



# Newsletter

FRIENDS OF KHASDOBIR, BANGLADESH, Registered Charity No: 1116316

## Join our walk to raise £5,000 and celebrate 50

*Songs, poetry and dance with the children, young people, and teachers of the*



2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh and to celebrate you can join our walk during which supporters will walk the distance from London to Sylhet (5,000 miles). Any walk can count towards the total- your walk with the dog, collecting the newspaper, or daily exercise during the covid 19 pandemic.

and colleagues and to publicise their involvement using their social media accounts, emails and letters to friends, contacts with colleagues, and online worship or workout groups. Participants can also have their own personal page within our Golden Giving account.

On Saturday 10th April at 10am you are invited to join our zoom fundraising event with the children, young people, and teachers of the Khasdobir Project. Song, dance, and poetry are an important part of the learning in our pre-primary education centres and many of the children are extraordinarily talented. Young people and teachers involved with the project can also sing and dance. Take part and hear some Bengali children's rhymes and stories as well as popular songs and folk songs from rural Bangladesh. You are also very welcome to join in with your own song or poem. To take part please email us at [khasdobir@btinternet.com](mailto:khasdobir@btinternet.com)

We will then send you the link to join. We are asking all those who join us to make a minimum donation of £10 on our Golden

Giving page: [https://](https://www.goldengiving.com/fundraising/Khasdobir-culturalprogramme)

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We look forward to seeing you on



In the early 1980s Peter East, a long serving member of the charity Toc H, made the journey from London to Sylhet and was one of the founders of the Khasdobir Project. The project has therefore been running for most of Bangladesh's 50 years.

We are asking everybody taking part to seek sponsorship from family, friends,

If you want to support the event as a whole then please use this link: <https://www.goldengiving.com/fundraising/KhasdobirWalk> Alternatively send a cheque (made payable to Friends of Khasdobir) directly to our treasurer at -

April Cottage, 12 Church Street, Rothley, Leicestershire LE7 7PD.

Please do not fold the cheques and on the back write that your donation is towards the Khasdobir Walk.

If they wish to do so walkers and their supporters, can join our face book group, where we will be sharing photos, video clips and information about our walks.

If you want to join this walk please email [khasdobir@btinternet.com](mailto:khasdobir@btinternet.com) and ask us to send you full details.



If you receive your newsletter by post and we do not currently have your email address it would be extremely helpful if you could provide it to us so that we can communicate with you occasionally about our various on-line events using email. It is still possible to receive a paper version of the newsletter. If you want to stop receiving a paper version of the newsletter and just receive an email copy, then please let us know. You can contact us at: [khasdobir@btinternet.com](mailto:khasdobir@btinternet.com)

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

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Patrons:

Rt.Hon. Baroness Nicky Morgan; Rt Hon Sir Kevin Barron



## Our AGM

This year we hope that our Annual meeting will be held on Saturday 3rd July 2021 at 11.30 am in Leicester at the Friends Meeting House, 16 Queens Road, Leicester, LE2 1WP We will present news from the project and this will be followed by lunch. Please make a note in your diary. If, due to restrictions on travel and meeting, it is not possible to meet in this way we will organise a zoom meeting with supporters. We are very keen to hear your ideas for the future of Friends of Khasdobir at the meeting and receive your feedback on our activities during the last year.

*Thanks to everybody who took part in our Christmas puppet show and workshop*



A big thank you to all those who joined our puppet show and puppet making workshop, just before Christmas. Many participated with their grandchildren and after enjoying a puppet show by the children of one of our pre-primary schools created a puppet themselves following the advice of two of our teachers. To end everybody sang the song twinkle

## News from the project

### *Bashbari Pre-Primary Education Centre opens Helping children and widows stay warm in winter*

The Bashbari centre is the 5<sup>th</sup> shelter we have constructed, mainly using money left to Friends of Khasdobir in legacies. Having a simple and specially constructed space makes a huge difference to the learning environment for the children. The teachers at the schools have also been eager to paint murals on the walls of the centres to support their teaching -for example numbers and letters of the alphabet.

The Bashbari Centre, and attached washroom, was officially opened on 15<sup>th</sup> December. It serves an area on the edge of Sylhet city including some families living in slums and some working on the tea garden who originally came from another part of Bangladesh called Comilla.

