

Chairman's letter

I am delighted to introduce the first Saga Charitable Trust Newsletter and hope that you enjoy reading about our work. I would also like to thank all those of you who have contributed so generously.

The Trust has expanded significantly over the past two years. We are now supporting a number of projects in South Africa, South America, the Far East, the Indian sub-continent and in Eastern Europe. In each case our aim is to assist local communities in establishing sustainable initiatives which can bring economic and welfare benefits. I am pleased to report that all our projects work through the support and involvement of local people, and that all donations made to the Trust by Saga customers and Magazine readers go directly to benefit these communities.

We have received many heartening letters from guests who have visited projects while on holiday and have also been overwhelmed by the support the trust has received from Saga Magazine readers, raising over £16,000 in the 2003 Christmas appeal. Indeed, Saga customers themselves instigated some of the projects we support, as illustrated by our latest ventures in Nepal and Sri Lanka.

I am also very happy to note how Saga staff have embraced the Trust, and that fundraising events arranged by them have provided much fun as well as valuable contributions. We will continue to keep you updated through future newsletters and welcome any comments or suggestions that you may have. Thank you all for your support.



Roger De Haan, Chairman
Saga Charitable Trust



Lunchtime at Luis Felipe

New nursery in Peru

Saga visitors have wonderful holidays in Peru, so it is fitting that the SCT is now supporting projects there.

In Peru, the stark reality of life is that young children and even babies are often left vulnerable and at risk when their parents have no option but to leave them unattended while they work. The inauguration of the SCT-sponsored Luis Felipe Nursery took place last summer in the slum area of Zapallal, near Lima, in the presence of the British Ambassador. The Luis Felipe nursery, which is operated by the UK based 'Hand in Hand Trust', will not only provide safety, food and stimulation for 35 children aged 0 to 4 years, but also give them a real chance in life.

In the Amazon region, north of Iquitos, the SCT has provided educational supplies including much-needed library books, to the Manco Capac Elementary and High schools, which between them educate around 200 children. Supplies were distributed by boat as part of an imaginative, locally devised 'adopt a school' scheme.



Members of the Manco Capac Community

Work in progress

Bhattidanda school

In the village of Bhattidanda, near Dhulikhel in Nepal a community school is currently being built that will provide education for around 100 children. The project was started by Saga guests Irene and Peter Clarke. After sponsoring a child in this rural village, they were horrified at the conditions of her local school and decided to take action themselves. Their sheer tenacity and level-headedness has secured permission from the relevant local authorities, as well as raising the initial funds. The SCT was happy to step in to help, and the appeal in the December 2003 issue of the Saga Magazine raised a further £5,112.33 for the children of Bhattidanda.

The school is scheduled to open in September 2004, with local celebrations already planned – watch this space!



Building of the Bhattidanda School is now underway

HIV Respite Care

In the valley of 1,000 hills in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa, the SCT is helping to renovate and furnish a disused building so that an HIV family crisis and respite centre can be established. Once completed, the centre will cater for families affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly those with children who are dependent on a grandparent or an older sibling, and provide food, a place of safety and specialist care and support.

Sri Lanka School

Ellie Meek, a Saga guest and children's nurse who has retired, lock stock and barrel, to Sri Lanka has set up a foundation to help under-privileged children there. Through this, the SCT is helping what is simply known as 'the poor school' near Galle. Work is underway at the moment to repair the roof, introduce a fresh water

supply, install toilets and provide a playground for the children.

Pennington People's Centre

Also, in Kwa-Zulu Natal, the SCT has funded the purchase of land to build a unique centre for the training and development of disadvantaged communities. The first stage of this project is to provide a training centre for unemployed men, so that they can be contracted to build a new low cost housing development. We hope that building will be underway very shortly!

Penan School Boat

In the heart of Sarawak, Borneo, the SCT is funding a school boat that will provide safe passage for children of the Penan tribe, located near to the Royal Mulu Resort. The boat is currently being made by local Penan craftsmen and will be owned by their community.

News in brief

Amaoti Village project

At Amaoti village, near Durban, South Africa, the SCT has funded the building of a twin cottage, which will accommodate grandparents who are caring for young children. Amaoti is in an area that has been severely affected by unemployment and HIV/Aids and this complex is being developed by TAFTA (The Association for the Aged) to care for the most vulnerable members of the community.

Training Success

In the Durban area of South Africa, the SCT has been working with TREE (Training and Resources in Early Education), a non-profit organisation, which supports Early Childhood Development (ECD) in disadvantaged communities.

