



FRIENDS OF SMYRNA HOME

bringing hope to those in need

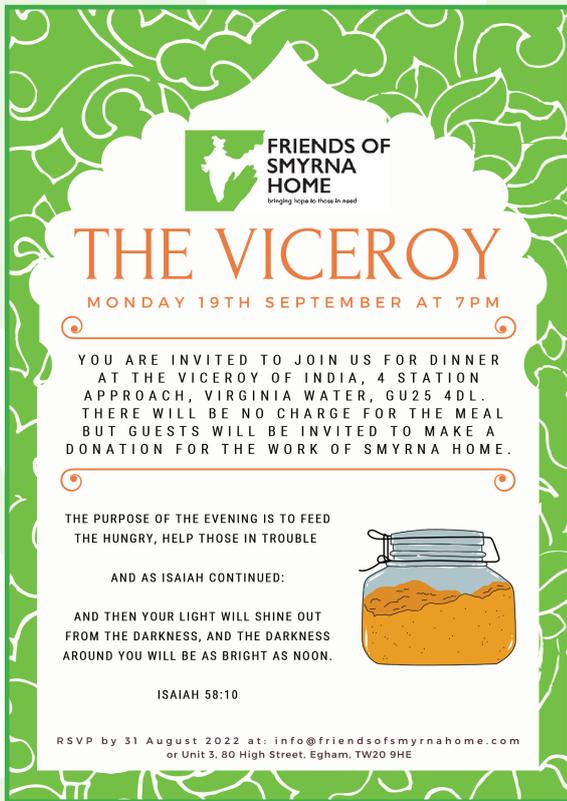
Summer Newsletter 2022

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

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Greetings

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter. On 19th September we are organising a meal in a local Indian Restaurant. A copy of the invitation is part of the Newsletter. All are welcome to come and join in, as we seek to raise money to help the feeding programme. In India today with inflation and food shortages, the poorest are hit hardest.



Wedding Gifts

Bringing hope and help to those in need can be achieved in so many ways.

One couple who were getting married put Friends of Smyrna Home on their wedding presents list using 'Give as you Live' and £840 was given, all of which goes to the front-line practical help for those struggling with life as the giver paid all the charges.

Photo by Sandy Millar on Unsplash

Who's who at Smyrna?

Merina has been working at Smyrna since November 2012. She is married to Pastor Goldress, and they have two children, Nesiah (9) and Ethan (2).



Her main work is as a physiotherapist in the New World Centre, which is now a licensed Physiotherapy Centre at Smyrna and is attended by a wide variety of patients of all ages. At the moment, 20 come regularly and another 10 also attend.

Merina is an energetic, compassionate, down-to-earth person and does a fabulous job, taking care of each individual child and adult who comes for treatment and exercise. Many stroke patients have been cured and returned to work, and mentally and physically challenged children have shown amazing improvement. She is ably assisted by Nirmala and Priscilla in her work.

The New World Centre has recently received some wonderful gifts - an automatic wheelchair from the Department of Social Welfare, and an automatic bed, cot and wheelchairs from other donors.

Merina is also involved in other activities at Smyrna, supporting those living in the Shelter, leading the team who prepare monthly food parcels, and helping Vinola in the guest house when needed. She has a good rapport with Government officials too!



Child Sponsorship

The child sponsorship programme at Smyrna is back in full swing, and we have received news about two children who are doing very well in their studies and other activities:

Mary Princy is 20 years old and in her final year of study for a B.Com., (Bachelor of Commerce). She has been in the sponsor programme from 7th grade. She enjoys table tennis and karate, and recently participated in the National Level Invitational Karate Championship, "ARROW CUP" - 2022. She won second place and was awarded her Blue Belt. She is also a good artist and has won prizes in drawing competitions. She is now going to a type-writing class. Mary is deaf and dumb, but is overcoming this difficulty and showing her talents in many areas.



Esther Gracy is 17 years old, and has just finished her 12th grade, where she specialized in science subjects. She is now waiting for the results, but has done very well in previous studies and got 96% in her 11th grade. Her ambition is to

become a doctor and recently sat the entrance exam for medical training in. She likes to serve the poor and elderly, which has led her to apply for medical college. She actively participates in church activities, singing songs reading the bible in services. She is a calm and lovable girl. She is interested in art and craft and is a good cook.

She enjoys making greeting cards for birthdays and Christmas, as well as flower bouquets using coloured paper and ornaments.

Esther's mother, Metilda, works as an Accountant at Smyrna Home.



Graduation and Wins

On 9th July Brian who has been sponsored from the UK and had help from further education grants was awarded his MBA at a formal convocation, see photo.



Joshua another sponsor in his youth, won the first prize in Nilgiris district music competition conducted by the State Government. It is so encouraging to see the result of sponsoring a child and bringing real hope for their futures.

Our Accounts Summary for year to 31st March 2022

Income (Gift Aid Tax refund £4,486)	£40,841
Sent to India	£37,812
Our total expenses	£ 436
Surplus for the year to replenish reserves	£ 2,593

The money sent to India was for:

Sponsoring 123 children (60%)	£22,792
Feeding the poor programme (9%)	£ 3,480
Medical costs (3%)	£ 1,020
Further education costs (14%)	£ 5,270
Building a home for a social worker (3%)	£ 1,000
Salaries and overheads at Smyrna Home (11%)	£ 4,250
Total	£37,812

Strawberries

In the UK, June and Strawberries seems to mean Wimbledon. Over a year ago at Smyrna Home they invested in thousands of strawberry plants, installed drip irrigation and in the 3 months to June 2022 sold almost £2,500 worth of strawberries. If they get a good second crop by the end of the year, they will have covered all the capital costs. An added advantage of this project is that it creates jobs. They are also harvesting peaches from trees planted some time ago.

