



Helping Communities in North-West Cambodia

March 2016

## MANGO NEWS

March 2016

### “HOW MUCH?” .....“HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?”..... “OK, JUST DO IT”...

This exchange became a regular occurrence during the charity's recent project visit to Cambodia!!

Thanks to the generosity of our UK donors in 2015, **SUPPORT CAMBODIA** was not only able to fund £420



of **toiletries and stationery** for distribution in the rural communities but also make small 'on-the-spot' donations for a number of diverse needs: **a water connection** in Pailin City enabling a poor community to have mains water for the first time: **extra windows** in St. Sebastian's Day Care Centre, Pongro to alleviate excessively high internal temperatures : **mats and chairs** for 'pop-up' learning sessions in villages around Pursat and extra funding to help the work at **Rha Village** on the disused railway line in Svay Sisophon. Okay, a little money goes a long way in Cambodia and none of these cost more than £240 [\$300], mostly less, but the effect on local communities is enormous.

Additionally, **20,000 vitamin tablets** [paid for from the Appeal] were distributed to 5 centres along with **donated medical supplies** and **8 Family Water Filters**. Most of the filters were sponsored by local Norfolk people and two were donated free by the not-for-profit Sunderland-based company who make them: [www.grifaid.org](http://www.grifaid.org) .Sincere thanks to them and to their sponsors.

All this was over and above the £7000 [\$] given by **SUPPORT CAMBODIA** to specific projects during 2015: **solar power panels** at Phnom Priel Primary School: **volunteer building & Rice Soup Programme** at Svay Sisophon: **school uniform** for 350 children in the Kompong Chhnang area: **7 bicycles** at Tapung Village: **fruit trees** for the farm at Deylo and a contribution to the **Emergency Rice Programme** at Battambang. That **SUPPORT CAMBODIA** could achieve so much in its first year as a registered charity is due entirely to the generosity and commitment of all those who "**SUPPORT CAMBODIA**". On behalf of the Trustees a heartfelt "*Okoon charen*" [thank you very much] to each one of you.... and please, keep up the good work as it really does make a difference.



**CAMBODIA PEOPLE** During their visit in January [see page 4 for highlights] Trustees **Bob & Katie Maidment** were fortunate to meet several key people, notably **Brother Noel Oliver**, [co-founder of the CROAP centre which is undergoing a revival], **Santiago de Col** [Operations Director of New Humanity, an NGO providing specialist care for the disabled], and **Father Ashley Evans** [Operations Director of the rapidly-developing Xavier Jesuit School, Svay Sisophon].



While in Battambang they also came across old friends **Cecile Rose** and **Dam Pranya** and had the great pleasure of **Daly Pol** [and her lovely family] as 'fixer'/guide/translator etc for the trip.

It's good to report that the charity's main contact in Pailin, **Brother Francis Amoako Attah**, is now in much better health and will be staying on to oversee progress of the new Marist Brothers' development in Pailin.

Best wishes to **Rodrigo & Estela Sanchez** and their young family as they return to Mexico in April after 3 years working as lay missionaries in Pailin Province.



Their friendship and support will be much missed – thanks for all your help.

**St. Michael's Infant School, Aylsham** have again generously supported the Rice Feeding Programme at St Sebastian's Day Care Centre, Pongro and this year, **John of Gaunt Infants** also contributed their 'Kindness Pennies' to provide these very young, mainly orphan children with a good meal.

Trustees **David & Carol Shippey** were very disappointed to have to withdraw from the project visit owing to David's ill-health but happily he is now well on the mend.

**Bob Turner of Cambodia Craft** is hoping to visit Cambodia before the summer [and before the rains!] . For anyone interested in purchasing the beautiful wooden sculptures made at **Banteay Prieb** by disabled artisans, Bob will be at Walsingham on the early May Bank Holiday weekend. [SUPPORT CAMBODIA will also have a stall there].

**"COINS FOR CAMBODIA" HOME COLLECTING JARS are now available.**

**Call 01263 577784 or email katbob@live.co.uk**

Based on an idea from St Mary's Catholic Parish, Ipswich called "The Thankfulness Jar", it is a visible reminder of how fortunate we are and invites us to be grateful for what we have and to show our gratitude in a practical way.



**HOW DOES IT WORK?** Some things are either impossible or very difficult in Cambodia [eg: drinking clean water from a tap, access to health care, etc ], things we tend to take for granted in the UK. **Collect your spare coins in the jar.....and for a moment, bring to mind the needy and disadvantaged of Cambodia.**

**WHAT DO I DO WHEN THE JAR IS FULL?**

Count the contents, place in a bag WITH YOUR NAME, JAR NUMBER AND THE AMOUNT and return to Bob Maidment [contact details on page 6]

*In 2016, all proceeds from the jars will go towards clean water projects.*

**WE ALSO NEED MORE 'BONNE MAMAN' JARS [no other jars please]!! CAN YOU HELP??**

and did you know?.... the Frenchman credited with designing the Bonne Maman jam jar now lives in Phnom Penh and has started a charity helping the disadvantaged poor of the city? Quite a coincidence!

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**UK TAXPAYER?**

**GIFT AIDING YOUR DONATION BRINGS IN ANOTHER 25%. CONTACT BOB MAIDMENT FOR A FORM.**

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**PROJECT VISIT 2016** Trustees **Katie & Bob Maidment** share the highlights of the trip.

- **Comissioning the solar system in Phnom Priel.** An amazing morning. Headmaster Ismael, the village chief, 200 children, their parents and villagers joined Marist Brothers Francis, Gilbert & Iggy as Bob cut the tape to formally open the facility. The Brothers presented secondhand laptops and **SUPPORT CAMBODIA** gave another \$100 for computer desks. Since then a photo copier/printer has also been obtained. While at Phnom Priel we inspected the two borewells funded by the charity in 2015, making it the only school in the area with both water and power. Good result.



