

from

BATEMANS

2021 reflections



Celebrating festivals is an important part of life at Satkaarya. The girls put on a fantastic show for Pongal.

Anne Desir, Batemans' chair of trustees, looks back on a year of more highs than lows, despite the continuing challenge of Covid

It's been a year when the resilience and positive outlook of our staff and young people in India has once again come to the fore.

Schools in Chennai largely remained shut and the pandemic restricted activities outside our boarding homes. Staff succumbed to the virus, increasing workloads and anxiety, but all thankfully made a full recovery.

Satkaarya, our operation in India, continued to welcome new children referred by local social workers, the International Justice Mission (which works with trafficked children) and the Chennai Child Welfare board.

Despite the hardships of Covid, the children remain engaged and lively, enjoying a huge breadth of activities, from campfires on the roof terrace to election hustings and voting.

Several of our older girls started college courses this year, including one who is taking a BA in English. One of our young men has just secured an excellent accountancy position within a large local firm and has already been commended for his strong sense of responsibility. This is what Batemans-Satkaarya does so well; giving children and young people the opportunity to fulfil their potential and become financially secure and useful members of society.

Progress on the build for the new school came to a halt when the Chennai planning department shut again. However, in the past few months it feels as if things are really moving ahead. Clarifications have finally been given on the complex building regulations and our architect trustee, Paul Crosby, is working closely with Suhasini Ayer of Auroville Design, our architect in Chennai, to prepare final plans for submission.

It's great to know that we have sufficient funds in place to start the first part of the building project once planning permission is granted.

We all hope that 2022 will bring relief from Covid. But whatever the next year has in store, we are confident that, thanks to the continued generosity of our supporters, Batemans-Satkaarya's life-changing work will continue to flourish.



Donate to Batemans and make a real difference...

Visit our page at www.justgiving.com/batemanstrust

Stepping up to raise much-needed funds

Another challenging year for fundraising has been met with innovative ideas, energy and generosity. Although quiz nights and curry suppers were out, quilt-making and sales of special treat boxes were definitely in.

Cambridge-based supporter Dawn Giesler was the happy winner of the raffle for a special Batemans quilt, made by the indefatigable women of The Old Moulsham Book Club, Chelmsford.

Supporters have stepped up – and not just metaphorically – but literally. Trustee Marion Mills, recovering from two hip replacements, completed 50 walks to raise funds for Batemans. Starting with hobbling four kilometres around a car park, she graduated to a 22-kilometre hike in the New Forest, surpassing her fundraising target in the process.

Others took to their bikes. Trustee Vinod Hallan and his wife, Angela, pedalled 100 kilometres, with their efforts being supported and promoted by their gym manager, Michelle Campbell. They raised more than £1,000.

Meanwhile, Matilda Boulton braved the wind and weather and completed the classic, and often spectacular, long-

Dawn Giesler... raffle winner



Sarah Barry... double marathon achievement



distance bike ride from John O'Groats in Scotland to Land's End in Cornwall.

For others, it was on with the running shoes. Will Sewell ran the Manchester marathon, while regular supporter, Sarah Barry, surpassed that by completing two in two months! Having completed the Southampton marathon in September, she followed that up by taking on the Thames Meander marathon in November. You can still sponsor her at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/barrysforbatemans>

Congratulations and thanks to these and many other people who rise to the Batemans challenge!

Vinod and Angela Hallan... cycling hard



Matilda Boulton... mission accomplished



Isabelle and friends with their bakery on wheels

Libby's rehearsals get serious

School's generous support

We were delighted that the Year 10 students at St Mary's School Ascot chose the Batemans Trust as the beneficiary of their fundraising funfair and silent auction.

They raised a wonderful £4,000 in the process, including auctioning off a signed shirt from Italy and Chelsea football star Jorginho (pictured below).

If you have links with a school that may want to support us, please get in touch. Trustees are always happy to visit schools to speak to young people about our work. Email mail@batemans.org.uk for more information.

