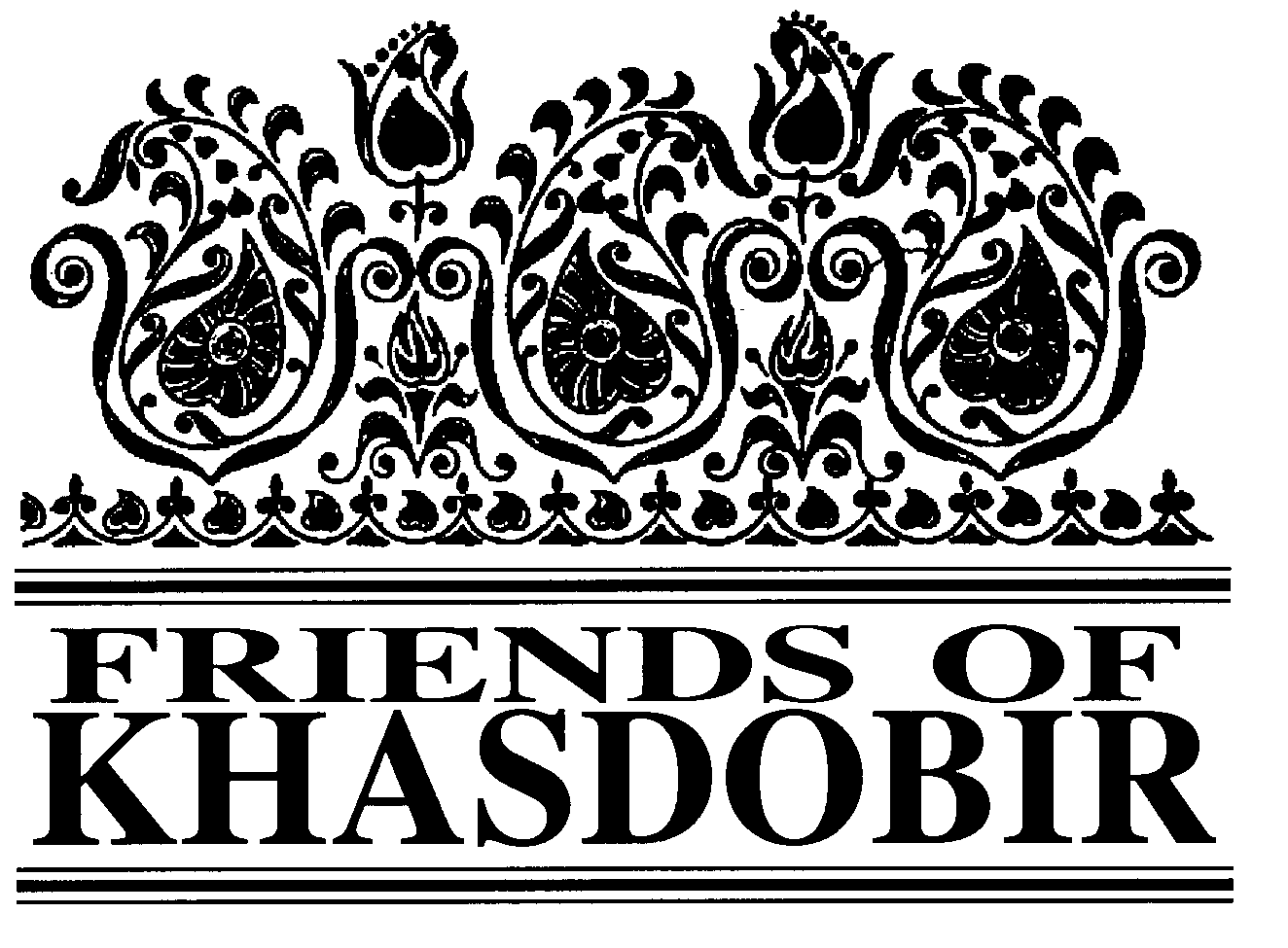
A couple of lawn chairs sitting on top of a sandy beach

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**FIVE**

A group of people on a sidewalk

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***Newsletter***

***Summer 2020***

**Editors Corner**

Season’s greetings to all our Friends of Khasdobir and we trust you are keeping safe in the best possible way. It is a strange time with the COVID-19 pandemic.With the lock-down and social distancing, we are restricted in our regular fund-raising activities, a few meals, sponsoring events had to be cancelled and we urge you to continue to support the project by donating online. Please use the link <https://tinyurl.com/yd86n87v> to donate.