- **Meeting Mr Pu** ['Pu' means uncle]. He lives in a very poor community on the outskirts of Pailin City, supporting his family and neighbours by selling his work. He is a gifted artist, all the more remarkable because he suffers from leprosy and has no fingers or toes. We bought one of his pictures.
- **Visiting the Sisters in Pursat and Pailin** and learning about their work with the very poorest families. They receive no regular funding but still run village-based learning, a girls' hostel, kindergartens, feeding programmes and provide practical support, particularly for women and children. Inspiring.
- **Arriving at Tapung on Sunday afternoon** to find the children had come in specially to welcome us and the 'bike owners' turned up with their bikes to say 'thank you'. Very humbling.



- **Visiting the squatters village at Rha** on the disused railway line in Svay Sisophon. A dirty, squalid place with multiple problems, seemingly more people than ever and little sign of hope going forward. Those who work with the community there are really heroic and need all the support they can get.
- **The welcome at de Nobili Church Centre, Svay Sisophon** and the chance to renew acquaintances with Fr Greg. Wonderful Presentation Evening with the students in a great atmosphere.
- **Visiting the Xavier Jesuit School, Svay.** Just amazing! See the pictures at [www.jesuitschoolcam.org](http://www.jesuitschoolcam.org)

*No charity money is used for project visits. All individuals who go pay for themselves.*



## GALLERY



### FROM THE TRUSTEES: Ian Andrews writes:

- Applications for project funding have been invited ahead of the **next Trustees Meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>** but a detailed application for an outdoor study area at Tapung Village has already been received. The site was visited by Bob & Katie in January and since the money has already been offered by a single donor specifically for a building project, Trustees were happy for this project to begin immediately.....

Contact Ian Andrews on 01263 732780



- The **SUPPORTERS Coffee Morning** at Aylsham on February 27<sup>th</sup> was a new event and well attended. The Trustees are considering holding a similar event later in the year, possibly in the evening to accommodate those who work during the day. **The “Soups, Slides & Crafts”** event held in North Walsham on March 5<sup>th</sup> was a great success, attended by nearly 60 people and raising almost £500 for the Rice Soup & Baby Milk Programme in Svay Sisophon. Thanks to **“SUPPORTERS” Anne Marsden, Peter Brander, Roma Brooder, and Clare Hardie** for providing delicious soups, **Carol Shippey & her team [Sarah, David, Stephen & Margaret ]** for great work in the kitchen and to **Jan, Tim, Pauline & Ian** for everything else. **Katie** gave a whistlestop resume of the recent project visit and the new selection of Cambodian crafts proved very popular. *If you missed the event and would still like to hear about the trip, why not organise your own coffee morning/soup lunch/ tea party? Bob & Katie would be very happy to come with a laptop and pictures.* **AND COMING SOON.....THE PLANT SALE at NORTH WALSHAM on SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MAY:** please encourage local support for this event by displaying posters and providing plants.

## **INFORMATION & CONTACTS**

### **DIARY DATES**

#### **APRIL**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> : Cambodian-style Mass to Celebrate Khmer New Year. 7pm  
St John of the Cross Church, White Hart Street, Aylsham, NR11 6HG

#### **MAY**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> : **SUPPORT CAMBODIA** stall at Walsingham. All day.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>: Plant Sale at Sacred Heart Hall, North Walsham, NR28 9JP 1030am start

**DONATIONS OF PLANTS NEEDED Contact Adrian on 01263 722615**

#### **JULY**

Saturday 16<sup>h</sup> : Table Top Sale, Aylsham Market Place 9 - 12noon

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> : Charity Collection @ Morrisons [Cromer]

#### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October: Race Night @ North Walsham

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October: Cambodian-style Mass to Celebrate Bon Pchum Ben

### **TALKS**

Would you like to know more about Cambodia? We can offer illustrated talks on any aspect of **SUPPORT CAMBODIA's** work, the Catholic Church in Cambodia or just Cambodia in general. We can tailor the talk to your requirements and bring crafts for sale if it's appropriate. There's no charge but a donation to the charity is always appreciated. *Contact us if you're interested.*

### **MAIL LIST**

In the interests of economy and the environment, we prefer to send Mango News by email [and you get to read it in colour!!]

If you would like to receive Mango News and other updates by email and *have not yet registered your e-address*, please email Katie at [katbob@live.co.uk](mailto:katbob@live.co.uk). Mango News is also available online at [www.sacredheartnorthwalsham.com](http://www.sacredheartnorthwalsham.com) and on our Facebook page [see below]

*If you do not have email* and would like to receive Mango News, updates and information, please phone 01263 577784 and we'll send you a form for your details.

#### **The official SUPPORT CAMBODIA FACEBOOK PAGE**

All charity news appears on this page. Please 'like' and 'share' with your Facebook friends so as many people as possible are aware of the charity and have the opportunity to get involved.

### **CONTACT US**

email: [katbob@live.co.uk](mailto:katbob@live.co.uk)

phone: 01263 577784

text: 07759982011

Facebook: Support Cambodia

post: Katie & Bob Maidment, 22/23 Regent Street, Wickmere, Norwich, Norfolk, NR11 7ND

**DONATIONS** by cheque should be made payable to: **Support Cambodia.**

**The charity takes no administration costs from charity money.**

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**NEXT EDITION: July 2016.** contributions to the Editor [Katie Maidment] by **June 28<sup>th</sup>** please

