

ASCT NEWS

Caring for children in the Philippines since 1975

October 2009

Issue 38

Patrons: The Right Honourable Michael Gove MP, *Member of Parliament for Surrey Heath*
The Right Revd Christopher Hill, *The Bishop of Guildford*

When we decided to build a new children's home little did we know what lifesaving work would be thrust upon us within two months of completion. Some of this edition is dedicated to disaster relief and how we have played a part in saving hundreds of lives and supported local people after the floods. The terrifying rain, winds and floods were centred on our locality. Not only did our staff get involved but so did our young people. They felt that they were no longer victims but heroes making such a valuable contribution to this emergency.

The home is wonderful, spacious, light, airy and built to last allowing us to have a planned expansion over the coming years. I visited for the first time in August, to see what, through your generosity, we had been able to build and I was awestruck. The children love being there and the staff are so pleased to have more space for the children and themselves. It is also good that Cashew Tree School is only about half an hour away as is Craig's home, so all our work is now concentrated in one area. Our official opening of Mango Tree House will be on October 24th and a number of UK trustees will be travelling out for this celebration, tempered by the events of the last week in September.

Please look at our website where there is always news, photographs and information. Thank you all for your incredible care and support, it is much valued and appreciated

*David Cox MBE
Honorary chairman*

MANGO BECOMES DISASTER RELIEF CENTRE



Typhoon Ondoy caused devastation to Manila during the weekend of 26th September. Thankfully Mango Tree House and Cashew Tree School withstood the battering undamaged, and all our children were safe. Unfortunately the same could not be said for the surrounding area. Many homes were washed away or engulfed in several metres of mud. Locally over a hundred people lost their lives while many more lost everything they owned including any means of making a living.



Step forward our director Craig Burrows, ASCF staff and children. With the help of some fantastic volunteers Craig and his staff were able to use Mango Tree House and Papaya School as a disaster relief centre for over 300 people. He organised the distribution of clothes and food to hundreds of families, co-opted politicians, expats and local business men to give time and money to help in the area. He arranged several clinic sessions where much needed medical help was available to over a thousand people. Our ASCT young people spent many hours packing food parcels and helping in many other ways. The British Ambassador to the Philippines, Stephen Lillie, joined in the relief operation and gave his personal thanks to the children for all their hard work, saying: 'Thank you for your warm and friendly welcome. You are doing such a fantastic job, helping people who have suffered because of Typhoon Ondoy. The Philippines can be proud of you all. Thank you and God bless you all. I look forward to visiting you again.'

As things return to normal we are just thankful that we, as a small charity, could help so many people. A huge debt of gratitude is due to everyone who gave up hours of their time in horrendous conditions to help the local people in their hour of desperate need. Thank you to them all.



BRITISH AMBASSADOR WITH SENIOR MANGO GIRLS

Alternative Christmas Scheme

If you would like to take part in the scheme, simply fill in the form below and return with a cheque (made payable to ASCT) to the ASCT office. In return you will receive a gift certificate which you can either keep yourself or pass on as a present to someone else. Every penny donated via the scheme will be sent out to the Philippines and be used to buy the items chosen for the children and families supported by ASCT.

Product	Price	Quantity	Sub Total
Set of clothes	£15.00		
School Supplies per student	£10.00		
Books for Cashew	£5.00		
Pair of shoes	£6.00		
Vitamins	£5.00		
Rice and canned food per family	£10.00		
Blanket	£3.00		
Total			

Name: _____ **Tele no.** _____

Address: _____

Completed forms should be received in the ASCT office by December 12th.



FAREWELL TO MOYRA



For over 34 years Moyra Glover has been a trustee with ASCT holding the role of treasurer, vice chair and trustee at various times. After such a remarkable length of time she has decided to retire from the charity.

It all started many years ago when her son heard a speaker at Tomlinscote school Christian Union talking about his work with young people in Hong Kong and the Philippines. Moyra's son was fascinated and asked his Mum if they could invite Rev David Taylor and his wife for tea

on their next visit.

When this happened, Moyra was asked if she could get involved at the very early stages of ASCT as treasurer as the work in the Philippines was just getting underway. At that time there was one social worker with a handful of street children in a rented room and they moved from place to place as funds and rooms were available. Hardly a stable beginning but over the years that has changed to be the three projects we have at present and a purpose built home for up to fifty children.

In those early days there were a few supporters in the UK, a home office and no technology other than a typewriter and hand written minutes and accounts. Communication with the work in the Philippines was by airmail or even surface mail taking weeks to arrive and further weeks for a response. Moyra's first visit to Manila was in 1993 and this made an indelible impression on her. 'Visiting the rubbish dump where so many children lived was a truly awful experience and one of the few occasions in my life where I just wanted to run away – the sights and above all the smell were truly dreadful. The ground was soft and squidgy as it was in reality layer upon layer of semi compacted rubbish. Yet this was where our staff visited and some of the children we cared for were living', Moyra recounts.