A lots of activities are taking place around the project. Our Chairman Mike continues to do a lot of good work at the project area, the Trustees are supporting and meeting regularly, now via webex. Doreen and Phil had shared a detailed diary of their visit to the project, which is available on request.

* The corona virus and lockdown in Sylhet
* Our Virtual AGM
* Handkerchiefs for every pre-school child
* Phil and Doreen’s visit to the Project
* Case studies of ex-Sewing Class Students
* A new pre-primary centre building on the Hiluachara tea estate

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**The corona virus and lockdown in Sylhet**

**Widows wait to receive allowance observing distancing**

***in this issue***

**FRIENDS OF KHASDOBIR, BANGLADESH, Registered Charity No: 1185262**

At present the project activities in Sylhet are limited as schools are not allowed to meet. However, we have been able to provide widow’s allowances whilst maintaining social distancing. Those computer class students with smart phones have been sent materials by whatsapp so that they can continue their training. Families with children due to enter primary schools in January are also being supported by our teachers who are contacting parents by phone, when possible. One of our schools on the tea estate, where the teachers live locally, is operating using a shift system where 5 children attend at any one time and maintain social distancing during the class.

Like many other places in the world life in Sylhet has changed because of the corona virus pandemic. To try to limit the spread of the virus the Government of Bangladesh has introduced restrictions on travel and on working. This means that for many of the families that we support income has disappeared as people can no longer work as rickshaw pullers or labourers. In response we are proposing to use some of the savings that will be made because the full project cannot function and to send some additional funds to provide relief to families we have been supporting who are in most need. We will be providing food packs including rice, dal, potatoes and onions and basic essential items to protect health including soap and detergent. We have launched a special appeal to raise £2,000 for this purpose. You can donate on our Golden Giving page by following this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/yd86n87v>

***Our virtual AGM***

***Phil and Doreen’s visit to the project***

*Enim ad minimeniam, quis erat nostr uexerci tation ullamcorper nostru exerci tation ullam corper et iusto odio dig nissim qui blandit praesent lupta.*

***set the stage >>>***



Phil and Doreen were especially impressed with the outreach work. Both the workers “had extensive knowledge of their areas and were proactive in seeking out individuals in need. They spend time every day in the poorest districts and their record keeping is also thorough” Outreach work was highlighted as something that could be expanded in future.

The distribution of the widow’s allowances was found to be orderly and efficient and Phil and Doreen reported that there was no doubt that Sylhet Jubo Academy manage the project extremely effectively. “We are in safe hands” they wrote.

During their visit Phil and Doreen also went on a lively picnic with staff, sewing and computer students. They took part in a birthday party at the school named in memory of Peter East, attended a staff meeting, visited the local primary school and a centre working with autistic children, attended a local folk festival, and judged a competition set for computer students to design a visiting card for Phil, the treasurer of Friends of Khasdobir.

Recommendations from the visit included making use of the new pre-primary centres for other community activities and monitoring how effective the devices distributed to children with disabilities have been in improving the children’s circumstances.



A couple of people that are standing in the dirt

Description automatically generated

Our trustees, Phil and Doreen, visited the project at the beginning of March. They went to all 10 schools and the sewing and computer workshops. They helped out with distribution of the widow’s allowances and took part in outreach sessions and follow up visits to previous sewing class students.

Reporting to the trustees they said that the transformation of the schools over the past 18 months has been remarkable. “Teachers have really taken ownership of their classrooms and created stimulating environments for learning. In all schools there are books, toys, teacher guides, charts to aid learning, blackboards and chalk. Lessons are always structured according to an agreed plan. The structure divides the session into 9 mini-sessions including exercise, stories and songs, language and alphabet, arts and craft, environment, play, maths and science. The teaching we observed was on the whole very good. Sabiha (the Project Manager) was often observed giving advice during lessons- a welcome development. At a meeting with parent’s they all had extremely positive things to say- children more confident, speaking more at home and making good progress.”