Young fundraisers' wheely great ideas

Two of our youngest fundraisers, who have happy memories of time spent with the children in Chennai, tell us about their fabulous fundraising efforts

Libby Jacob:

"Over the past few years, my friend and I have been writing plays and performing them to raise money for Batemans. This year we put on a show called *The House in the Woods*. The very first play I wrote was *Alice in Wonderland* and now I am writing a play called *The Land of Stories*. We raised £186 from donations and everyone enjoyed themselves."

Isabelle Jacob:

"Recently, I have been baking with my friends, Darcie and Eva, and we made a bakery on wheels. We went around the village selling our treats and cakes. They each cost £1 and we raised £20. We also made our own Maypole dancing performance and raised £15. We are really excited about doing our next fundraising event."



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

Christmas dinner for 10 children... £30

"Be the change you want to see in this world" - Mahatma Gandhi

Our dedicated staff, under the leadership of our project director, Monica Augustine, give vulnerable children the confidence they need to feel they can be change-makers in today's complex world. Here four girls reflect on their commitment to be the change they want to see

Kalpana



Kalpana writes of her ambitions to work in the Indian civil service:

"I am working very hard to become an India Administrative Service officer and I want to see changes in the government

*I am going to
to be the change*

authorities who have to serve the people...People in responsible positions misuse their power by coveting people's money, by not valuing people's time, by not being meticulous at the work place and by being aggressive...I will make sure that I treat people equally, irrespective of caste, colour, gender, race or nationality... I will endeavour to promote the national welfare and national interest...I will stand strong against any form of bribery. I will only abide by the law and stand up for the truth...Therefore, I would be the change that I want to see."

Charlotte



Charlotte considers the change she will make to help prevent air pollution:

"Children in India enjoy celebrating Diwali by bursting lots and lots of crackers. This is a major cause of air pollution. But if I want this to change I know I must be the change. Hence from this year onwards, my friends and I at the hostel are going to celebrate a green

*I know many are
going to follow me.*

Diwali...spending time with friends and family, lamp-lighting...making sweets for neighbours, putting on a special show and drawing colourful rangoli patterns... When I take this first step, I know many are going to follow me. We are the future generation so let's acknowledge the things that we do which affect the environment and the air we breathe. Let's start right now. I already have."

Andrea writes of her concerns about wasting water:

"Water is a crucial elixir of life that is often taken for granted. But for some, getting access to water is difficult. Now I can be the change by making small changes in my day-to-day life. I will use water very carefully, not letting even a drop waste by checking if the taps are closed properly. I will collect rainwater... and use this water for washing clothes.

*I know that change
starts from me.*

I want to grow many plants. I want to keep my surroundings clean so the ground water does not get polluted. I want to be healthy and also help others be healthy and happy. I know that change starts from me."

Andrea



Broadening horizons

Yuvasree has reflected on the rise of online learning during the pandemic and how children have missed out on the benefit of face-to-face teaching. This is change she is keen to reverse.

"We cannot rule out the fact that learning directly from a human...gives immense interest in education (rather

Education is the root of the world

than) the boring machine that shows colourful pictures and teaches without depth. I have an ambition to become a teacher who can open the minds of young students. Whatever may be the trials... we will change the world with knowledge, a mighty weapon. Education is the root of the world. We will ensure it is strong. I strongly believe in Malala's words: "One pen, one book, one teacher, one student can change the world."

Yuvasree



Trips out, extracurricular and team-building activities organised by our staff and older children in Chennai are not only enormous fun, they also broaden horizons and raise self-esteem.



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

Tailoring classes for one month... £25

Education for the 21st century

Trustees with an impressive breadth of experience in education are developing a vision for Satkaarya Education, the division of the Satkaarya Trust that will deliver our new project. Here we focus on three of the elements of the strategy outlined in the graphic (below)

A committee made up of headteachers, academics, special educational needs experts and those with knowledge of the Indian education system has been meeting regularly over the past year.

Their aim has been to ensure our new education project meets all national and state requirements, while also meeting the individual needs of each student.

1. School centre of excellence

Caring for the individual has always been at the heart of the work of Batemans-Satkaarya and Satkaarya Education will share this passion. Our new primary school will nurture the potential of each child in a place where they can feel emotionally secure. It will provide quality education to many children who would otherwise fall outside of the national school

system, such as the children of migrant workers, those with special needs and girls living in semi-rural communities.