Last summer we funded an ECD training course for ten women from the Durban area. This included five students from the Fraser Station crèche, near Zimbali Lodge and five from the Pennington area, including Jabula.

The course was a huge success and has already had a significant impact on the communities these crèches support, as well as providing the women with a qualification. In view of this, the SCT is funding further training courses this year.

Name the odd one out

Saga staff proved they were up for the challenge at an Easter Quiz night, held in the Saga Pavilion in Folkestone. A total of 32 teams took part and the winning team fought off stiff competition to claim a trophy and selection of Easter goodies. A good night was had by everyone and an amazing £1,567.40 was raised for the Saga Charitable Trust.

Cambodia

The SCT has recently started supporting the Kok Kreul Primary School, which is around 20km from the town of Siem Reap. Most famous for Angkor Wat, visitors do not normally travel to this side of the temple complex and villagers here mainly rely on subsistence farming, with one crop of rice per year. The school currently supports 58 children between the ages of 6 to 13 and consists of a wooden shed-like building that has no facilities and is in a very poor state of repair. To begin with, the SCT is helping to repair the school building and introduce a fresh water supply. We are also funding an agricultural programme in the school grounds, which will not only provide the children with fresh fruit and vegetables, but also much-needed income for the school.

Interview Mr Tan



Director of 15th May school, Vietnam

The SCT has funded various improvements to the 15th May School which provides free education and better prospects for poor children in Ho Chi Minh City. Most recently, we have helped to set up a computer room.

Q: How do you feel about the computer resource room?

A: Oh, I am very happy with the room and am greatly indebted to Saga for all their help. A long time ago I had a dream to open a computer room for the children of my school, but unfortunately we just didn't have any means. Today when I see the happy faces of the children studying computers – they are never absent – it makes me feel very happy. I hope with computer and English skills they will be able to get good jobs and break away from a life of poverty, this is the aim of our school.

Q: Why are computers important to street children?

A: Computers are very important, as almost every office job in Ho Chi Minh city requires some knowledge about computers. Most students have been studying computers for years, but street children have always been excluded due to a lack of resources. Computers are also important as they can be used as a means of teaching children many things, such as science, literature, English and maths.

Q: What are the main challenges the school faces?

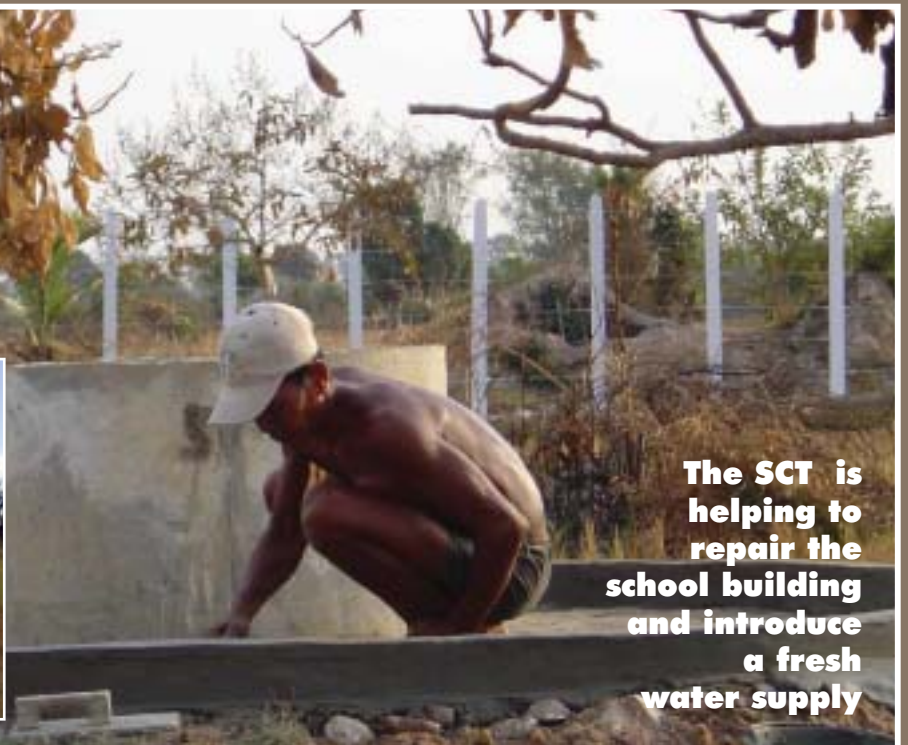
A: The main problem for us is sustainability. Although we have been able to recruit an excellent computer teacher with the money from the Saga Charitable Trust for one year, I worry about the future and whether the school can afford to continue this level of instruction. This is why Mr. Khanh is also training the existing staff of the school, so that they can help with the computer programme in the future .

