

Dear friends and supporters

This edition is full of wonderful news and we are feeling incredibly blessed to be able to share it with you all.

First and foremost; the **building works for new Cashew Tree School** will start imminently, with completion expected in September subject to the rainy season being kind to us. The photo below shows where the new building will be, adjacent to Mango Tree House. The greenhouse is now removed, the ducks and fish have been moved and the chickens rearranged - all ready for the builders to start in the very near future.

The plans comprise four classrooms with associated play areas and support space, which gives enough room to cater for 200 students. We will grow to that number as our funds increase and we hope to start with 100 from June this year in the current temporary



accommodation. We expect to receive formal registration as a Kinder School and able to issue Learning Resource Numbers for entry into Grade 1 in the public sector. The existing dining room for Mango children will be replaced.

We have given the go-ahead to proceed in the faith that the final £8000 needed to meet our budget for the building will arrive during the remaining months. However, none of this would have been possible without the **marvellous efforts of people like you** and Grant Giving Trusts who have been so generous with their time and funds, both here in the UK and in Manila. Our last newsletter talked about **The Big Give Christmas Challenge** and encouraged you to participate. Our target was £8000 and you totally exceeded all our expectations by giving a grand total of **£17,410** – enough to pay for 80 students to come to

Cashew for a whole year. The many Grant Giving Trusts who have helped have been invaluable and I particularly want to mention the **Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust** who gave a substantial grant towards Cashew.

We will keep you all updated with progress on the building through our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/childrenofthedumpmanila>.

As well as the wonderful fundraisers mentioned later in this newsletter, we are delighted to thank **The Berkshire Filipino-British Association** for choosing Children of the Dump as the charity for their Spring Ball 2019 which was held on 9 March 2019, raising a staggering total of £2310 and **Barclays** for their match funding bringing the total to £3310.

Looking ahead and a date for your diaries – Brighton Marathon on 14 April has for the first time 2 runners participating in aid of Children of the Dump – Nicky Regan and Tom Rowe are training hard to run 26 miles and also raise money for our children. Please can you support them via their fundraising pages on <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/NickyRegan> and Tom Rowe on <https://wonderful.org/fundraiser/brightonmarathon-9bbe5f69> This edition contains precious memories from David Cox, our previous Chair, who recorded his experiences and emotions on his visits to Manila. Truly unforgettable and I always say that once you visit the children at Mango, you will never be the same again. We also include details of some of our new children who desperately need sponsors to love and support them; please have a read and pray that people will come forward.

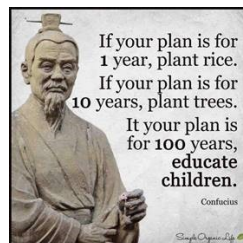
In Manila - All our students are finishing their academic year and we await their school grades with anticipation. We know that they have all worked so hard and are proud of everyone. Sarah McLeod tells of the local fundraising and offers of support to assist with the building for New Cashew. Together we will succeed.

Lastly - Where there's a Will there's a way: Please read and share the letter and leaflet we enclose with this newsletter. A gift in a Will is life-changing for a child from the scavenger community and such an important way to continue making a difference into the future.

Thank you for reading our newsletter, I hope you have found it helpful and enjoyable.

Very best wishes

Kay Mackay, Chair of Trustees



SARAH MCLEOD: NEWS FROM ASCF

Time flies ... an old quote that still holds as we move into March and the build for the new Cashew School has started. It is an exciting time for everyone over here - those who support the children, and the staff who work so hard to ensure the health, safety and education of all the children within our care.

This year we have not only been raising funds in general, but we have also been looking for 'in-kind' support to help the school build. We have approached companies and friends who will donate such things as paint, window panes, books, furniture, storage etc. All kinds of support are welcome - time, goods and money! I am happy to talk to anyone about all 3! Building the new Cashew is a commitment that both the UK and Philippine sides of the Charity are passionate about and we continue to work together to complete. So please watch out for the various events that are advertised.



