

from

BATEMANS



We do happy!

Anne Desir, Batemans' chair of trustees, celebrates the tremendous work of our staff in Chennai who foster an environment in which children and young people can thrive.

The past few years have been extremely challenging for the team at the Satkaarya Trust, our sister charity in Chennai.

Covid-19 – with its lockdowns and school closures – burdensome bureaucracy, the rising cost of living and unusually bad flooding in Chennai have all led to increased workloads and stress.

However, throughout it all, our staff have kept the happiness of the children in their care at the heart of all they do. As well as providing a safe and secure home and access to good-quality education, they also ensure the children have opportunities to be creative, active and, throughout it all, have fun. They have created a very special place where children, many of whom have had traumatic pasts, can thrive and have a chance to become the best versions of themselves.

Happy children are children who are open to learn and there have been some great academic successes this year. All the young people who sat public exams passed – some with exceptionally good results. This means they have all been able to move up a year at school or progress to further or higher education or into employment. We are immensely proud of them all!



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

“Throughout it all, our staff have kept the happiness of the children in their care at the heart of all they do”

Inspectors from the Chennai Child Welfare committee were full of praise for the hostels on their latest visits to renew the licences for the girls and boys hostels.

While progress on the project to build our own school has been very frustrating at times (see page 7), we are delighted that a social worker, Logesh Kumar, has joined the Satkaarya team.

He is now leading a new outreach programme run from the purchased land at Sendrambakkam. You can find out more about his work on page 6.

Of course, none of this hope and enthusiasm would be possible without the hard work of our fundraisers and the generosity of all our supporters. Thank you!



Donate to Batemans and make a real difference...

Visit our page at www.justgiving.com/batemanstrust

How three young people are

A privilege of being involved in Batemans-Satkaarya is to share in the joy of staff, trustees and supporters as our young people become emotionally secure and financially independent adults who can step out into the world with confidence. Here, our project director Monica Augustine introduces three young people making that step - and learns about their ambitions for the future

JESTINA, now 17 years old, joined us when she was 10. She came to us as a very disturbed child, but has had an immense transformation from being a very sensitive child to a very sensible, responsible and independent young adult who can learn from her mistakes and become a better person as a result. She started university this year, has high goals and aspirations, and is a good influence for her peers.

CHARLOTTE, 18, came to Batemans-Satkaarya at the age of nine. Charlotte came from a family in which it was difficult for her to access education. She was always a very responsible child and took good care of her friends, which still continues today. She is a great role model and inspiration for young children and has also just started at university.

Q What course are you taking at college?

Jestina: A bachelor's degree in commerce.

Charlotte: A bachelor's degree in English literature.

Q Why did you choose that course?

Jestina: Commerce and business management interests me a lot. I'm planning to choose banking or the corporate sector as my career path.

Charlotte: More than other subjects, I had a real interest in English. So I chose to take literature and hope to become an English teacher.

Q How are you finding college life and what challenges, if any, are you facing?

Jestina: College life gives me a wide range of opportunities to learn more and to exhibit my talents. But there are higher expectations towards us to research further, to present more and practise self-study, unlike at school, which is challenging.

it is very competitive.

Charlotte: College is a place where I find a lot of opportunities to explore more and improve my skills. The challenge I face is doing lots of research and it is very competitive.

Q Can you name some ways that Batemans-Satkaarya has helped you get where you are today?

Jestina: Firstly, I thank Batemans-Satkaarya for supporting me to complete my schooling. Starting as a 10-year-old, this place gave me every opportunity to discover, develop and demonstrate my skills. The privilege of having an extensive library has benefited me to communicate effectively in English. The basic computing skills that I was taught aids me to do my presentations and research efficiently. The leadership roles given to me here – and the skills I have learnt – are helping me to fulfil my responsibilities as a class representative at college.

Charlotte: Batemans-Satkaarya has helped by giving me a good education and allowed me to develop my talents. It

made me realise my self-worth, to know my own abilities and made me independent to be a successful person in life. I developed great interest in English due to all the books I was encouraged to read in the hostel and the opportunities I was given to express myself.

Q What are your hopes for the future?

