



from

BATEMANS



“Good seeds are being planted”

These words, from a visitor to the girls’ home in Chennai, echo the thoughts of **Rebecca Sewell**, chair of Batemans’ trustees, as she reflects on how nurture is at the heart of our work

The word ‘nurture’ encompasses so much of the ethos of The Batemans Trust. We are not just about education – although enabling children and young people to achieve their academic potential is important for us. We are not just about employment-readiness – although we strive to ensure our alumni can become economically independent. We are not just about health – although the children in our care receive good-quality medical care.

We do all these things, but so much more. We want to grow in the children and young people we support a sense of their own worth. A sense of what they deserve to receive and a sense of what



The girls learn to live as part of a loving community

they can give back. The girls in our home learn to live as part of a loving community. The children at our outreach projects feel valued and safe.

I believe this ‘nurture’ is why so many of you continue to sponsor a child year after year, run marathons, organise plant and bake sales, or help out serving food at the annual Truck Festival. I trust that, like us, you see that, through nurture, seeds are planted that bear fruit.

I am struck that visitors to our projects in Chennai often return with a renewed commitment to our work, having seen what happens ‘on the ground’. We have been particularly grateful this year to The Tallow Chandlers’ Company, which, following a visit from senior member

Jonathan Spence, extended a generous grant for a further three years; and to the Jungels-Winkler Foundation, which made a remarkable donation on the back of a visit by Alexandra Jungels-Winkler in summer 2024.

A fundraising highlight was our reception in the fabulous Tallow Chandlers’ Hall in May, when trustee Paul Crosby spoke passionately about his trip from Chennai to Kendal on his Enfield Bullet motorbike. It was a wonderful event.

Along with fellow architect and trustee Sarika Jhawar, Paul is leading the project to build our primary school. We are delighted to report that, having found a



Our staff in Chennai create a nurturing environment

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“A future full of dreams and hope”



Satkaarya prides itself on meeting each child's individual needs. Here, project director **Monica Augustine** shares how the past two years have unfolded for little **Aashita**, a story that illustrates this philosophy perfectly

Aaashita* was seven years old when she arrived at our Satkaarya home in June 2024. She came across as a cheerful child, full of eagerness to learn new things. Within a week of her being admitted, we noticed something unusual about her protruding belly (initially it was conceived to be a result of malnutrition) and Aashita immediately underwent a thorough medical investigation.

The diagnosis

Aashita was diagnosed with a significant and life-threatening congenital digestive disorder. She was admitted to hospital, where the first of three planned corrective surgeries was successfully performed. After she was discharged, we appointed a home nurse to take care of her around the clock. We planned a specialised menu, and meals were prepared accordingly to meet her nutritional requirements and help her heal faster.

In and out of hospital

Between August and December 2024,



Aashita at the hospital, going to school and having fun on a recent trip to a theme park

Aashita underwent a series of planned and unplanned operations. Throughout it all, she never ceased to be cheerful. She continued to entertain herself at home and at hospital with her dolls and playthings around her. She loved to draw and colour and sing.

A well-thought-out care plan and the presence of dedicated staff enabled Aashita to recover quickly after each surgery, and to return to an active and energetic lifestyle as soon as possible. The other girls in the home also played a key part in Aashita's positive outlook. They took great pains to include her in their games and embodied the values of kindness and care that Satkaarya promotes. Aashita would eagerly await their return from school so she could

listen to all their stories! She was so looking forward to the day she herself could go to school.

The final surgery and a fresh start

Aashita underwent a final operation in January 2025. Once her body had recovered, it was time to focus on her education. Never having been to school, she received intensive home schooling for six months. She could also enter fully into all the activities and outings with the other girls. Everyone was very proud of her. She received a special certificate for her resilience and courage.

School at last!

October 2025 has marked the biggest milestone in little Aashita's life. She has finally started regular school; a dream she had cherished for so long has finally become reality.

The team at Batemans-Satkaarya are proud to have given Aashita the right to have a future full of dreams and hope. She wishes to become a police officer when she grows up.

*Name has been changed

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way out of a bureaucratic tangle, things are moving forward very positively. The designs for the new school reflect the concept of nurture. They create child-friendly indoor and outdoor learning spaces, and spaces for local community

use. The structure itself will use sustainable and locally sourced materials with a low-carbon footprint. It is our wish that the nurture of child, community and the environment will be the foundation of this exciting new project.

Children's artwork captures m

"An extremely thrilling experience." That was how one Batemans child, **K. Bhavani**, described October's trip to the seaside, funded by your donations

Every child loves a school trip, and the girls of Satkaarya are no different. An important part of raising the aspirations of the children we care for is to widen their horizons, and to

offer them experiences that will open their eyes to new possibilities and to the wonder and beauty of the world in which they live.

In October 2025, the girls enjoyed a trip to the seaside. One of the highlights was

their visit to the aquarium and marine park, described by the girls as "the best ever!"

As these pages show, the visit became the inspiration for some truly wonderful artwork back at the home.