Over here in Manila we have had a couple of great events. Thanks go to Leanne Jardin, our wonderful long-term supporter, for hosting another garage sale and to the St. Andrew's Society for ensuring all the proceeds from the Bootleg Burns Party (see photo above) came to Cashew. Arcadis sponsored the event, as did Forth and Tay and Don Revy - a great way to raise funds whilst having fun too!

Coming up is another garage sale with Leanne, and then the big one in Makati in May/June. Potentially another big event in the future is the return of our Pantomime in December. Leanne continues to be creative and her acrylic jewellery, trays and pictures are very popular - with proceeds going straight to the children.



Summer is on its way for us, followed closely by the rainy season which is why there is such an urgency to get the build moving fast. Rain in the Philippines can really stop play and delay the project.

We are pleased to announce that the British Women's Association has once again started to support Cashew with a monthly allowance of rice for the children. The BWA have been a long-time supporter of ASCF. In January Linda Boyd and I ran the 19th Texas Scramble and some of the proceeds are being given to ASCF for the new Cashew. We raised about 80,000 pesos which is over £1000. So a great day for our golfers and also for Cashew!

DAVID COX'S DIARY

The Late David Cox MBE first visited the residential home in Manila in 1990 as a sponsor. In 1991 he was appointed minute secretary of ASCT and was elected a Trustee and Charity Chairman in 1992. David received an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2008 for Voluntary Service to Young People.



Extracts from David's Diary on a visit to Manila – February 2002:

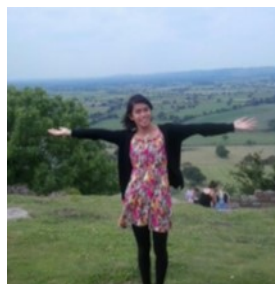
"The memory will stay with me for a long time – furtive faces in the squalor of a graveyard".

This is how David recalled the day that he went to visit the cemetery where one of the children in the Home had previously been living. Leila was now settled into Mango Tree House – a bright girl who loved to read to David to show how she had thrived at school. Leila, David and a couple of staff members were taken to visit the cemetery where families lived in broken tombs, scavenged on the streets and sniffed glue to relieve the pain. Leila was now free of glue – what a transformation - she was now a happy, confident girl enjoying a good standard of education.



David describes part of the day – *"We offered to buy the families a meal from along the stalls on the main road. We had some very strange looks but felt an awareness of being supported. Then we were asked to take a young girl into our care. Cristal – aged 6 – had been burned on her face as a toddler. Her father was in prison and her mother and the rest of the family, 7 in all, were living in the squalor of the cemetery. Mum pleaded with me and said that she just could not cope. We brought Cristal back to Mango – she seemed completely unfazed by the situation and she and Leila chatted in the car all the way back. Cristal has Scabies and is so small and thin – she needs feeding, strengthening and educating. I don't really understand how I coped without emotional involvement and reaction. It is all so alien and different to anything I had done before, but I was moved – yet detached - involved – yet distant. How such degeneration and degradation can exist, I do not know. I pray we can make a difference."*

Cristal settled into Mango Tree and achieved a good education. She attended college and was fortunate enough to visit the UK with a Drama group comprising of street kids. She loved acting and embraced all parts of Western life. But how different her life might have been if she had not been taken by David to be loved and nurtured in Mango Tree House.



MEET THE ASCF TEAM



(From L to R) **Debbie, Demmy, Charo, Jason, Neria, Alpha, Maryane, Sherryl, Maritess, Vandolph, Maritess, Choi, Jocelyn, Irene, Rynalyn**

Peter Emata (not pictured) is a pillar of ASCF and one of the first staff of the Charity. A product of the Charity himself, Peter has spent half his life passionately serving an organisation that helped him greatly in the past. He is the Executive Administrator and everybody's '*Kuya Peter*' (big brother).