Jestina: After completing my degree, I would like to pursue a Master's in Business Administration (MBA).

Charlotte: I am planning to do my teacher's training and become an English teacher.

Charlotte (left) and Jestina



stepping into the adult world

JACOB came to us at the age of 10 and was under our care for seven years. He was always very academically inclined and had the fire in him to achieve something great in his life. Because of his chaotic background, he could have struggled to fulfil his potential, but he benefited greatly from the conducive environment at the hostel. Jacob is now supporting himself and living and working in Chennai.

Q Where are you working and what's your job title?

Jacob: I am working as a Deputy Manager II (Credit Manager) in ICICI Bank.

Q What's the best part of your job and what's the most challenging?

Jacob: The best part of my job is that I don't have much interaction with customers! This way I can do my job without distraction. The challenging part is that I need to do underwriting as well as cross-sell products.

As I'm just starting, it's hard to keep up.

Q Can you name some ways in which Batemans-Satkaarya has helped you get where you are today?

Jacob: The first thing is they put me

they put me in a good school

in a good school and paid my fees. The second is that they helped me become independent.

Q What are your hopes for the future?

Jacob: I hope to continue working in this financial institution and develop my career by getting into a higher position.



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

Christmas dinner for 10 children... £30

A year of celebrations

1 January:
New Year's Day



From Holi to International Women's Day, celebrating festivals and national days has always been an important part of life for the girls and boys at Batemans-Satkaarya.

Festivals inspire their imaginations and

give them the opportunity to showcase their wonderful creativity as they put on plays, perform with music and dance, cook and share food, and produce beautiful artwork.

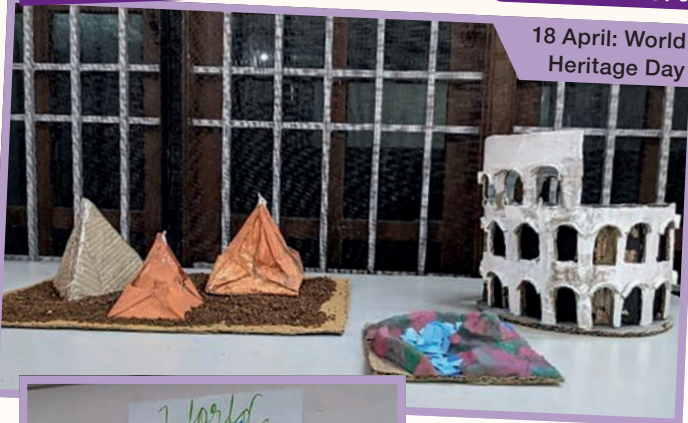
These photos give you a flavour of their celebrations over the past year.



14 January: Pongal (Tamil Hindu Harvest Festival)



25 January: Republic Day



18 April: World Heritage Day



14 April: Tamil New Year



7 April: World Health day



22 April: Earth Day



8 September: Onam (Keralan Harvest Festival)



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Calendar of festivals

- 1 January:** New Year's Day
- 14 January:** Pongal (Tamil Hindu Harvest Festival)
- 25 January:** Republic Day
- 14 February:** Valentine's Day
- 8 March:** International Women's Day
- 18 March:** Holi
- 7 April:** World Health day
- 14 April:** Tamil New Year
- 17 April:** Easter
- 18 April:** World Heritage Day
- 22 April:** Earth Day
- 15 August:** Independence Day
- 8 September:** Onam (Keralan Harvest Festival)
- 24 October:** Diwali
- 14 November:** Children's Day
- 25 December:** Christmas

8 March: International Women's Day



18 March: Holi



25 December: Christmas



Puppy love

Proving that fundraising for Batemans isn't all curries and sporting efforts, Chennai-based trustee Natasha Nolte came up with possibly our most unusual fundraiser yet.

When her miniature schnauzer, Lou Lou, had puppies, Natasha decided to sell them, with the proceeds going directly to the Satkaarya Trust. As any dog owner will know, it was a huge amount of work, and, as Natasha said, definitely a labour of love. But the effort paid off, raising £2,200 for the charity.

Trustee Amanda Morris-Drake also organised a fundraising first for Batemans with her Clothes Swapping Party. She borrowed a clothes rail and in return for items of clothing, donations were made to Batemans, raising £500 in the process.