Painting by
R. Bhavani



Painting by
Eswari

Donate via Batemans Wish List

Our 2025 Wish List focuses on all the things that Batemans provides that go beyond 'basic needs' – but which are so crucial to a child's psychological wellbeing. We firmly believe that it is through this commitment to nurturing the whole child that Batemans-Satkaarya alumni achieve such success as adults. We hope you will be inspired to donate generously.

To donate via our Wish List scan this QR Code with your mobile phone, or visit www.batemans.org.uk/donating/wish-list



Magical marine park memories



Painting by
Roshini



Painting by
Susee



Painting by
Tamilselvi



Painting by
Shalini



Painting by
Keerthi

Did you know?

People in Tamil Nadu, the Indian state where Satkaarya is based, do not typically have surnames. This is because, historically, they were often caste names that were then abandoned during the 20th century to fight social stigma and caste discrimination, with the support of Periyar, social activist and politician.

Instead, many Tamils use their father's name or initial as part of their full name. At the hostel, we have two girls called Bhavani; they are therefore called K. Bhavani and R. Bhavani. Meanwhile, many of the young Anglo-Indian people we support have European or English names, such as Angel and Charlotte.

“They shared their world generously”

Sponsor **Ewa Wrona** took time away from the usual tourist spots to visit Satkaarya on her recent trip to India

When I first planned my trip to India, I was excited about the sights – the Taj Mahal, Jaipur's Pink City, all the colour and chaos I'd always imagined. Yet nothing touched me more deeply than the day I spent at the Satkaarya Trust.

In a modest corner of Chennai, down dusty roads and through the everyday noise of the city, something extraordinary is quietly unfolding. Good seeds are being planted.

I went to meet Pragma, the young girl I sponsor, and found myself welcomed into the lives of these remarkable girls – in their own simple surroundings. Clean, humble and full of life. What stood out was what they had in abundance: care, discipline, and a deep sense of love and respect for each other, for themselves and for everything they've been given.

They shared their world generously. Stories, songs, games and chicken biryani. Every moment was filled with



Ewa with the girls

warmth and sincerity. You could see how deeply they care for one another, how much they value the routines that bring them safety and structure, and how proud they are to be learning and growing together.

Satkaarya isn't just meeting basic needs. It's creating a space where children are seen, educated and supported – not only in body and mind, but also in heart and spirit. It's a place where values such



Sharing stories and doughnuts!

as kindness, gratitude and simplicity aren't just taught, they're lived.

It's easy to forget how far the smallest things can go: a roof, a meal or a smile. But here, they're the foundation of a life lived with dignity. And in those short moments together, I saw true hope. Not just for these girls, but for the families and communities they will one day shape.

Sponsoring Pragma each month is meaningful, and being there in person brought it to life. The girls are glowing and their eyes shine with a warmth that stays with you long after you leave.

If you would also like to sponsor a child, simply take a photo of this QR code using your mobile phone and follow the link.



The girls' home is found on this simple street – also home to a rather splendid cow!



Paul is pictured with his wife, Alison, and two children when they visited Chennai in 2007

Christmas cards for sponsored children

If you wish to send a Christmas card to your sponsored child, please send it to The Batemans Trust, % Anne Desir, 6 Burwash Road, London SE18 7QZ.

The deadline for the cards to arrive with Anne is Wednesday 10 December. She will then send all the cards in one bundle to Chennai in time for Christmas. Thank you!

Welcome (back) to Paul

New trustee and retired dentist Paul Gallagher reflects on his involvement with Batemans over the years

“I first heard about The Batemans Trust in 1997, through trustee Paul Crosby and his wife, Charlotte. My support started not long after this, when my wife, Alison, and I decided to sponsor a child. It has been a joy to follow the lives of so many young people growing up with the support of Batemans and this is something we continue to do today.

“In 2007, I was fortunate to spend three months volunteering in Chennai with my family. I carried out dental checks while Alison provided after-school activities for the younger children. It was a wonderful opportunity to be involved and to see first hand how Batemans improves the lives



and opportunities of so many children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“I retired as a dentist in 2021 and, with more free time, decided I could become

more involved with Batemans. Listening to the inspiring talks given by some of the existing trustees at the Spice Lunch last year gave me the push to do just that.

“I have now been accepted as a new trustee and taken on the role of treasurer. It is a very exciting time for Batemans-Satkaarya, with a new purpose-built school on the horizon. I feel privileged to be part of the team that is working hard to make this happen and to provide amazing opportunities for so many children in a school we can call our own.”

- A heartfelt thank you to Vinod Hallan and Suzanne Kuyser, who have stepped down as trustees after many years of service. We are so grateful that they shared their wisdom, fundraising energy and expertise with us for so long.

Three ways you can give financial support to Batemans

1

Donate via our annual Wish List



2

Sponsor a child for just £15 per month



3

Remember the Batemans Trust in your will

See more at www.batemans.org.uk/donating

With thanks to CPL One for the design and production of this newsletter (www.cplone.co.uk)