Debby has worked for ASCF as a Houseparent for the elementary girls since 2016. Her main role is one of supervision and discipline. She also serves as the girls' second mother by giving them comfort and care, especially when they need a mother's love.

Demmy has been a Teacher in Cashew since June 2014. She is responsible for educating and securing the safety of the children. She is one of the contributors to the monthly reports.

Charo is our Houseparent for the elementary boys. Her main task is to supervise and monitor the elementary boys. She also helps Neria in teaching the students in Grades 1 and 3 and helps them prepare for class in advance.

Jason is a new addition to the ASCF family, serving as the Driver. He uses his free time helping Vandolph to feed the fish and the poultry.

Neria has served as our Education Officer since 1992. She monitors, teaches and guides all our students, especially those in Mango, in their studies. The students call her '*Mommy Ne*' and she is very popular among our supported children.

MEET THE ASCF TEAM (CONT)

Alpha has been with ASCF since June 2015. She has seen how her parents, Peter and Neria, have selflessly worked for the Charity for almost 30 years. She is now in charge of Communications and Administration, as well as supporting other projects and tasks if needed.

Maryane has been the Residential Social Worker for 5 years. She is a case worker for the Mango students and prepares all necessary update for sponsors.

Sheryl is the Social Worker of the Grapevine Project. Her main roles are to monitor family situations, to maximize available resources for services needed for beneficiaries, and to help the families gain self-sufficiency and improve their lives.

Liezel started her career as the Kitchen Executive at ASCF last June 2018. Her main role is to prepare the food for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Vandolph is the Maintenance Man. Everyone relies on him when something in the building needs fixing! He is also responsible for taking care of the Charity's poultry and fish.

Marites works as the Laundry Woman. She started working at ASCF last June 2018. Her role is to guide and help the children washing their clothes.

Choi has worked at ASCF as Office Manager since September of 2012. He has a Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Major in Marketing Management) from Colegio .

Jocelyn is the key person in our Home Life services. She supervises all the domestic staff and looks after the senior students at Mango Tree House. She has been with us for 17 years.

Irene is the Project Director and has worked for the Charity for the last 18 years. She monitors the progress of the Projects on regular basis. She deals with staff and children problems, issues and concerns.

Rynalyn is one of the Cashew Tree Teachers and has a Bachelor of Secondary Education (Major in English). She teaches the Kindergarten in the morning and handles the Nursery level in the afternoon.

MY VISIT TO MANGO - BENET FRYER

We visited Mango Tree House and part of our day was spent taking some of the kids to visit their families in the dumpsite, which they get to do on a regular basis. The smell was bad and the landfill ground so soft. A boy about 16 was eating outside his 'home' and offered me some of his food. I said it looked delicious and asked what it was. He replied and said it was '*pagpag*'. My throat started to hurt at this point as I cannot believe how it is now the norm for people to have to eat food left over from restaurants, that has been scavenged from garbage sites and dumps. And yet they have such kindness that they want to share what is probably their only meal of the day!



Reaching the first house, the mum opened the door and, with her, out came hundreds of flies, flying past our faces. It made me scared to think what the state of the house was like inside. Her sons, Niknok and Bilog, were so excited to see her but very upset when we left. The social workers had advised us beforehand that, even though Mango House provides the children with a much better environment, they would still choose to be with their families despite their situation. The mum tried to explain to her sons why they had to leave, but it was so heart breaking to watch. I cannot even begin to fathom how difficult and confusing it is for a 10-year old to grasp this.



Our next house was just as destitute but Jexter is older than the first two boys so it was a bit easier. Unfortunately, the grandparents of the last two children had gone to church when we called. However, when we found out that it was their older brother's birthday, we bought cakes and called in on our way back to Mango.

I am aware that reading this may not have the same impact as experiencing it first-hand, but I am so desperately trying to put into words how harrowing it all was. It just is not fair and it makes you angry. However I guess it's best to direct those feelings of unjustness on to focussing on how we can best help the children. They may not have been dealt the best cards in life, but what we can do is try to give them the opportunity and a fighting chance to make their lives better and not remain victims of simply being born in the wrong location.

