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FRIENDS OF KHASDOBIR, BANGLADESH, Registered Charity No: 1116316

Newsletter

A new building for one of our schools on the tea estate

Training for the Future

This issue of our newsletter is a special edition focussing on the training provided by the project. We currently run a sewing course and a computer course. Both aim to give people skills that will enable them to earn a living.

In December students from both courses took part in a workshop on "The Future We Want" organised by UNICEF, the International Labour Organisation and the Jaago Foundation of Bangladesh. During the workshop the students learnt about presentation skills and possibilities for their future life. They expressed their views about education and employment opportunities in Bangladesh.

Since the beginning of the project Friends of Khasdobir has supported a school serving the families who live on the tea estate who originally came to work there from Barisal in South Bangladesh. For many years the school met outside and could not operate when it rained. It then moved into a room, which was much too small, next to somebody's house. It now has a new school building, which officially opened on 1st January.

The school was constructed when it became impossible to run one of the schools in the city. After lengthy negotiations it was agreed that the building in the city would be moved to the tea estate. The new school has taken the name Shumon Momen, in memory of a school boy who died from Leukaemia in 1992 at the age of just 12 years old. His family have supported the project for many years.

The Chairperson of Friends of Khasdobir, the previous President of Khasdobir Youth Action Group and the Chairman of the Sylhet Press Club all attended and spoke at the opening ceremony.



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www.khasdobir.org.uk

A Date for you Diary

Students who completed our sewing training now support themselves and their families....

The next Annual Meeting of Friends of Khasdobir will be held on Saturday 4th July 11.30am at Rosebury St Peters Community Centre, Loughborough.

Please make a note in your diary and come along to hear the latest news from the project and enjoy a curry lunch with friends and supporters.

If you are planning to attend the event, please advise Kathleen Jackson at: derkat.46@ntlworld.com



Kegworth Christmas Soup and Puds Lunch raised £100

Beverley Lott has just sent us this lovely photo of the Kegworth Christmas soup and puds lunch at which £100 was raised for Friends of Khasdobir.

Kegworth have been raising money for us for many years through Soar Valley Twinning Association.



♪ Well done Kegworth

Each year Friends of Khasdobir support 40 women to complete sewing training. After completing the course most of the women earn money by working in small local tailoring workshops or by working from home making clothes for family and neighbours. This year several of the students received sewing machines. One was provided as a result of selling items made by the students during the course. Three were provided by Sylhet's "Good Deeds" organisation at a programme organised by Volunteers for Bangladesh called "Stitch Your Dreams". The sewing machines were given to students in most need, who could make use of them to support themselves and their families.

Razia is 16 years old and received her sewing machine as a result of the sale of items made in the sewing class. She earns about £1.30 for every dress she makes. Her customers all live nearby. Razia's family comes from outside Sylhet and she lives with her grandmother in the town. Her father is a day labourer in a rural part of Bangladesh and her mother is a housewife. She left school when she was very young and later took part in the sewing training.



Papli lives on the tea estate with her husband who is a labourer and her mother in law who works in the tea garden. She has two children one of whom attends primary school and one of whom attends our local pre-primary school. She has had a sewing machine for 5 months and has earned £70 by taking orders for clothes from people living on the tea estate.

Panna received her machine in November at the programme organised by Volunteers for Bangladesh. She lives with her mother who does housework and her two brothers. One brother drives a three-wheeler scooter, and one works in a shop. Panna does some work in a local tailoring workshop and takes orders for work at home now that she has a sewing machine. One of Panna's neighbours is currently doing the sewing course and she also uses Panna's machine. Panna thought the training she received was very useful. She learnt to make modern clothes and found the trainer very helpful.



Minu received a sewing machine from the Volunteers for Bangladesh programme. She lives in one of the "colonies" (slum housing) in Sylhet city with her husband who is a rickshaw puller, and one child who has not yet started school. She lives with her mother who is a cook's assistant. Her father is dead. Minu left school when she was aged 11 and later started sewing training. She is currently taking orders for clothes from people living nearby.

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



Birthday celebration fundraising



For his 62nd birthday our chairperson bought a cake and held a celebration with the staff, children and students of the project. As well as providing a treat for the children and staff he raised funds during the event using our Golden Giving page: <https://www.goldengiving.com/secure/donation/friends-of-khasdobir>

Over £200 was donated to support the project. If you are celebrating a special occasion, please consider also making it a fundraising event for Friends of Khasdobir.



Happy Birthday to Mike and Many Happy Returns!

AGM 2020

Please make a note of the date of our next Annual Meeting. It will be held on Saturday 4th July 2020 at 11.30am in Loughborough.

As usual a curry will be served for lunch and there will be a full report about the work of the project.



Computer training

The computer training provided by the project has been in its current form since July 2019, when the project recruited its own computer trainer. Since then 40 students have benefited from classes held every afternoon, apart from Fridays. There are 4 groups of 10 students who start with a basic course learning Microsoft packages such as Word. They then move on to a more advanced course where they learn skills such as graphics and web design. The aim is to help the young people to gain enough skills to eventually move into freelance IT work. In the world Bangladesh has the largest number of young people working in this sector and it is increasingly important as a source of income for young Bangladeshis.

Omar started studying at one of the open-air schools run by Khasdobir Youth Action Group. He lives on the tea estate and his mother is a tea worker. His father died when he was 3 years old. He has 5 sisters, three living in Barisal where his family originally came from and two living in Sylhet. They do domestic work and sewing.

After attending one of our open-air schools Omar went to the primary school on the tea estate and then attended college in Sylhet City. He is currently studying for a degree at a local college. Before joining the computer class at the project, he had never touched a computer and said that to start with he was quite frightened to use the computer. He has already learnt to use MS Word and is now learning power point. He enjoys the computer class and hopes that with his new skills he will be able to find freelance work and earn enough money to finance his future education.



Afsana is 21 years old and she also started her education at one of the open-air schools operated by the project. She then attended Khasdobir Primary School before going to college in Sylhet city.



Afsana's father was a CNG driver but he died 3 years ago. Her mother does housework. She has 4 sisters and one brother, including her young sister who is still studying.

Afsana enjoys the computer class and has learnt how to prepare letters and job applications. Her long-term aim is to become a software engineer and she is also interested in freelance work. Along with many other computer class students she attended

"The Future We Want Workshop". At this workshop she said she learnt about many possibilities for her future life.

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

The new constitution is now registered with the Charity Commission as number **1185262**.

The accounts therefore will be closed and transferred to the new charity at the beginning of the new financial year on 1st April 2020.

Phil and Doreen to visit the project in February

The focus of the visit could include some of the following: looking at the educational programmes, the outreach team's activities, opportunities for trainees to gain employment, feedback from beneficiaries, support for young men, toilets and handwashing

YES, I'd like to help...

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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.

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Please send this page to:

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