The second visit was a more joyful experience at the official opening of the Cashew Tree school. This was the culmination of over a

year's planning and fundraising to design and build a school for local children from the rubbish dump and local squatter area. The grand opening was a colourful, noisy event with lots of very well turned out children and proud parents celebrating in exuberant mood, their new school. The British Ambassador was the guest of honour and together with other UK trustees, representatives from AMOS Trust , local dignitaries and many local people, we had a marvellous day.

Moyra adds that it has been a privilege to be involved in this work for so many years, seeing the changes to young lives and especially through her own sponsored child.

As a member of St Paul's Church in Camberley, she has done a great deal on their mission team to spread the word about ASCT and, now that the New Mango Tree home is completed, feels it the right time to step down.

As chairman I want to thank Moyra most sincerely for all her invaluable support, friendship, wisdom and advice as a trustee over the years which have seen so many changes.

Thank you Moyra and we all send you our very best wishes for a well deserved retirement from ASCT, although I suspect you will never be far away and keep your deep interest in our work at heart.

David Cox
Hon Chairman

High Cross Church, Camberley, recently celebrated 100 years of the Congregational Church in Camberley. The weekend of celebration included a flower festival. The lovely ASCT arrangement, pictured right, was kindly arranged and donated by Myrna Pepper and Margaret Cox. Thank you to them both and to High Cross for supporting ASCT for many years.



COME AND JOIN US

The ASCT AGM will be held at St Paul's Church, Camberley, Surrey on Saturday 14th November at 9.30 am. All supporters are very welcome to this informal meeting. If you would like to be there please contact Alison on 01276 707633 or e-mail office@asct.org.uk.

EVENTS GALORE!

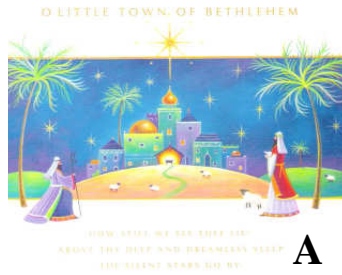
We have had some fantastic support over the last few months:

- ◆ Julie Teo, pictured below, ran the Windsor half marathon.
- ◆ Adam Williams participated in a German triathlon for the second year in a row.
- ◆ Chloe Stapleton completed the coast to coast walk raising a brilliant £670.
- ◆ Members of High Cross Church took part in a sponsored walk and raised almost £1000.
- ◆ Ann Turrall, retired trustee, celebrated her birthday and raised over £700 by asking for donations for ASCT in lieu of gifts.
- ◆ John Wood and David Markby organised several summer organ recitals at High Cross Church.

Thank you to everyone who has taken time to raise money on our behalf. If you would like to fundraise for ASCT and need some help please have a look at our website www.asct.org.uk or phone Alison on 01276 707633.



ASCT CHRISTMAS CARDS



A



C



B



D



E

@ £2.80
per pack

£1.20 from each pack will go to ASCT funds.

Message inside all cards is: 'with best wishes for Christmas and the new Year' and on inside cover 'For unto us a child is born'.

To order Christmas cards send your order form and cheque made payable to ASCT to the ASCT office. Alternatively collect in person from the office (do phone or email in advance).

Please include p&p cost as shown below * with your order

Name and address:					
Design	A	B	C	D	E
No. of packs required					
Total cost @£2.80 a pack					
Total cost including post and packaging: £					

* Post and packaging cost: 1 or 2 packs = 59p, 3 or 4 packs = 85p, 5 or 6 packs = £1.23. For larger orders please contact Alison directly.

BARN DANCE
28th November 2009
With the band 'Saxon Drain'

High Cross Church, Camberley
To get tickets contact Alison in the ASCT office

Dancing starts at 7pm
Wagons roll at 10pm
Bring your own drink

Cost of ticket £10
Under 12's £5
Includes hot meal

CHRISTMAS POST

Christmas time is fast approaching and, like all other children around the world, the ASCT children are eagerly anticipating the day. If you sponsor an ASCT child and would like to send them a card and/or a monetary present the Christmas package will be sent from the ASCT office on the 28th November. Some of our children do not receive a Christmas gift. If you would like to give to one of these children please send a cheque, made payable to ASCT to the address below.



Asian Students Christian Trust
Community Link, Surrey Heath House
Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3HH
Tel: 01276-707633
Website: www.asct.org.uk E-mail: office@asct.org.uk
Registered Charity Number: 272328