Benet Fryer - Sponsor and Volunteer

A STUDENT'S STORY: JUSTIN NIPA

I am Justin Adlwin Nipa and, thanks to my sponsors in the UK, Mr and Mrs Peter Woodger, I was able to go through school and graduate as my father did not earn enough to support me, my mother and three other siblings.



Thirteen years ago, the Grapevine Project came as a blessing to our family. At that time, things were very hard. Our family was growing and only our father was providing for the family as a helper for an engineering company. My mother was pregnant with our youngest sibling whilst taking care of my 7-month old sister, my older brother and myself. My mother was trying to earn extra money by doing manicure and pedicure services to other people where she would earn P50 to P100 per person. The Grapevine Project could not have arrived to our family at a more perfect time.

My family's life changed because of the Charity and most especially my sponsors. Their support not only provided for my educational needs, but it helped my family have an initial capital for the Sari-sari store that is managed by my mother. This now serves as additional income for our family to augment for our daily needs.

My family's struggles and the support given to me were my anchors in my determination to finish my studies. Although I was an average student, I was able to finish my course and slowly achieve my dreams. In April 2018, I finished a Computer Engineering course from the Collegio De Montalban. My thesis was also awarded as Best Thesis and Best in Project Design amongst all our batch. Shortly after graduation, I began working as an administrative clerk in a bank that is far from my home under a 6-month contractual position.



I am now about to start as a marketing assistant in a motor company that is near home.

I am proud of how far I have come and I hope I have also made all of you proud. I will be eternally grateful for all the help and support you have extended me and my family through the years.

Justin Adlwin Nipa

What to expect when you sponsor a child

When you decide to sponsor a child you can be sure of making a huge difference to their life. As well as offering them love and giving them support, you will be helping to provide education, which is an invaluable tool to raise them out of poverty. In addition, it has a huge potential effect on generations to come.



Letters

All children love to receive letters and cards from their sponsors, although unfortunately we cannot accept parcels or packages because of postage costs. You can send them as often as you wish and we will endeavour to remind you of their birthday (if you are on email). You should expect to receive Christmas and Easter cards from your sponsored

child and, depending on their age and writing ability, occasional letters.

Child Gifts

Monetary gifts (not exceeding £10) can be sent to your sponsored child for special occasions such as birthdays, Christmas etc. These can be sent to the Charity's office or by direct bank transfer. (If you do the latter, please make sure you include your child's name in the reference so we know it is a special child gift and not a general donation.)

Child updates

You should also expect to receive annual updates on your sponsored child's progress in the form of school and general reports ... and, of course, you will receive Newsletters and other information from Children of the Dump.

By sponsoring a child, you are doing something special ... thank you.

“Education can lift individuals out of poverty and into rewarding careers”

Christine Gregoire

WHY I SUPPORT CHILDREN OF THE DUMP - MATT HOGBen

I first started sponsoring Jae Jae (pictured right) about 12 years ago. I remember the first information I received about her and her family: I was told how old she was, where she lived, who she lived with and, poignantly, that the family had an old fan that was broken. If you have ever been to the Philippines you will know that it is hot - summer or not, it is usually a good 26 to 30 degrees all year round. This single line about the fan caught my attention. My instinct was that I needed to do something about that, so I did.



When we went to visit my wife's family (in the Philippines), during our first few days I said to them that we needed to buy a new fan for the Lacdo-o family and that is exactly what we did. We went to SM (Shoe Mart – the biggest chain of shopping centres in the Philippines) and bought a fan. When we went to visit Mango Tree House, we stopped in at Jae Jae's afterwards as it was nearby. I remember the driver who we hired helped assemble the fan whilst we ate Jolly Bee (the Philippine equivalent of KFC; fried chicken and rice!) and drank soft drinks. It was Jae Jae's birthday (January).



