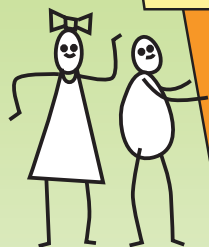


from

# BATEMANS



## Welcome...

to the latest newsletter from the Batemans Trust.

With your generous support, our staff in India continue to offer a real 'home from home' to our boarders and to enhance the lives of all the children in our care with inspirational lessons and fun extra-curricular activities.

This newsletter updates you on what's been happening in Chennai, highlights the great work being done by our staff, volunteers and supporters and provides an update on our ambitious plans for the future.

Our annual wish list is inside this newsletter - so just complete the form to give a Christmas gift that really does make a difference to people's lives.

Alternatively, order your gift(s) by visiting: <http://campaign.justgiving.com/charity/batemanstrust/wishlist2015-16>.

Every £10 is a real help!



Flying the flag at sports day...  
See more on page 4.

## Batemans' high standards recognised

Chennai child welfare department praises our team's work

A visit from three members of the Chennai child welfare department earlier this year recognised the outstanding work of the Batemans Trust.

Inspectors who visited the Open School and hostels were impressed with the high standards of hygiene, health care and education they observed.

In a letter recognising the care and protection offered by our team, Glory Gunaseeli, district child protection officer, wrote: "I wish you all the best for your future endeavours in setting up benchmarks for providing care and protection for children in crisis."

Following the visit, they recommended that two children known to the department be admitted into our care. They also confirmed that three children, for whom we have cared for many years, can be declared wards of the charity for their protection.

Trustee Alex Jacob said: "It's great to receive this important, independent recognition for our high levels of care and we are proud of our continued good relationship with the Chennai welfare authority."

Such high standards are only maintained because of the dedication and hard work of the team in Chennai and because of the continued support of all our donors.

Thank you!

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Donate to Batemans and make a real difference...

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

# Batemans featured in *Anglos in the Wind* magazine

The Batemans Trust started out helping the Anglo-Indian children at St George's School in Chennai and many of our children still come from this minority community. In recognition of this work, *Anglos In The Wind*, the international magazine for the Anglo-Indian community, published an article about Batemans earlier this year. Here, we include an abridged version



Rebecca Brett, seen here in action at this year's sports day, is one of the many Anglo-Indians to have been supported by Batemans over the years.

Anglo-Indians are an independent lot. They've had to be, because as a distinct minority community they have upheld separate traditions from those around them.

For many, this spirit of freethinking and sometimes sheer bloody-mindedness has brought great success, but for others it has led to problems: irregular family lives, broken homes and neglected children.

In 1994, Alex Jacob came to Madras (now Chennai) from the UK to help the Anglo-Indian children at St George's School in Shenoy Nagar.

On her return to England, she set up a

charity called the Batemans Trust, to support children living in St George's boarding home. However, Alex was painfully aware that some children were being overlooked, not least Anglo-Indians from broken homes who had missed parts of their schooling or were held back by emotional problems.

So the charity set up an Open School with counsellors and progressive teaching to help these youngsters pass the exams needed for entry into further education or vocational qualifications.

Batemans admits needy children from a range of backgrounds, but Anglo-Indian youngsters remain a particular priority.

Many of these children have suffered abuse, bereavement and neglect, but are now thriving, thanks to Batemans.

As a small charity, Batemans ensures around 95% of the money raised goes directly to the project in Chennai. With support from sponsors and donors around the world, it has successfully helped scores of children to become emotionally and financially independent and prepared for a life in modern India, while holding on to their Anglo-Indian heritage.

Subscribe to *Anglos in the Wind* via:

<http://www.angloink.com/index.php?route=information/contact>

## Tributes to Batemans supporters

We are sad to announce the death of some very special supporters of the Batemans Trust.

**Samuel 'Joe'**

**Brooks**, an Anglo-Indian who attended St George's School in the 1950s before emigrating to England as a 19-year-old, died this year.

His family said: "Anglo-Indians

are known for two things: eating and talking... and Joe was good at both."

We will all certainly miss his infectious smile at Batemans events and his tales of his Indian childhood, including his experiences representing the state at junior hockey level in India.

**Peter Miller** was our treasurer for ten years, working closely with Nick Thompson to ensure our finances were on a steady footing. He was always supportive of the trustees and

a regular attendee at the annual Spice Lunch and other events.

Meanwhile, we have also lost **Philip Imray**, an Anglo-Indian who attended St George's School and later moved to the UK, **Roger Blackburn**, **Margaret Fordham** and **Maureen Crosby**, the mother of long-standing trustee Paul Crosby.

We are grateful to have known these wonderful people and to have benefited from their support and generosity.