*This year, as usual, our AGM will be held on the first Saturday in July. However, because of the restrictions on meeting and travel due to the corona virus it will not be held in Loughborough but will take the form of a virtual zoom meeting.*

*There will be no curry lunch but instead we will be hearing live from people involved in the project at Khasdobir. There will also be a full report on the visit to the project by Phil and Doreen.*

*Please do join the meeting on 4th July and please email khasdobir@btinternet.com to confirm your attendance. To join please follow this link or go directly to the zoom web site and enter the meeting ID and password:*

*Meeting ID: 958 676 0004*

*Password: 2441139*

*Due to the corona virus our ability to raise funds from events such as fundraising meals and the annual sponsored walk are restricted so we are asking you to donate your savings on travel directly to the project using our Golden Giving page at:*

*https://tinyurl.com/ycvulydk*

**Stay with us, Support us!**

**We are compliant to EU General Data Protection Regulations**

Do you receive the newsletter by post now and would you be happy to receive it by email?

Also notify us if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter (by either post or email).

Please email to **khasdobir@btinternet.com**

***Case studies of ex-Sewing Class Students – Doreen writes more on their visit***

***A new pre-primary centre building on the Hiluachara tea estate***

*Sewing students took the initiative to provide* *handkerchiefs for every pre-school child.*

*One of the early projects by the sewing students this year was to make a beautiful handkerchief for every child attending our pre-primary centres. Once the handkerchiefs had been made the students attended parent’s meetings at the centres and presented a handkerchief to every child.*

*Case Study*

***Handkerchiefs for every pre-school child***

A picture containing indoor, dog, room, living

Description automatically generatedA group of people posing for the camera

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While Mike and Phil were visiting ex-sewing students living in a slum area, myself, Dalia, Sabiha and Samsul went to not quite so poor an area in Khasdobir and found more positive outcomes.

Jhorna is 21 years old, married with a daughter aged three and a half. She lives with her husband, who is a CNG driver, her daughter and her mother. After finishing the Sewing Course, Jhorna worked in a tailoring shop and saved enough money to buy her own sewing machine. To advertise her work she went door-to-door in her area to inform locals of her business, and continued to work in the tailoring shop until she had enough clients of her own to enable her to work entirely at home. Women bring fabric to her and she makes salwer kamees, burkas, saris, blouses and children’s clothes etc. Although orders vary, she usually makes around T2,000 per month.

Khursheda is 25 years old, married with a son who is seven years old and goes to Khasdobir Primary School. Her husband is unemployed. Four families live in a brick house, all fifteen members are related, 5 members work as temporary day labourers. There are 5 children living in the house, 4 of whom are at school. Each family pays T15,000 per month rent. After completing the Sewing Course, Khursheda also worked in a tailoring shop for 1 month while she went door to door to advertise her business locally. She built up enough clients and now earns between T1500 and T2000 per month. Her sewing machine is currently rented at T300 per month, and although she contributes to household bills, she is trying to save enough money to buy her own machine.

Both women were very grateful for the skills they learnt on the Sewing Course and recommend it to others in the area.

A close up of a green building

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We were pleased to be able to complete a new shelter for one of our schools on the tea estates, just before “lock down” meant that it was no longer possible to run the school. Building work stared during the visit of trustees Phil and Doreen and was completed just a few weeks later.

When we can operate it again the school will provide a much-improved facility for the young children on the tea estate, where some of the neediest families live. There will be a slide and swing for use by the children and the shelter is located next door to the primary school so it will be possible to develop good relationships with the school. We also hope that this shelter can be used for other community activities.

***Social Distancing at the Pre-Primary Centre***

**Charity Gift Aid Declaration** *–* multiple donation

**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate**

 Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

**In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:**

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

**Name of Charity** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

**My Details**

Title \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ First name or initial(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Please notify the charity if you:**

· want to cancel this declaration

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If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

###### Please send this page to:

###### **Phil Watson, April Cottage, 12, Church Street, Rothley, Leicestershire, LE7 7PD**

YES, I’d like to help...

*final*