For several years, we were fortunate enough to visit the Philippines on a yearly basis, always in January or around that time so that I could see Jae Jae and my wife could see her family. Jae Jae was always very shy, but always very grateful. Each time we visited we would take

presents (Christmas and birthday) and enjoy watching Jae Jae open them and without fail we would eat Jolly Bee. It is very humbling when you meet children and families who do not have a lot, because even the small gifts mean so much to them. I get updates from Jae Jae at Christmas and Easter. I love reading the letters and hearing about what is going on and how the family are.

Jae Jae's Mum passed away when she was 10 or 11, this was such a devastating time. We happened to be in Manila not long after this and were able to spend some time with Jae Jae and her Dad. After this tragic event they moved back to one of the Southern islands in Mindanao.

Jae Jae is currently at College (University) and is very close to finishing her degree. I love receiving updates about how her course is going, how she is doing in class and often what she has done during the summer holidays. I am so

WHY I SUPPORT CHILDREN OF THE DUMP—MATT HOGBen



grateful that Children of the Dump exists and that I have had the opportunity to know this lovely family. To support a child is so special and rewarding. *Even more so* the fact that I have been able to visit the family and spend time with them.

I would implore anyone who is thinking about sponsoring a child with Children of the Dump to go ahead and do so. You

will receive a regular school report and letters, Christmas and Easter cards. It is very traditional for the children to write on yellow lined paper, this is a lovely hallmark of the Filipinos.

Matt Hogben
Sponsor of Jae Jae

Message from Jae Jae

I am really thankful for all the support given to me from Tito Matt, Tita Michelle and Kim because it has allowed me to attend school and pay my boarding house monthly. It also lessens the financial burden of my father.

My father is still employed in the local government school with below minimum wage provincial rate.

I am Grade 12 and really want to graduate to be able to help my father and sister financially.

The recent increases on the prices of basic goods and commodities greatly affect my family and it makes our budget tighter.



STUDENTS WITHOUT SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT

Mat's family has been living in the government housing project in Kasiglahan for more than 15 years. Their family is composed of seven members with Mat being the youngest child. The father is the main breadwinner of their family, working as an on-call electrician or construction worker, where he earns around PhP1,500 (£23) per week. However, his work is seasonal so this source of income is limited and most of the time the family experiences financial constraints.

Mat loves the colour yellow. His favourite foods are banana and spaghetti. When he grows up he wants to be a policeman.



Janric joined Cashew last year. He is loving, cheerful and playful. He is a very tidy boy, making sure he picks up his toys at home when he has finished playing. He and his three siblings live in a small block and wood constructed house with their parents. His father is a security guard and his mother looks after the children.

Janric enjoys playing with cars and eating fruit and spaghetti. He dreams of being a doctor some day.

Pitt is currently in Grade VIII of section Fire Tree at Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma High School. His class is from 12:00 noon to 6:30 pm from Monday to Friday.

He lives with his mother and two siblings in one room of his grandmother's house. He finds Maths and Science particularly hard at school but is determined to get better at these subjects. He therefore attends (along with other Grapevine students) some of the extra classes put on at Mango Tree House.



STUDENTS WITHOUT SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT (CONT)

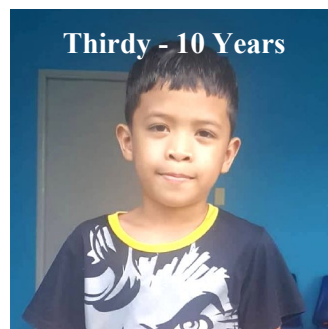
Millicen has been supported by the Charity for nine years. She is currently in her last year at Senior High and is working towards college, where she hopes to study accountancy - she will continue to receive our help until she graduates. Millicen continues to excel at her studies and recently her average grade was 89% in all subjects. Receiving the love and support from a sponsor would encourage her in her studies as she tries to provide for her family.



