



# CHILD AID UK

"HIGHFIELD", Epsom Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 8ST  
Tel & Fax : +44(0)1372 372488 e-mail : [childaid@btinternet.com](mailto:childaid@btinternet.com)  
web site : [www.childaid.org.uk](http://www.childaid.org.uk)

# NEWSLETTER 2

## WHAT'S NEW FROM TAMIL NADU ?

### Some of the New Children under Sponsorship



Thank you **Dorothy** \* Thank you **Jenny** \* Thank you **William** \* Thank you **Richard**  
Thank you **Rosemary** \* Thank you **Phillipa** \* Thank you **Anya** \* Thank you **Melanie**  
Thank you **Giselle** \* Thank you **Colin** \* Thank you **David** \* Thank you **Susan**

Just a few more sponsored children waiting for their school to be built ; the aim is to move all children into the new school by June 2002, but it may take a little longer !

### Giving a little extra ....



**Vana Roja**, thought Christmas had come early, when she received a bicycle to take her to school each day, it was new, with every extra and cost less than a meal for two at 'McDonalds'.

This was **Rayappan's** Christmas present, it was a puzzle which made up into a boat. He had never seen toys like this before ... But, as you can see, he soon got the hang of it ! And the pride and joy of success showed. Only too well



What is this Ballet star below doing ? It is perhaps hard to believe but he is raising money for Child Aid UK ....



It is a long story ... The **Janie Harris School of Dancing** organised a Ballet Class for the Mums and Dads. Almost everyone at Janie's school did something, but this young(!) hopeful did a little more, he was promised immense support if he undertook the class looking like a ballerina ... Well he tried and we can only say looks can be 'deceptive'. Janie and her 'Mums and Dads' raised well over £ 1000. A very big 'thank you' for all involved in this 'dance day'.

### ... and at another dancing school ...

Another big 'thank you', this time to the **Penny Parkes School of Dance** who held a large charity fund raising dinner one evening in Croydon. Why fundraising ? Well, Penny undertakes a lot of sponsored work of her own, but Penny also sponsors a young student in India who wanted to undertake a degree in Classical



Indian dance This young lady is Janci and a picture of her is opposite.



... And yet another 'thank you' to go to the world of dance. **Ann Jowett**, decided that she too would be happy to sponsor a dancer, and since there were two seeking to undertake a classical Dance degree, Ann sponsored Daisy.



## Who are the people we are trying to help?

Indian culture is difficult to understand, nearly everyone has heard about the 'untouchables'; officially in India they no longer exist, in reality, they still do. It is hard to know exactly where to start our story. Our 'untouchables' live in very poor rural communities, where two bowls of rice a day is often luxury - no, they are not all starving and unlike many in the 'west', they are reasonably happy with their lot. But they have no real future without help. The principal aim of Child Aid is to help the young have that future, to be able to earn more than a coolie's wage. If you saw some of these 'untouchables' you would wonder where the name came from, they rarely see westerners and it was only last year that a coach load actually 'found' the Indian Ocean! Although our main task is to educate the young, to set an example in these villages we also try and help the disadvantaged of all ages - for the small amount of funds needed to do this, it helps us convince the parents of the children of the need for their children's education. So, let us introduce you to a few of the 'untouchables' we are currently helping.

**John** lives in Manimangalam, his home is a mud hut with no running water, no electricity, and no facilities!



**Jenifer** lives in Seeyalam, her home is also a mud hut, with no running water and similar facilities to John. Our next 'untouchable' is **Mugunthan**, yes, surprise, he too lives in a mud hut with absolutely no facilities.



Just look at them, 'untouchables'? Well, with William's, Dorothy's and Colin's help, these three will almost certainly have a better future.



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**This is a home for the aged** who have no home of their own; it looks like a shed - well to us it would be a shed, but inside are fifty beds, each of which is 'home' to one old person. We say old, because no one is under seventy and a few are nearly 'one hundred'. One gentleman is ninety eight and is looking forward to his 100th birthday, for which we have said we will give him a big party. We have bought them a few cows, some chickens and they make a few 'pence' from their farm to enable them to survive - but wouldn't it be nice for them to have a little comfort in their old age.

What do they want? Not much really, a roof that doesn't leak would be a start ... and for £ 4000 ( not much is it ! ) they could have the whole thing, a brand new leak-proof home, with the new roof!

## Some of our workers in India

There is no way we can do anything in India without support on the ground. So in this Newsletter we want to tell you about the 'girls' - they probably won't like our term 'girls', but they are and they were trained in Brighton, England before returning to their homeland in TamilNadu.



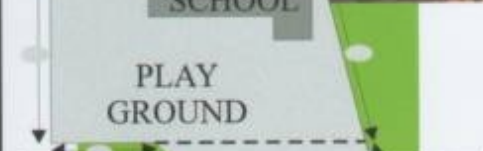
Sister Inigo is 'Head Girl' and looks after all the Pories in India and Sri Lanka. Not much of a task you might think, but with a '100' bed hospital, a creche, an old peoples home and a large farm - in Tirumavanallai alone.... She needs *her* very dedicated 'girls'.



... and here are just a few of them

## Our major project this year - a children's school

You know that we have purchased the land, but what we can now tell you is that we have started the build.



We still have some way to go before the building can

be open for lessons, but we are getting there. The aim is for completion by the end of the year ... regrettably this will not be quick enough for the June 2002 intake of students, but as you can see, it is not a small task and it takes time to raise the necessary finance - even although the whole project is costing less than £ 15,000 ... hardly the cost of a small garage in Southern England!