# Tailoring teaching to our children's needs



Trustee Anne Desir, a former teacher in the UK, explains the important role of continuing professional development (CPD) for the Batemans teaching team in India

**"M**ost schools in India have classes of 40 or even 50 pupils. This means that rote learning is often the only learning technique available to children and expected of teachers.

"At the Open School, because we have small classes, we are able to tailor our teaching to the children's needs.

"Whenever I, and other trustees with teaching experience, visit Chennai, we run sessions for staff on special needs, problem-solving, speaking and listening or differentiation. This helps staff to become

more confident using a wider range of teaching techniques.

"Credit must be paid to our teaching staff as this is clearly paying off.

"When I last went over to Chennai in March 2015, I was delighted to witness a special science assembly during which children demonstrated what they had learned by doing small experiments; explained scientific processes in their own word diagrams, which they had drawn; and answered questions with confidence.

"It was great to see the theories being put into practice. Well done to everyone involved!"



## Update:

### The Batemans Trust Development Proposal

BUSINESS PLAN AND PRESENTATION FOR MAJOR DONORS/CORPORATES

## Update on Batemans development plan

Batemans trustees in the UK and India are continuing to work on developing plans to build our own school and boarding facility in or outside Chennai.

Much of the focus in the early part of 2015 was on establishing our development plan, which makes the overall case for creating the facility and highlights why it is not in the charity's long-term interests to continue to rent properties.

Designed for potential major donors, corporates and other stakeholders, it goes into detail about our proposals, which include the following:

- An open school for disadvantaged children who have dropped out of school or have special learning needs
- Accommodation for girls and boys – orphans or those from insecure and unstable backgrounds
- Primary education provision for ages 5-11

- A teacher training centre
- Roaming educational provision (REP) to reach boys, and especially girls, in further rural areas who cannot access education
- Vocational and skills training for children and young people in our care and from surrounding communities
- Transport to good quality secondary schools and colleges for resident children.

If you would like to see a copy of the development plan, please email [mail@batemans.org.uk](mailto:mail@batemans.org.uk)

Meanwhile, our team in India is continuing to carry out research on locations where we could take the first big step towards realising our dream – by buying a plot of land.

Look out for more updates on this during 2016.

## Medical checks



Two visiting British doctors – one a GP and the other a hospital doctor – spent a day with the girls, performing dental checks.

They talked to them about their general health concerns and helped out with the girls' queries. Staff were also able to receive welcome advice and information on healthcare issues.



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

Uniform and school shoes for one child... £15

# Chennai Chatter

Batemans prides itself on giving the children in our care rich and varied experiences, and life has been as busy as ever at the Open School and our hostels. These pictures give you a taste of some of the many things the children have been up to when not in lessons.



## Sports day



The children definitely looked the part during this year's sports day





# Activities



A trip to the Railway Museum



Rolling chapatis

Of course,  
there is always time for dancing...



## Could you be a Batemans volunteer?

The Batemans Trust is always keen to hear from potential volunteers. Although those with teaching skills are particularly needed, we welcome anyone who feels they can offer something to the young people in our care.

To find out more, please email Anne Desir via [mail@batemans.org.uk](mailto:mail@batemans.org.uk) with Volunteering as your subject line.



## "The energy of the children was infectious"

Imogen Sewell reflects on her experience as a Batemans volunteer earlier this year

In 2006, my family moved to Chennai for nine months, where my parents volunteered for Batemans and my brothers and I went to school. This was a life-changing experience for me, offering me a perspective rarely gained by British 11-year-olds. In February 2015 I returned to Chennai with my boyfriend, Sam, where we spent four weeks helping out at the Open School.

It was so interesting to see how much the city had developed in a relatively short space of time. I loved revisiting familiar places, such as Marina Beach, and also exploring Chennai's ever-growing assortment of cinemas, bars and restaurants, most of which were certainly not there nine years ago.

Sam and I spent our mornings as general classroom assistants, and in the afternoons we led music and drama workshops. A friend of ours had kindly donated his guitar, and it was fantastic to see the children leading their own sing-a-longs (complete with guitar and makeshift drums) by the end of our month.

From the day we arrived, the children's enthusiasm was completely overwhelming.

Monica's leadership and commitment to the school was inspiring – the love and respect between the staff and children created a friendly and homely environment. Often Sam and I would stay in the Open School until late in the evening; the energy of the children to talk and play with us was infectious.

Seeing the project in action was highly rewarding. The flexible approach at Batemans is clearly working, with some children getting the attention they need at the Open School, while others benefit from being around their peers in the mainstream system. However, as time went on it became increasingly clear how much Batemans would benefit from its own building.

One of the most significant aspects of the trip for me personally was meeting teenagers my age who were supported by Batemans. Most at college (university), and some in full time education, their expressions of gratitude for Batemans and their education was incredibly humbling – and to this day stops me moaning about my own essay deadlines!