Jhed's mother abandoned him and his sister when they were very young. Their father then started a new relationship and had another child, but the children were left uncared for. Their stepmother concentrated solely on her own child and Jhed and his sister were frequently left to fend for themselves.

Following an accident which left their father hospitalised, Jhed and his sister were admitted to Mango Tree House. They had been deprived not only of their basic needs, but also of love and care. Both children, through our Charity, are being given proper guidance, security, opportunity and support so they can improve their lives and have hope for the future.

Esmeraldo III (Thirty) and his four siblings were abandoned by their mother when they were young and were subsequently looked after by various relatives when their father was put in prison on drugs-related offences. Unfortunately the relatives were unable to look after the children and they were frequently neglected. Thirty was admitted to Mango Tree House last year and is already benefitting greatly from the love, care, support and education he is receiving. He is a determined child who wants to succeed.



WHY FUNDRAISE FOR CHILDREN OF THE DUMP?

We can't do what we do without our supporters. Whether you want to take part in an event, or raise money in your local area, only you can make sure we can continue to change young lives one at a time.



In 2018 a number of valiant supporters held events in aid of Children of the Dump. These included Cycle Rides, a Parachute Jump, Beach Clean, Garden Parties, Coffee Mornings and a Charity Ball, to mention but a few. To date they have raised over £11,000 in the last 10 months!

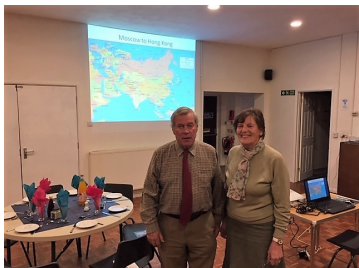
Could you, your family or friends help us raise money through fundraising? The list of fundraising ideas is endless: why not hold a garage clearance or boot sale, run a bring and buy sale, have school mufti days, try abseiling or take part in a sponsored walk ...



For further detail on how you could help us raise additional funds, please contact John on 01276 942030 or email him at: office@childrenofthedump.org.uk We will support you all the way.

FUNDRAISING EVENT — JOHN BRITTON

Thank you to John and Elizabeth Britton who held a Fundraising evening at Alresford Methodist Church in aid of Children of the Dump. John and Elizabeth talked about their recent travels from Moscow to Hong Kong and the different countries they visited during their time away.



The event was very well supported with 39 people attending and everyone enjoying a fish and chip supper. John Busby, Charity Manager, gave a short presentation on the history and work of Children of the Dump (ASCT) and the evening raised a marvellous £655.

John and Elizabeth Britton said “Our reason for making contact with your Charity was simply wanting to respond to the poverty we witnessed during our two day stay in Manila, as part of a holiday cruise. We were sorry to see so many children begging on the streets and wanted to do something to help”



Everyone at Children of the Dump together with the staff and students in Manila would like to thank John and Elizabeth Britton, Rev Ruth Fry of Alresford Methodist Church and all those who showed their support for our Charity.



If any of our supporters would like to hold a fundraising event like John and Elizabeth, please contact John Busby for further information on the different ways that we can support you.

WONDERFUL FUNDRAISING PLATFORM

BT announced in January that they will be closing their *MyDonate* fundraising platform on the 30 June 2019. Children of the Dump has used this platform for a number of years, allowing fundraisers and personal donors to support our Charity. Since we learnt of the closure we have been looking at a number of different fundraising platforms that would not only be suitable for the Charity but would also be user friendly for our fundraisers and donors. We believe that we have found the ideal platform with <https://wonderful.org>, This charity platform doesn't charge any service or processing fees to the charity, meaning 100% of your donation goes directly to Children of the Dump!

Each month, *Wonderful* transfers all funds raised through the activities of fundraisers and donors to our bank account, making no deductions to cover their operational costs, card processing transaction fees etc.