The main guest at the opening was the Chief Officer of the Bangladesh Government for the Sylhet area, Ms. Kazi Mohua Momtaz. She congratulated the project and said how impressed she was with the centre and the work that it was doing to operate safely during the covid -19 pandemic and provide an introductory education to young children from the area

In Bangladesh it is very warm for most of the year but for a few weeks in December and January it becomes very cold and none of the people we support have heating in their homes, which are often made of simple materials such as bamboo and metal sheets.



This year the project organised the distribution of warm clothes to every pre-primary school student. The clothes were all donated locally by adults who took their examinations in the same year when they were younger. 10 blankets were also distributed to widows and children in most need, based on information provided by the outreach workers. These blankets were also paid for by former students from Sylhet who completed their exams together, but in a different year.

## Pictures from 1984

This is the second of our series of pictures provided by our supporter John Burgess. It shows the construction of the primary school at Khasdobir- the first initiative supported by the Khasdoir Project.



**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](mailto:khasdobir@btinternet.com)



## Fundraising during the corona virus pandemic

During the current pandemic it is not possible for our trustees and volunteers to organise our usual fundraising meals and events, so we have been considering new ways of raising the funds we send to the project each year. We have held some on-line events and are currently organising the Khasdobir Walk with volunteers walking the distance from London to Sylhet. Please support these initiatives, and also consider the following:

- If you are shopping on-line using Amazon, then please go to [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) to make your purchases and select Friends of Khasdobir Bangladesh as the charity you wish to support. We receive 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases in donations- at no cost to you. The shopping experience is the same as [amazon.co.uk](https://amazon.co.uk) and all donations are funded by Amazon.
- If you have stopped drinking alcohol during January, then please donate the funds you save to Friends of Khasdobir
- If you cannot go to the hairdresser because of lock down and you, or your partner, are cutting your hair then please donate the money saved to Friends of Khasdobir
- If you are making savings because you cannot currently travel or attend concerts and events, then please consider donating some of the funds saved to Friends of Khasdobir.

You can donate on-line using our Golden Giving page: <https://www.goldengiving.com/secure/donation/friends-of-khasdobir>

If relevant, please tick the box to donate Gift Aid too.

Alternatively, please send your cheque to our treasurer at April Cottage, 12 Church Street, Rothley, Leicestershire LE& 7PD and use the Gift Aid form enclosed with this newsletter.

Thank you for your support.

## Shakil Ahmed- one of our computer class trainees



Md. Shakil Ahmed is one of our computer class trainees. He lives in a rented house with his father, mother and two sisters. He is currently a student. His father paints buildings and his mother is a housewife. The family income was not sufficient to maintain the cost of education.

The free computer training provided by the project gave Shakil a glimmer of hope. He took part in the computer training successfully from March 2019 to November 2020 including Basic Computer Operating, Internet Browsing, Microsoft Office (MS Word, MS PowerPoint & MS Excel), Photo & Video Editing, Graphics Design (Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator), Website Design and Easy Android App Development. During the training he joined a local marketing agency as a part-time graphic designer and earned a monthly salary. With his salary, he is now able to support the costs of his and his sisters' education as well as other family expenses.

## Moriom Begum - one of our sewing trainees

Moriom Begum is 38 years old and took part in the Khasdobir Project's sewing training from September 2018 until June 2020. She lives on the Lakkatora tea estate with her family of two sons and a daughter. The sons are both in school and the daughter is 18 months old. Her husband works, but the family income was not enough to cover the cost of education. She therefore joined the sewing training and successfully completed the course.

After completing her training, she bought an old sewing machine with some money saved and some money given by her husband. She went to every house in her area and told the neighbours that she could sew for them. Now she sews for people in her area and receives 150 taka (about £1.50) for sewing each complete dress. Every day she makes a minimum of 2 dresses, sometimes more. Her minimum income is therefore 300 taka per day, and she spends this on her son's education. As a result of her work, her value in the family has increased a lot and her opinions and decisions are given more importance. She now feels much more empowered in her family.

## Celebrating Bangladesh Victory Day

16th December is the anniversary of Bangladesh's victory in the war of liberation and this year the Project organised a programme with different competitions including art, telling the story of the liberation war, and essay writing by the computer students. The programme ended with a discussion about the liberation war with guests including local councillors and officials of local primary schools.



YES, I'd like to help...

**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) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please notify the charity if you:**

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

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**