



**FRIENDS OF  
KHASDOBIR**

**FRIENDS OF KHASDOBIR, BANGLADESH**

**Registered Charity No: 1116316**

**NEWSLETTER**

**AUTUMN 2018**



## **New Sheltered Schools Open**

As regular readers of our newsletter will know, since July 2018 the Sylhet Jubo Academy have been managing the project in the Khasdobir area of Sylhet. A new office has been established and as schools reopen following the holidays and rainy season sheltered facilities are being found. In all the meetings with parents and guardians attended by our trustee Mike Sherriff whilst he has been in Bangladesh, the importance of having sheltered accommodation has been emphasised. It rains on about one third of the days during the year in Sylhet and the ground often remains damp afterwards. We are also now using better books and materials with the pre-school children. A shelter provides a much better environment for using these resources.

In September the pre-school at the new office location was established. This has a regular attendance of about 30 children. 4 other schools with shelters started in October. These include a new school on a tea garden just outside Sylhet city, serving the children of the labourers on the tea estate. In the city itself, in addition to the school at the office which serves Pirmoholla there are now indoor schools covering Boro Bazar, Badambagicha and East Chowkidekhi/ Bashbari. Two of the teachers who previously worked in KYAG open air schools successfully applied to work in the new schools, although most of the KYAG teachers took the decision not to apply. To date most of the new teachers are women and each school has a teacher in charge and an assistant.

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**Mike Sherriff**

**Kazi Mashud, 208 Leicester Road, Loughborough, Leics, LE11 2AH**

**Monjur Elahi, 47 Chart Downs, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 4DF Email: [monjurelahi@msn.com](mailto:monjurelahi@msn.com)**

**The Rt Hon Nicki Morgan MP; Sir Kevin Barron MP**

**[www.khasdobir.org.uk](http://www.khasdobir.org.uk)**



## Introducing the new office team

The new Project Manager for the Khasdobir Project is Sabiha Sultana. Sabiha is from Sylhet and completed a degree in Social Science at Sylhet Women's College. She then worked as a teacher for 13 years, first in a kindergarten for young children and then as a primary school teacher.

In 2009 Sabiha started working for Sylhet Jubo Academy on various projects and she then worked with Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar as a Protection Officer with Handicap International.

When not working for NGOs, Sabiha is an announcer on Bangladesh radio and performs in

radio dramas. She is also part of a group that produces plays for the theatre in Sylhet.

Friends of Khasdobir have been very impressed with the commitment and skill that Sabiha has brought to the Khasdobir project and we look forward to working with her for many years to come.

Shamshar Huq is the Project Monitoring Officer in the new team. His most recent experience was with an NGO distributing equipment to disabled people. Before that he worked as a Primary School teacher in a village just outside Sylhet. He did this for 4 years. Shamshar is pleased to be working with the Khasdobir Project and to be involved in its work to serve humanity.

**Stay with us, Support us!**

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

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Please email to [khasdobir@btinternet.com](mailto:khasdobir@btinternet.com)

## Widows allowances continue



One initiative that was introduced by Peter and Harun at the very beginning of the Khasdobir Project was the provision of allowances to widows in great need. The trustees of Friends of Khasdobir have been committed to continuing this valuable financial provision to these very needy people living in this part of Sylhet. Fortunately, a list of the widows who received support was obtained and one of the previous staff of KYAG helped with contacting the widows, as there was no formal record of their addresses. Many of those previously supported are continuing to receive help and some new applications for the allowance have been received. The circumstances of all the widows applying for help has been assessed and monthly distribution of the allowances has now started.

## From sewing student, to successful entrepreneur to sewing instructor Introducing SHILA

Shila is the new instructor in charge of running the sewing classes at the Project Office. She is 28 years old and lives with her mother in Sylhet.



Shila attended Amberkhana school and then in 2005 attended the KYAG sewing class for one year. After completing her training Shila started to work in a shop in Zinderbazar in Sylhet. She did this for 5 years and then in 2010 opened her own shop in Pirmoholla. She employs 4 other young women in the shop. Most of them first received training from KYAG, although after they started working for her Shila provided them with additional training.

At Shila's shop in the bazar ladies and children's clothes are produced and Shila knows many of the other people who own local tailoring shops. Shila is committed to making the training that the students receive more relevant to the requirements of local shops and also to introducing more modern designs, as required by today's customers in the bazar.

Friends of Khasdobir **Welcomes** -

**Kazi Mashud** as the Hon Treasurer and **Monjur Elahi** as the Newsletter Editor

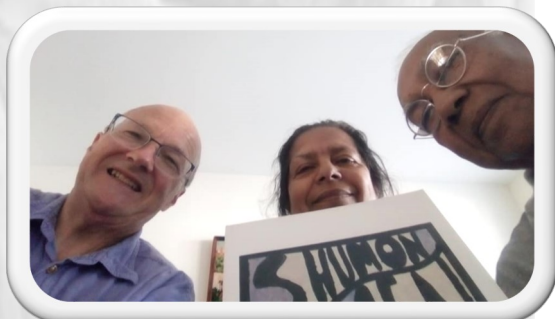
Friends of Khasdobir says **THANK YOU** to

**Geoffery Pool** for years of services as the Hon Treasurer; and

**Kenneth Prideaux-Brune** for years of services as the Newsletter Editor

## Shumon Momen and his poems

On 4<sup>th</sup> August it was a great pleasure for our chairperson, Mike Sherriff, to meet Mr and Mrs Momen to thank them for their support for the Khasdobir Project and to find out about their son and his wonderful childhood poems.



Shumon Momen was a school boy who died from leukaemia in 1992 at the age of 12. Since then his parents have been raising money to support the work of the Khasdobir Project. They published two books of their son's poems. The books cost £5 each plus post and packing and can be obtained by contacting Friends of Khasobir.

## Books

– a poem by Shumon Momen

Books they are my treasure,  
I treat them like water pure,  
It is like a leisure,  
I read it with great pleasure,  
Books for all ages,  
The authors get their wages,  
Some of the factuals,  
Are unusual,

20<sup>th</sup> April 1989 –  
Shumon Momen



## Events

Thirsk and Northallerton Methodist Circuit  
raised **£7,555.60p**

London Walk - 1st September, successful  
event

Fundraising meal held on 9th October at  
the Eastern Spice Restaurant,  
Loughborough was attended by **65 people**  
and raised **£631**

## Future Events

Leicestershire fundraising meal is on  
**Tuesday, November 6th** at The Heritage  
India Restaurant, 328-330, Welford Road,  
Leicester, LE2 6EH

Get in touch with **Geoffrey Pool** to find out  
more and join, at

[geoffrey.pool@ntlworld.com](mailto:geoffrey.pool@ntlworld.com)

Leicestershire fundraising meal is on April,  
2019; keep an eye on the next newsletter  
for further details.

*YES, I'd like to help...*



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Full Home address \_\_\_\_\_

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If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due

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