



THE SREEPUR VILLAGE

NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2016

The Sreepur Village Carol Concert

Come along to the Sreepur Village's first ever carol concert at the stunning St Giles-in-the-Field church in central London. Join us on Saturday 10th December to listen to seasonal songs; sing along to Christmas carols and indulge in mince pies and mulled wine in this beautiful candlelit church. You will have the opportunity to learn a little more about the charity as well as meet with trustees and fellow supporters - all of whom make our work in Bangladesh possible. There'll also be the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping as we will have stalls selling our popular Sreepur Cards and a range of beautiful scarves, bags and gifts handmade by the mothers of Sreepur.

Date and time: Sat 10 December 2016, 4pm - 6pm. Please arrive from 4pm onwards to be seated; the first performance will start at 4.30pm.

Location: Saint Giles in the Fields Church, Saint Giles High Street, London, WC2H 8LG (This central location has excellent transport links from all southern and northern stations).

Ticket Price: £10 per adult; £30 family ticket (2 adults and upto 3 children 5+ years). Please note children under the age of 5 years old are free but we ask that they sit on an adult's lap due to limited seating.

How do I pay for my tickets? Please purchase your tickets online at: www.eventbrite.co.uk search for 'Sreepur Village Carol Concert'. If you don't have access to the internet please call our office on 0208 658 7585.

STAR BAKERS WANTED TO MAKE FESTIVE TREATS FOR OUR CAROL CONCERT

If you're a talented baker and would like to bring along some mince pies or other festive treats on the night, your support would be appreciated!

A tenacious mother and son make dreams come true

2 years ago, Shefali came to the Sreepur Village with her eldest son Sohel and his two younger brothers. Shefali's husband died when her children were very young, the tragic loss of her husband meant that the family had also lost their main breadwinner. After her husband's death Shefali worked as a maid in a neighbourhood home, she worked from dawn to dusk to provide for her 3 sons. A brave and tenacious woman Shefali dreamt of providing a better life for her children, she says 'after losing my husband I worked not just for food for my family, I also had a dream, to make my son (Sohel) well, so that he could walk again'.

14 year old Sohel was born with clubfeet; his feet point down and inwards making it impossible for him to walk without crutches. The condition is relatively easy to treat in a baby but treatment becomes more complicated in later in life. When



Sohel was still very young his mother handed over money to male family members to arrange for his surgery – yet twice the money was spent elsewhere and Shefali and her son were deeply let down. Staff at the Sreepur Village were determined to support Shefali in her dream to make her son better. On admission to the Sreepur Village the family spent time at our healthcare clinic where Sohel's condition was assessed. In August 2016 after various appointments and hospital visits Sohel finally received the life-enhancing surgery he required.

Sohel is now post-surgery and is determined to walk and play just like all the other children at the Village. However, recovery is a slow process; surgeons have operated on his left leg yet and he is still awaiting surgery on his right leg. Despite his struggles he remains brave and positive, just like his mother! Everyone at the Sreepur Village is very proud of Sohel, he is an intelligent, determined young man who is keeping up with his studies between surgery and rehabilitation. We will update you soon on this special family as they continue to grow from strength to strength.

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION TO THE SREEPUR VILLAGE THIS CHRISTMAS TIME

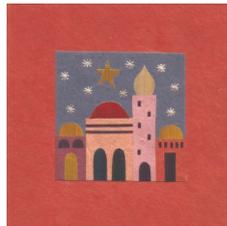
theBigGive.org.uk

This year The Sreepur Village is taking part in The Big Give Christmas Challenge, this match-funding scheme allows us to double any online donations made to The Sreepur Village over a 72 hour period.

Taking part is easy! Go online between 29th November and 2nd December 2016 at <https://secure.thebiggive.org.uk/projects/view/25836> and make a donation. Thanks to a little Christmas magic your donation will be matched, e.g. a £10 donation becomes £20! However, you must make a donation on the dates above so please add these dates to your calendar or if you'd appreciate a reminder send us an email at emma@sreepurvillage.org or text us on 07824 825600.

Thank you to all our supporters who have already pledged £500 to The Big Give Christmas Challenge – you know who you are and we are incredibly grateful!

Christmas card designs for 2016. We hope that once again you'll choose to send our handmade Christmas cards to your loved ones this year - 100% profit goes back to our projects so your cards and gift this Christmas really will make a world of difference. This year's card designs are shown below:



Pack of 4 cards (16 cards in total) £14.75 including postage and packaging

Place your orders! You can order cards online at www.sreepurcards.org and Gifts That Give, scarves and handmade products at www.sreepurvillage.org. Alternatively we are happy to fulfil any order sent to us by mail with an accompanying cheque made payable to The Sreepur Village.

Gifts That Give This Christmas send a friend or loved one a unique gift of love - a donation to support the work of Sreepur Village. You can help and support our work by donating to the specific projects and purposes below. We will send you a gift card to forward on to your chosen recipient which states that a donation towards the gift has been donated in their name. Here are a few of our latest Gifts that Give below, more can be viewed on our website www.sreepurvillage.org

Hospital kit for a sick child

Being sick is difficult enough without a stay in hospital.

Spending time in hospital can be a monotonous and frustrating experience for a child who is used to running around and playing with friends. Time in bed is boring, yet a toy, puzzle or art set can help brighten a child's day.

An age appropriate hospital kit costs £10



Make a mother and child's birthday special

At the Sreepur Village we believe every child should receive a gift on their birthday. Yet many of our children and mothers do not know their date of birth or have no official record. At The Sreepur Village we choose Christmas day to celebrate everyone's birthday! We make sure that everyone receives a birthday gift, eats cake and is made to feel special, for many of our children it will be the first birthday present they ever receive.