The Saga Magazine Christmas appeal raised £1,574.65 for 15th May School which will cover the computer teacher's salary for a further two years and ensure that other school staff are trained.

New Brighton School

Those who have visited the New Brighton School in one of the townships of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, will know that it is committed to promoting a high standard of education, despite severe financial constraints. Through the locally based Calabash Trust, the SCT has been happy to help out with improvements to school facilities, including providing computers, which has enabled IT classes to be introduced. Nine year old Ngcincilili, has written a poem about the support of Saga guests and the SCT.

*You are the wings
in the wind of change.
A strong anchor
In this ship of education.
Our Generals in this Army.
To fight against crime
To fight against poverty
To fight against Illiteracy.
No way we can ever lose,
For this battle is for ever.
Let's join hands,
We will surely win.
Your gifts we appreciate,
Through them we see,
The love, the care,
The kindness you posses.
In Xhosa 'nenjenje nakwenye im izi
This means – Always be kind.*



The SCT is helping to repair the school building and introduce a fresh water supply

Jabula update...

The Jabula Saga Project, which incorporates a pre-school crèche and women's co-operative, has been visited by many Saga guests since it was first established in 2000.

The crèche, ably run by Rejoice Mtwana, has received much praise from local authorities. Thanks to the dedicated staff and support of



The latest Jabula graduates with Lillian and Brian Hopf

Saga customers, the 40 children who now attend the crèche are really getting a head start, and the local school headmaster is able to identify children who have attended Jabula.

The co-operative, known as Pennington Community Centre, trains women in sewing and crochet work through a free nine month course, at the end of which they receive their own sewing machine. The women are then able to work from home and sell their goods through the co-operative shop as well as other outlets. This year, an amazing 160 women are taking part in the course, which is the largest intake to date and will swell the numbers of women earning an income through the centre to almost 300.

The co-operative is providing an important supplement to the women's income. In 2003, the graduates generated a total of R250,000 (approx £21,000).

Projects that have been supported by SCT

Cambodia Kok Kreul Primary School **Croatia** Dubrovnik Hospital **India** Sion Children's Home **Malaysia** Penan School Boat, Borneo **Nepal** Bhattidanda School **Peru** Luis Felipe Nursery, Manco Capac Primary and High Schools **Romania** Hospice of Hope **Russia** St Petersburg Orphanage 24 **South Africa** Amaoti Village Project, Calabash Trust, Cato Crest School, Fraser Station Crèche, Ibañana Boxolo Zulu Choir, Ikya Arts and Crafts Centre, Ingcinga Zethu High School Choir, Jabula Saga Project, Mater Spei Family Crisis and Respite Centre, New Brighton SDA School, Nokhanyo Educare Project, Pennington Peoples Centre, Saga Juventus FC **Sri Lanka** Talwila Werla Primary School, Galle School **Thailand** Baan Huay Hia School, Doikum School, Community Care Network **Turkey** Celtikci Village School **Vietnam** 15th May School

You can now log on to the SCT website for up to date news and information www.sagacharitabletrust.org

All the costs of producing this Newsletter have been covered in full by Saga Group Ltd, who pay for all the administration costs of SCT, so 100% of all donations go to the projects.

Donation Form

I enclose a cheque donation made payable to;
The Saga Charitable Trust for £ _____

Your donation will go to support the work of Saga Charitable Trust overseas. However, should you wish your donation to go to a specific project, please indicate here _____

Title _____ Initial _____ Surname _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

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Using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, Saga Charitable Trust receives an extra 28 pence from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation to go further.

I would like all donations I've made to **Saga Charitable Trust** since April 6, 2000 and all donations I make in the future to be Gift Aid unless I notify you otherwise.

I confirm that I have paid sufficient tax to qualify for Gift Aid. To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year.

Please enclose this coupon with your donation and post to: **Saga Charitable Trust, The Saga Building, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE** (Registered office). Thank you for your kind donation. If you do not require an acknowledgement please tick here The Saga Charitable Trust is a UK registered charity: No. 291991

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