Saying goodbye after four weeks was so hard – and I cannot wait to return as soon as I can.



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

Teacher's salary for one month... £70

# Transforming lives...

## past students say thank you to the Batemans Trust

A new video shows how former students have gone on to thrive since “graduating” from Batemans. Here, trustee Alison Reid picks out some of the highlights. You can watch the film via our website at [www.batemans.org.uk](http://www.batemans.org.uk)

**S**ome of the children the Batemans Trust has helped to educate came to us at a very young age.

Many of those students, who are now working and, in some cases, have families of their own, gathered to record on film some of their experiences and thoughts about their time with the Batemans Trust.

The impact of Batemans’ work is evident not only in the careers that these past students have been encouraged to pursue but also in the confidence and sense of self-esteem they display as they reflect on their time with the trust.

So many of the former students thanked Batemans Trust not only for our support in academic education but also for the extra-curricular activities they were encouraged to take part in.

All wanted to thank Batemans for helping them to become fully rounded, confident adults.

On the video Christopher, who is now working in one of the best hairdressing salons in Chennai, told how Batemans helped him decide what career to follow and paid for his hairdressing school fees. He is now married with a two-month-old daughter. He says: “I’m grateful to Batemans Trust for shaping my career.”

Catherine is now working as a primary school teacher in Chennai and she too believes much of her success in life is down to Batemans and its founder Alex Jacob. She had been with Batemans since the age of 10. She believes all the extra activities such as stitching, dancing, drama – and bringing a library into the boarding home at St George’s

– helped her fulfil her childhood dream of having a career in teaching.

Other students speak of the confidence they gained during their time at Batemans. Rebecca, who is studying English literature in Chennai, tells how she wants to be “a great teacher using all the things I have learned from Alex and other volunteers. Batemans has encouraged me to develop in all aspects, to be independent and confident in all I do. Thank you Batemans.”

Michael and Christabelle both fondly remember the Christmas plays, with the latter reflecting on how they helped her forget all about exam tensions. She is “happy to say I am a confident and bold girl”.

Michael is studying at St Thomas College for Arts and Science in Chennai and is enjoying his stimulating course. He agrees that, besides the support with his education, some of the best times were working with Alex and the volunteers on Christmas plays and dance shows: “It’s because of them that I’m like this now. Thank you guys!”

It is so good to see these young people grow up and embark on their own lives and careers with a confidence they’ve developed thanks to Batemans.







# Batemans bus drives on!

Thanks to your fundraising in the past, we were able to buy a bus to transport our children across Chennai. It's going strong and saving us a lot of money on public transport and rickshaw fares.

## Fabulous fundraisers

Our wonderful supporters are always thinking up fun and fabulous ways to raise money. Here are just a few of the events staged this year:



### Bollywood Night

Trustee Alex Jacob (left) and fundraiser Emma Sagar put on a Bollywood Night

Fundraiser in their local village hall, raising more than £2,000. The sell-out night was a lot of fun with Bharatnatyam dancers, curry buffet and Bollywood music. If you'd like to host a similar night, please email [mail@batemans.org.uk](mailto:mail@batemans.org.uk) for an information pack. We can even supply the music!

### Trucking on

Great work by a team of choppers, stirrers and servers meant another successful year for the Batemans food stall at the Truck Festival in Oxfordshire. Hungry festival-goers couldn't get enough of our five-bean chilli, spicy soups and tasty snacks – and we raised thousands of pounds in the process.

