SalGO News



August 2021 Issue 37

From the Chairman: At last, SalGO Assist was able to run a real live stall again, the first since before the Pandemic began. Last Saturday the Hurst Horticultural Show drew a large and happy crowd. Our Tombola Stall made £200, while the display boards and new leaflets describing Bapatla's "Covid orphans" and other needy children aroused much interest. You can read in the article below of our pressing need for sponsors and the challenge that will be faced by the Warden, staff, cook and other helpers when they receive and settle children into the CS or the PS Homes. We hope you enjoy reading this issue, the first since February, and continue with us, now that our freedoms have been largely restored, in meeting the needs and changing the lives of some of the poorest people in India. Perhaps you would also join us in giving thanks, as we remember in October, the 20th anniversary of the founding of SalGO Assist! Your fellow supporter, *Clifford Smith*





The very real consequences of the Pandemic

Many children in and around the areas we support have lost one or both parents to COVID19

We are now being asked to consider taking fifteen more children into the two homes, eleven of whom are in this very situation. Many had already lost one parent and the pandemic now means they are orphans. Some are now with grandparents who, due to their age or poverty are struggling to cope with this new responsibility. Several of the children have been found by members of the SalGOERCO committee begging. These 6 to12 year old's hope for a good future depends on finding a sponsor, so they can join the CS Home for boys or the PS home for Girls, whilst continuing to see any remaining relatives. Here they will be fed, clothed and receive love, care and an essential education. If you know of anyone who might be willing to support one of these children or would like more information, please contact us at enquiries@salgoassist.org or via the website.





One of the many stories

Nine year old S's father died in the first wave of COVID-19 and his mother died in the second wave, so he and his 6-year old younger brother became orphans. They are staying with their 65 year old widowed Grandmother who is visually impaired. When Pastor Prabhudas saw the two boys begging in Guntur bus stand he took them both to their house and talked to their grandmother about CS Home for boys. When they visited the home, they felt they would be very happy to join. They especially liked the Clifford Smith Home garden.

Roland Frederick Castle!

It was with much regret, but no surprise, that we recently received Roland's resignation from SalGO Assist due to deteriorating health. He gave up being Treasurer at our AGM, in October last year, after 13 years of faithful service but kindly stayed on the committee to continue helping with fundraising – he was the go-to person for supervising the golf game at the Winnersh Fete and the Hurst Horticultural Show.

Roland took over from our first treasurer, Mike Revans, in 2006 and, with a career in insurance behind him, much of it in Africa, also looked after our insurance and risk assessments. Every October he made sure annual accounts were prepared, passed by the appointed Examiner, and lodged with the Charity Commission after each AGM. We will miss him greatly, not only as a wise head advising on spending priorities at our monthly meetings, but for his friendship and his readiness to help in setting up and dismantling the SalGO Assist stall wherever we had the chance to raise money for our projects in India. We wish you better health, Roland, and fewer demands on you, in the years ahead. Thank you! (Your fellow Trustees).





Wedding News

Mani Kumar, of the CS Home for Boys married 20 year old Ratna, on 9th June, in a simple ceremony. Mani Kumar is now settled with a good job and Ratna has completed her polytechnic course. The ceremony began with wedding anthems followed by a wedding speech and vows. After the cutting and sharing of the cake came the final blessings and a shared wedding meal.

The elderly male residents of Kachem, formerly the home of Gamaliel and Tabitha in Vedullapalle, have been watching and listening with interest as their modern bathroom and toilet, provided by SalGO Assist, takes shape, close to the back of the house. No longer will they have to walk across the garden at night, risking a fall and possible injury. We trust it all adds to their feeling of safety and comfort in their final years. Regular support is sought for these elderly men to help provide for their basic needs.



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Donations *can be made via:* **https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/10477**