Fundraising: It's really easy to use, just copy the link <https://wonderful.org>, select 'Create a Fundraising Page' and register, then you can create a fundraising page in just a few seconds. Simply add some details about the event in which you're participating and your reasons for doing so, select our Charity 'Asian Students Christian Trust' and spread the word about your page. Friends, relatives and colleagues will be able to sponsor you quickly and easily and our Charity will receive every penny you raise - plus Gift Aid where eligible. Once you've created your page <https://wonderful.org> will give you links to share on social media or via email.

Donating: just copy the link <https://wonderful.org> select 'Make a Donation', type in 'Asian Students Christian Trust' in the search box, register yourself and choose the amount you want to donate.

If you wish to donate to a specific Project, follow the steps in Donating (above) and scroll to the bottom of the *Wonderful* page. Here you will find our different Projects: Grapevine, Mango and Cashew Tree. Click on the Project appeal you wish to donate to and choose the amount you want to donate.

If you prefer to donate through our website, just click the Donate Button and it will take you straight to the *Wonderful.org* website, where you can make your donation. For further information please contact John Busby, the Charity Manager, at office@childrenofthedump.org.uk or on 01276 942030.

MEET THE TRUSTEES — MIKE KELLY

I am a graduate in Environmental Health and left my native Northern Ireland in January 1968 to become one of only eight Health Officers in the Republic of Zambia.

My working district was about the size of Wales and my work included overseeing the World Health Organisation smallpox eradication campaign which required the population of the country to be vaccinated every three years, vaccinating school children against measles and TB which were killers, dealing with malaria and bilharzia plus the basics of clean food and water supplies.



Highlights of my job included being held up by Frelimo Guerrilla fighters in a remote area, delivering a baby boy on my own between dessert and coffee on a Sunday lunch time (you can't stand by and do nothing when you are the only pair of hands available) and the fact that within my district was the Luangwa Valley Game Reserve, some 9,000 sq kms in size and its wonderful array of wildlife. Having 23,000 elephant in my back garden was somewhat special.

I returned to the UK in 1971 and joined the London Borough of Hillingdon in Urban Environmental Health before joining British Airways Medical Service in 1975.

In the late 1980s I was sponsored by BA to complete a Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA) at Bath University following which I was appointed Head of Catering Operations at Heathrow airport.

On retirement from the airline I spent three years as Chairman of the Board of Chadwick House Group Ltd, a company which specialised in Environmental Health training across the world.

My wife and I have known and supported the work of Children of the Dump (ASCT) for many years through our friendship with David and Margaret Cox. Reading an appeal for more trustees in the regular Newsletter, I felt that in retirement I should perhaps make some better use of my free time and become a more useful member of society in order to help others not so fortunate in life.

Knowing that the money raised by COD goes directly to the children who needed it and isn't wasted on outrageous salaries for Chief Executives or wasteful postal appeals containing pencils, pens, labels etc, made it an easy decision to ask if my services would be of benefit.

Happily I have been accepted and am now a Trustee, working at the never ending fund raising which is essential to the lives of those many children whom we all support.

Mike Kelly, Trustee

MY VISIT TO MANGO - JUNE COBBETT, TRUSTEE

I have been a Trustee for Children of the Dump for over ten years and was lucky enough to visit Manila and Mango Tree House for three months in 2010 as a volunteer. When I arrived at the airport it was still very hot, even though it was evening. I was met by Peter Emata and we drove for two hours through the rush hour, the traffic was very noisy. Alongside the five lane roads were bustling markets with people buying and selling all kinds of products. The houses were shanty-type buildings made of chipboard and corrugated iron sheet roofs – it was a real culture shock!



I was unsure what I was going to do besides help the staff and be a friend to the children. I shouldn't have worried. I was made very welcome and given a tour around Mango Tree House and right away was called Aunty June. The children were certainly not shy and asked me all about the members of my family – I put up photos of my grandchildren in my room. They even asked me how old I was! I couldn't move without an excited child holding or clinging onto my hand. I ate with the children – fish (including heads and tails) and rice and more rice. However I did buy my own cereal, milk, bread and bottled water. We all took turns to clear away and wash up.