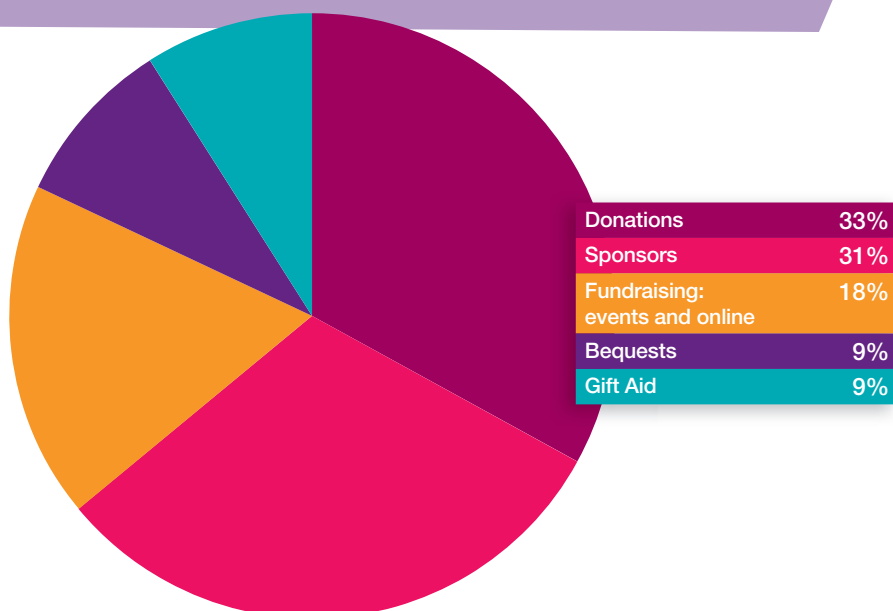


### Frills but no spills

Rachel and Richard Peters from Steventon in Oxfordshire hosted a wonderful cream tea and children's fashion show. Thanks to all those that came, baked cakes and made dresses; it was a glorious day and more than £900 was raised.



## How our funds are raised



### Thanks to Clarks

Clarks Shoes has again made a very generous donation to Batemans for which we are extremely grateful. Clarks has links with the leather industry in Chennai and we are delighted that it continues to support our work in the city.

If you belong to a company that may want to make The Batemans Trust part of its charitable portfolio, please email [mail@batemans.org.uk](mailto:mail@batemans.org.uk) to ask for our development proposal, which sets out our vision for the future.



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

Christmas dinner for 10 children... £25

# Coast to coasting for Batemans

Intrepid walkers and cyclists raise thousands between them



**B**atemans supporters have gone coast-to-coast crazy with not one but two separate expeditions this year.

Trustee Anne Desir and her husband Martyn (left) walked from St Bees on the west coast of England to Robin Hood's Bay on the east, passing through three of Britain's best-loved national parks on the way.

Anne kept her supporters regularly informed of how she was doing on Facebook and posted stunning photographs of the incredibly beautiful countryside she passed through.

Despite some wet and windy weather and days of zero visibility, Anne arrived at Robin Hood's Bay in one piece. She thanked her sponsors for all their support and for the funds they raised for Batemans.

Meanwhile eight friends from Cambridge took on the challenge of cycling coast to coast from Cumbria to Northumberland. Starting at Whitehaven, they cycled north to Carlisle then along the route of Hadrian's Wall to the North Sea at Tynemouth, raising more than £3,000 in the process.

For many of them this was the first long distance cycle ride they had attempted and

it wasn't without its literal and metaphorical ups and downs.

Becky went over the handlebars and broke her wrist on a wet and miserable training ride in July.

A liberal interpretation of medical advice meant that once the plaster came off in early September she was, despite some nerves, back on her bike and training within the week.

She said: "Having had so much amazing support from sponsors, I was determined to complete the ride and the patience and encouragement of my wonderful team mates kept me going."

Rachel made a late attempt to use cleats (those clips things that your feet fit into on the pedals) and found herself in A&E two days before the ride with an unsympathetic doctor suggesting a 150-mile cycle was out of the question.

Undaunted, two days later she was on the train with the team heading north. Despite three punctures and a damaged derailleur, all eight riders completed the trip.

"We felt an amazing sense of achievement as we rode towards the North Sea at Tynemouth," said Becky. "Knowing that we were helping the invaluable work of the Batemans Trust was definitely a great spur to get up those hills."

**WISH LIST 2015/16**

**THE BATEMANS TRUST**

**Give a little sparkle this Christmas**



Looking for gift ideas for your friends and loved ones? Here's your chance to present them with something that will improve the lives of disadvantaged children in Chennai, South India.

Our 2015/16 Wish List shows how your donations make a practical difference to the day-to-day lives of children supported by the Batemans Trust and bring a bit of sparkle to their lives at this special time of year. This year's list will help towards our core costs, so that we can keep our donations made towards our proposed new school.

After checking through the list, please fill in and return the form on the back page, indicating how many gift cards you would like, so you can pass them on to the recipient of your choice. (The gift cards will contain a tear paper hiding star for the recipient to hang up.)

**Thank you,** on behalf of the Batemans Trust. We'll do the rest.

It doesn't cost much to make a difference. See some examples on the centre page of how your donations support our work in Chennai.

## Give a little sparkle this Christmas with our 2015/16 wish list

Each year the wish list helps us to support the children we care for.

This year, to allow us to ring-fence contributions to the school building, we are asking for your help to cover some of our core costs like clothes, food and teachers' salaries.

How does the wish list work?

We will send gift cards containing a small Christmas tree decoration to anyone donating more than £10 to The Batemans Trust Wish List. These cards can be sent to friends and family to let them know that you have made a donation by way of a gift to them.

To make your donation and order your gift card(s), use the wish list enclosed with this newsletter or see the wish list section on our Just Giving page at [www.justgiving.com/batemanstrust](http://www.justgiving.com/batemanstrust)

And please ask your friends and family to get involved too.