Gift and cake for a family of 3 costs £15

Buy a goat

Rearing a goat to sell in the marketplace helps a mother and her family become self-sufficient. Many of our mothers, especially those in the rural char communities of northern Bangladesh, keep a goat to use for its milk. If a woman chooses to sell her goat she can often make 50 to 60 % of the initial investment price.

A goat costs £30



Shoes

It's hard to protect children's feet in all seasons. We normally provide our children with flip-flops but sometimes something a little sturdier is required.

2 pair of shoes for a growing child costs £40.

Cooking pot

The Sreepur Village is a very large family; there can be over 160 mothers and 400 children staying with us at any one time. That's a lot of hungry mouths to feed! We cook 3 nutritious meals a day for our mother and child beneficiaries and our big kitchen requires big cooking pots. Cooking pots of this size are expensive but they will last us many years.

An extra large cooking pot costs £50



Buy street children lunch for a week

There are over 450,000 street children living in the city of Dhaka. 250-300 children visit our drop-in-centre every week. They come from far and wide for a much needed rest, bath, relaxation time and a nutritious meal. Each day our staff prepare a simple but nutritious lunch for the 30-40 children that gather each lunchtime.

Provide these children with lunch for 1 week costs £80

Cricket equipment for girls

Help break boundaries and fund our talented girls' cricket team. Keep our girls safe while they play and develop their skills. We believe you could you be funding the future stars of Bangladesh's women's cricket!

Bats, balls, protective clothing and headwear for 2 teams of 11 players costs £100.



Help women weather the storm

We recently offered 52 ex-mother beneficiaries compensation for one third of their loss during the devastating floods in Kurigram. Compensation money was used to repairs houses, replace livestock and rebuild their businesses. However, in a country that suffers the devastating impacts of climate change we know

there will be future flood victims. Please donate towards an emergency fund so that we can respond immediately in an emergency.

Help a mother rebuild her life and livelihood after flood damage costs £150

We are proud to announce the launch of our new website! www.sreepurvillage.org

We have been developing our new website over the last few months and we hope you will agree it's now much easier to use and navigate. Take a look at our lovely photos and films and learn more about all the different projects we support. We also have a new and improved shop, which will make it easier to buy and view our beautiful handmade goods made by the mothers of Sreepur.



Thank you

Thank you to those of you that gave directly to our Crowdfunding campaign and helped raised £2,790 to fund a 3 month pilot **emergency response scheme** at our street children project. You may remember earlier this year we were shocked to hear of 2 serious accidents involving the children who attend our centre. One young boy, Afzal, needed his arm amputated after falling from a train - thankfully he is now doing well and recuperating at the Village. Thanks to your generous donations we have been able to introduce a 3 month trial project involving issuing street children a card with our helpline number. The phone line will be manned 24 hours a day by a social worker who will be able to respond immediately to any distressed child in trouble. It will be interesting to see how often this service is utilised over the 3 month period and whether there is a need to introduce the service permanently, we look forward to reporting back to you early next year.

Thank you to all of you who have generously supported us throughout 2016 and helped raise funds to build a new street children project for the street children of Dhaka. Our work with vulnerable street children continues every day, and after many trials and tribulations, we are proceeding with the purchase of a plot of land with planning permission for a four storey building, close to Tongi railway station. We are using a property lawyer to carry out diligence on ownership of the land and the purchase contract. Once the purchase is completed we will be able to start on the foundations for the four storeys. We intend to build just the ground floor initially, and this will provide the secure haven that the street children need – and, most importantly, it will provide an overnight shelter for both boys and girls. This is something that we have wanted for a long time, but have never been able to provide. We will continue to fundraise throughout 2017 to raise funds to build a secure haven that the street children of Dhaka desperately need and deserve. Thank you for making this possible.

Thank you: Thomas Family Charitable Trust £10,000; Blankadesh, for kindly providing blankets for our children and mothers this winter; The Taj Tandoori Restaurant £75.00 for sponsoring our walk; Eden Springs water; Jo MacFarlane £30.00 proceeds from

her candle making workshops; Ray and Debbie Sparkes; Chislehurst Rotary and a huge thank you to our Royal Parks Half marathon runners Ali Alam, Dan Silvester and Loyd Townsend. And last but not least Jamie Conlin for raising a wonderful £2,810.69 cycling 1000km from Paris to Nice. What an amazing feat!

Remembering The Sreepur Village Leave a lasting legacy

Without gifts in wills, the Sreepur Village would face an uncertain future. Gifts are so essential to our work allowing us to continue providing a place of security to some of Bangladesh's most vulnerable women and children – the alternative – leaving vulnerable women and children with no one to turn to – is unthinkable.

Your gift could transform a life

Your gift could transform a mother or child's life forever. No gift is too small to make a lasting difference – we are grateful for every penny we receive. Rest assured that whatever gift you leave will be used wisely and effectively.

For more information: www.sreepurvillage.org/pages/leave-a-lasting-legacy

You are receiving this newsletter as a supporter of The Sreepur Village, Bangladesh (previously known as 'Families For Children'). If you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter or would prefer to receive an electronic version via email please contact us and we will update your preferences. Thank you.



Get in touch

Telephone 020 8658 7585

The Sreepur Village, 78 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4RH.

Contact Laura, Fundraising Manager at: fundraising@sreepurvillage.org
07824 825600

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The Sreepur Village, Bangladesh • UK Charity No. 1085008
78 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4RH
www.thesreepurvillage.org • info@thesreepurvillage.org • Tel: 020 8658 7585