One of the teachers at Cashew School became ill whilst I was there. As a result I acted as a teaching assistant, travelling 20 minutes to the school every day, along dusty and mountainous roads in a jeepney (an elongated jeep bus). Cashew was situated 200 yards from the smelly rubbish dump at Payatas where the children's parents scavenged to make a living. The children and staff were delightful and I helped with their lessons, even learning a little Tagalog (the local language). I marked their work and examinations and supervised them whilst they went to the bathroom. I also helped give out the nutritious snack they received during their class, which sometimes was the only meal they had all day. At the end of term awards ceremony I was asked to present the prizes. It was very rewarding and I made friends with some of the parents.

Every day on my return to Mango I helped the older children with their homework in the library. The Dutch school next door had high standards and I had to try to remember my English grammar from many years ago. It did take a little while to settle in as everyone went to bed very early to be at school by 4.30 am, and I am usually a night owl. I soon got used to being woken up.

At weekends the children played outdoor games and loved creative art, as well as drama. I joined in with the child-led devotions every evening and went to the local church, often helping at Sunday school (avoiding the long sermons in Tagalo!).

Everyone at Mango lives as a large family helping and looking after each other, and I felt privileged to be part of that family. An amazing and life-changing experience

June Cobbett, Trustee

STRAIGHT FROM THE MANGO KITCHEN

Bicol Express

This dish can be unforgiving when it comes to its spiciness. But our lovely Kitchen Executive knows how to concoct the right balance of richness, creaminess and spiciness that leaves us all at Mango wanting more of this pure comfort food! This is best served with steamed rice and a bottle of soda for a hearty meal!

Ingredients:



Cooking oil

Onion, peeled and chopped

Garlic, peeled and minced

Shrimp paste

Pork - chopped

Coconut milk

Water

Coconut cream

Chili peppers

Salt and pepper to taste



Instructions:

Heat oil in a wide pot over medium heat. Add in onions and garlic to cook until softened.

Add shrimp paste and cook, stirring occasionally, for about 1 to 2 minutes until it begins to brown.

Add pork and cook, stirring occasionally, until lightly browned.

Add coconut milk and water and bring to a simmer. Cook for about 10-15 minutes or until liquid is reduced.

Add coconut cream and chili peppers. Continue to cook for about 20-25 minutes or until pork is tender and sauce begins to thicken.

Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve hot.



RAISE MONEY AT NO COST TO YOU

Shopping on Amazon: Join *Amazon Smile* and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase value to Children of the Dump - smile.amazon.co.uk.

Same product, same price, same service as the normal Amazon site. Sign up in moments at smile.amazon.co.uk (choose ASCT as the registered charity name of Children of the Dump).

BT MyDonate is closing down on 30 June 2019. As an alternative Children of the Dump has now registered with ***Wonderful***, an online platform and receive 100% of the money raised by our donators and fundraisers. The money goes directly to our Charity. *Wonderful* is a fee-free service (see page 16 for details).

It is simple to donate, just go to <https://wonderful.org> and type in the donation search box 'Asian Students Christian Trust' and select the amount you wish to donate; alternatively to fundraise for us select Create A Fundraising Page and fill in the boxes. It's quick and simple.

FUTURE FUNDRAISING

Raffle prizes or Auction items: We are constantly looking for raffle prizes and items or services that can be auctioned. Let us know if you can offer anything.

Details of the above fundraising initiatives and all future events can be found on the Children of the Dump website www.childrenofthedump.org.uk or by contacting John on 01276 942030



Patron: Right Honourable Michael Gove MP for Surrey Heath

Patron: Nathan Dyer, Swansea City FC

High Cross Church, Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3SY

Tel: 01276-942030

Website: www.childrenofthedump.org.uk

E-mail: office@childrenofthedump.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 272328