Our school will offer a learner-centred bilingual curriculum that will develop problem-solving and higher-order thinking skills and which will give children the tools they need to thrive in their rapidly changing global landscape.

2. Teacher professional development courses

Our professional development courses will aim to disseminate best practice. Online courses in early literacy, phonics, dyslexia training, emotional literacy and bilingual teaching are currently under development and we are working on forging links with local teacher training colleges.



Nurturing the potential of each child



Quality education

Meet our new trustees

Batemans is benefiting from the input of two former headteachers who have further strengthened our trustee team

Q Why did you want to be a trustee?

Marion Mills: Having retired after a long teaching career, it was important to me to still do something linked with education and children. I was also keen to support Alex Jacob, the trust's founder, in perpetuating a shared ethos.

Amanda Morris-Drake: I'm passionate about the importance of access to good quality education for all children and particularly interested in supporting the building and establishment of the new school.

Q Where do you feel you can make a particular contribution?

Marion: With nearly 23 years of experience as a primary headteacher, I have knowledge and skills that will be useful in setting up the new school. I have worked with schools in eight different European countries as well as visiting a partner school in Uganda and have helped deliver training to teachers. Internationalism and a global approach are important for the development of all young people.

Amanda: I have 40 years of experience in education. I have specialised in supporting children with mental health difficulties and feel my expertise will benefit the children and teachers within the organisation.

Q How would you complete the sentence? "I want to give my time to support the work of the Batemans Trust because..."

Marion: I have the energy and enthusiasm to advocate for high educational outcomes for children and I'm keen to see the UN Sustainable Development Goals achieved for all young people. I am impressed by the support Batemans gives young people and the real difference it makes.

Amanda: I am passionate about the importance of access to good quality education for all children. I believe children's welfare is fundamental to supporting the foundations of learning and want to help ensure every Batemans child is given the opportunity to shine.



The Batemans Bus will provide an outreach service

3. Outreach

The Batemans Bus, generously funded by The Welding Institute, will be used even before the school is built. It will provide an outreach service delivering storytelling, hygiene lessons, games and basic English language to families with young children in rural areas around Sendrambakkam, the area of Chennai where the new school will be built.

Project development role

Our vision is ambitious and to help it become a reality we are advertising for a project development officer in Chennai to spearhead the initial phase of the project.

We are seeking sponsorship to cover this cost of this post, estimated at £2,500pa. If you or your business would like to sponsor this role, please contact trustee Becky Sewell at rebecca.sewell@batemans.org.uk.



Marion Mills



Amanda Morris-Drake



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

Mosquito netting for one window... £20

Join the Grand 100 to hit phase one target

The total cost of building our new school has been estimated at around £250,000. The plan is to build in phases, with phase one costing £140,000 and providing classrooms for nursery and lower primary education.

Thanks to the generosity of corporate and individual donors, at the time of writing we only need a further £14,000 to meet all the phase one costs.

Could you join the Grand 100 and become part of a very special band of supporters donating £1,000 to our building fund? More than 25 businesses, schools and individuals have already done so.

Donations can be made:

- Via our Grand 100 JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/batemansgrand100>
- Directly into our bank account using online banking
(The Batemans Trust;
sort code 40-41-30
account number 21628984;
Ref G100)
- Through the Donate buttons on the home page of the batemans.org.uk website

- By sending a cheque to The Batemans Trust, 27 Stocks Lane, Steventon, Abingdon OX13 6SS.

You will receive a special certificate and card acknowledging your Grand 100 donation.

If you don't feel you can be part of the

Grand 100 at the moment, any amount, however small, will make a difference. If you want your donation to be ringfenced for the school project, please send us an email at mail@batemans.org.uk and we will ensure it is only used for this purpose.



Where your money goes

In the financial year to April 2021, our supporters raised or donated an incredible £85,000. This bar chart shows a breakdown of how the money was spent:

- Project running costs in Chennai
- Ring-fenced for building project
- Administration expenses (UK)
- Staff pensions in Chennai