We were delighted to be able to run our Batemans food stall at the Truck festival in Steventon in July (right). Incredibly, a team of more than 40 volunteers took more than £13,000, the largest amount to date.

This year's Spice Lunch, hosted by Nick and Mary Thompson, was back to full strength and, as well as a delicious meal, guests also heard an update on Satkaarya's activities recorded by Monica Augustine, our project director in Chennai.

Most recently, our chair, Anne Desir, held a curry evening and raised a terrific £600, proving that curry nights still prove winners, while a late summer plant and cake stall in Essex, the second this year, raised nearly £300 for the charity.

So many kind people gave generously through a myriad of other fundraising events, including those who set up a www.justgiving.com/batemanstrust page to celebrate their birthdays and weddings. Thank you all!



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

Tailoring classes for one month... £25

Satkaarya reaches out

While work on securing the appropriate permissions for the build project is in progress, the land at Sendrambakkam is being used to help local families as part of our outreach programme.

Social worker Logesh Kumar (right) joined Satkaarya in June 2022 to undertake this outreach work.

Logesh has been visiting the area and getting to know local families. He has identified children who would benefit from early years education and whose parents could be supported with some basic training in health, hygiene and nutrition.

Project director Monica Augustine explains more: "A temporary shelter has been built on the land and our first outreach session took place in September. It was very well received and we are confident that, as trust in Satkaarya grows in the local community, we can build on this small beginning and use the considerable experience of our staff to help many more disadvantaged children.

"The programme also offers the young people in our homes the opportunity to be part of a project that allows them to give back to others and to foster citizenship and leadership skills."

Introducing Logesh Kumar

Our new social worker, Logesh Kumar, is from Salem, a city about 350km south of Chennai. He has completed a Master's in Social Work and has already engaged in a lot of fieldwork.

Before joining Batemans-Satkaarya, he was employed by Terre Des Hommes Core Trust, rescuing and rehabilitating lost or abandoned children in need of care and protection at the railway station at Salem in Tamil Nadu. Logesh has a good understanding of our work and the requirements of our project, and has made a great start in building relationships with families in the Sendrambakkam area.

Here, he answers some questions about the outreach work.

Q What attracted you to this role with the Satkaarya Trust?

A I was interested in the opportunity to be involved in the feasibility study for different aspects of the school and then to help build a school community for people in and around Sendrambakkam village.

Q Tell us about the particular challenges facing families living in the Sendrambakkam area?

A A shortage of transport facilities makes it more challenging for school and college students to access education, and the lack of an evening tuition centre or community library prevents them from developing themselves.

Q How is our outreach programme helping local children?

A It uses modern educational methods and helps foster basic moral values.

Q What has been the initial response to the outreach programme?

A Initially, it was quite challenging to gain the trust of local people, but that's created a greater responsibility on us to satisfy people in the community and commit ourselves to their children's education.

Q In the long term, how do you see the planned new primary school benefiting the local community?

A In Sendrambakkam, there is limited provision for education and some is quite far away from the area. Most of the parents would like to admit their children to a good local school, so I think the plan will work out with good results. However, it will need time and hard work at ground level.



Update on the building project

Progress on our building project has, at times, felt painfully slow. However, we are reassured by the professionals helping us out in Chennai, such as our architect Suhasini Ayers, that this is nothing unusual and that we should stay positive.

Achieving the necessary permissions

is a multi-step process involving the panchayat (the local village council) and Chennai city metropolitan authorities. At all times we are ensuring that we manage progress in line with our ethical values.

Thanks to the perseverance of our indefatigable project administrator, Raghland Samuels, we have overcome

a major hurdle and received important permissions from the panchayat. The next step is to submit our architectural plans to the city planners, ensuring they meet both local and national standards for school buildings.

Supporters will of course be updated once there is more news to share.

As well as being used for the outreach programme, the land at Sendrambakkam is also a great resource for the children who visit it regularly and use the space for games and celebrations.



In-person benefits

For the first time in two years, a group of Batemans trustees finally held an in-person meeting in April. It was wonderful to be able to see each other again and for some trustees to meet each other for the first time. We even managed a curry at the India Club on the Strand to celebrate!

