area would be invaluable.

We envisage that the person appointed could work from home for up to three days a week.

For information about the role, please see our website at [www.batemans.org.uk](http://www.batemans.org.uk)

# Run for Batemans

Ever fancied running a marathon? A group of Batemans trustees and supporters are taking part in the 2014 Edinburgh Marathon on Sunday May 25.

At the time of writing it was still possible to book a place in the event which, perhaps surprisingly, is run over one of the flattest marathon courses in Britain. See more at [www.edinburgh-marathon.com](http://www.edinburgh-marathon.com)

Mike Sewell, chair of Batemans Trustees, said: 'We would love anybody to join us – seasoned marathon runners or, like me, first-timers. Our main motivation is to raise as much money as possible for Batemans, so if you can't take part, do please support us via [www.justgiving.com/batemanstrust](http://www.justgiving.com/batemanstrust) or send a cheque to the address on the back page.'



It doesn't cost much to make a real difference...

Tuition teacher for one month... £60



# Batemans snapshot

These pictures give you a snapshot of the work the Batemans Trust undertakes day in day out in Chennai. Our local team – led by Monica Augustine, supported by Mr Samuel (Ragland) and Mr Srinivasan – oversees the daily care and education of more than 100 young people, including those in school, university and professional and vocational training.



◀ Establishing rules for a happy and productive classroom in the Open School



▲ Providing clean water...

▶ ...and nourishing food

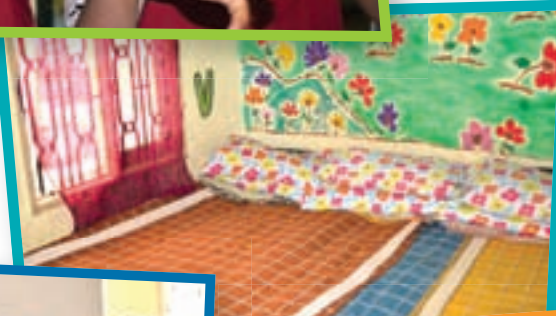


◀ Monica Augustine (back row) who leads our team in Chennai



▲ Going on a bear hunt with 3rd standard

▶ Creating safe and secure hostels which are a real 'home from home'



▲ Ensuring our motivated teachers have the training they need to deliver effective and inspiring lessons



◀ Mr Srinivasan (left) and Mr Samuel are two of our key members of staff



▲ Planning for the future... watch this space!

## Fancy being a Batemans volunteer?

The Batemans Trust is always keen to hear from potential volunteers, particularly people with practical or teaching skills. Visit [www.batemans.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.batemans.org.uk/volunteer) to find out more and, if you are interested in applying, please email [mail@batemans.org.uk](mailto:mail@batemans.org.uk) with the following subject line: Volunteering for Batemans.