One positive consequence of lockdown has been that project director Monica Augustine and project administrator Raghland Samuel now join us on Zoom from Chennai for every trustees' meeting, so we get first-hand updates about the project at every meeting.



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

Mosquito netting for one window... £20

Making it all add up

Thanks so much to everyone who contributed to making the financial year to April 2022 one of the best-ever for Batemans.

An impressive £108,000 was raised or donated through sponsorship, fundraising activities and legacies.

So where does your money go?

During 2021-22, just over £67,000 was sent directly to the Satkaarya Trust and used to pay staff, school fees and to run the hostels. Reduced school fees because of Covid school closures meant this was lower than a 'normal' year.

We have no paid staff in the UK and all our trustees and fundraisers volunteer their time and expertise for free. This means a very small percentage is spent on administration in the UK.

In the last financial year, £2,300 was spent in the UK on administrative costs. These include bank charges, printing, postage and legal fees to update our Memorandum of Agreement with Satkaarya and fees to an independent financial examiner, who generously carries out his work at a highly subsidised rate to ensure we are meeting our financial obligations under UK Charity Commission's regulations.

The remaining £38,000 was ring-fenced for the building project, as requested by donors, or held in reserve.

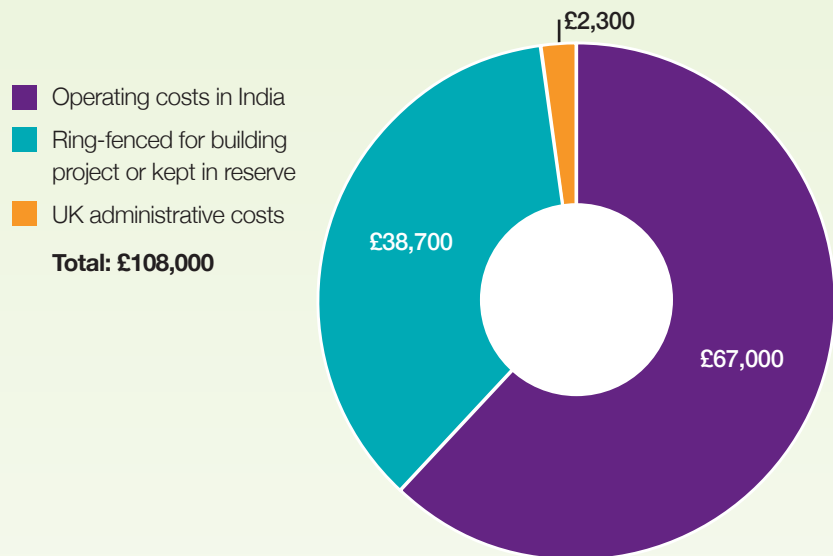
Looking ahead to 2023

With increased school fees, a weakening pound and rising inflation in India, we have budgeted to send over £10,000 more to Satkaarya this financial year than last. Although this seems daunting, we are constantly amazed by the generosity and kindness of our supporters, who continue to see the value of our work and to ensure it can continue.

How you can help

- Run a fundraising event: trustees are always happy to share their expertise at organising a quiz or a charity auction. Email mail@batemans.org to ask for support.

- Donate via our wish list www.batemans.org.uk/donating/wish-list
 - Set up a Just Giving page: and get yourself sponsored for a run, walk or cycle ride.
 - Sponsor a child: for just £15 per month (that's less than three pints of beer, or two in parts of London) you can support one of our young people.
- See more at www.batemans.org.uk/donating



Leaving lasting legacies

Batemans is extremely grateful to have benefited from several generous legacies in the past few years. We have recently been advised of an astonishing £50,000 bequest from Ray Bissell, a stalwart supporter for many years. Legacies provide the charity with a

level of financial security that is invaluable in our uncertain world.

If you wish to leave the Batemans Trust some money in your will, you can do so by either leaving us a percentage of your estate or a specific sum of money. It is always

recommended that you seek legal advice should you wish to change your will.

Whatever you choose to leave, however big or small, we hope you will find it reassuring that your generosity will help transform the lives of disadvantaged children.