



OCEAN STARS TRUST



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Established January 2005

Newsletter 39: JUNE 2025



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VANNAKAM
AYUBOWANG
WELCOME



Happy Birthday Ocean Stars! 20 years old in 2025. We celebrated with a party attended by 109 people and were delighted to welcome two sponsor children from Sri Lanka who travelled for the event. The evening began with the lighting of the traditional lamp and a performance by the Calthorpe Park School Samba Band. The chef at the Lismoyne Hotel had prepared a feast of Sri Lankan curries, and a cake celebrating our 20 years of work was cut. Speeches by our key guests highlighted the achievements of Ocean Stars Trust over the last 20 years . A raffle was followed by dancing to the local Why Band. It was a truly memorable evening and we thank everyone involved in every way that contributed to an unforgettable evening.



Message from Dilanee

When the tsunami happened on Boxing Day 2004 and the seed for Ocean Stars was planted in my head, I reached out to Revd David Jebb who was the Minister at North Camp Methodist Church in Farnborough. Revd Jebb had lost 12 members of his family in the tsunami. Struggling with his own grief he suggested I went to his home town of Batticaloa to help those who had been left devastated. We were delighted that Revd Jebb accepted our invitation to be the chief guest at our celebration evening.

From Revd David Jebb,

First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the kind invitation extended to Jenet and me to join you in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Ocean Stars charity.



Determined to reach my homeland after tsunami, I embarked on a challenging 25-hour journey, fraught with numerous flight cancellations due to the disaster. Eventually, on December 31, 2004, I arrived in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, only to face the painful reality that none of my family members' bodies had been recovered. We searched tirelessly for closure, but in the end, we had to accept their absence in faith. Nine days later, we gathered for a service of thanksgiving, honouring their memory and seeking peace in the midst of immeasurable loss. In that sacred moment, surrounded by grief yet held together by faith, I understood that healing, however slow, begins in community.

Today Ocean Stars has become a beacon of hope and transformation for countless lives. What began as an idea fuelled by compassion has blossomed into a force for good, bringing light to those who once stood in darkness.

May we go forward with renewed determination, inspired by the journey we have walked together, and may the Ocean Stars charity continue to shine brightly for many years to come.



22nd March 2025 - celebrating 20 years of Ocean Stars Trust at the Lismoyne Hotel in Fleet.

We have received lots of positive feedback about our celebration evening:

“Congratulations on a wonderful party. The cake was delicious. The band was great. Having two SriLankan guests brought home the power of the work you do. Their stories were truly amazing to hear. The speeches were so inspiring and moving. It was so great to see faces from the past and the present all in one room. It was a very special night and will live long in the memory. A brilliant evening to celebrate the work of a great charity”.



Celebrations have been taking place in Sri Lanka and more are planned for later this year.

Message from our Ocean Stars Lanka Director in Batticaloa: “May Ocean Stars continue to shine brightly , empowering communities, transforming lives and spreading hope for many more years to come. As Ocean Stars begins a new chapter, may it be filled with success, joy and fulfilment of many more dreams. Congratulations to 20 years of service to the children and families of Sri Lanka. Best wishes for many more years of Ocean Stars.”



BACS DONATIONS

If you would like to make a donation by BACS please use the following details :

Account Name: Ocean Stars Trust **Sort Code:** 30-93-32

Account Number: 02662990

Reference: Gift

**Our Vision is a Sri Lanka
where every child has equal
opportunity.**

**Donate £10 towards our ongoing work in Sri Lanka by
TEXTING oceanstarstrust to 70085
(Texts cost £10 plus one standard network rate message).**

Basith now aged 25 met Ann, who was his sponsor from the ages of 5– 18, in March 2025. A very special moment for Ocean Stars and for our supporters to hear first-hand his impact story.



Abdul :“This has been an amazing journey from Batticaloa in Sri Lanka to Fleet in

Hampshire UK. I am 25 years old and I was sponsored when I was 5 years old. My father is hearing impaired so growing up life was very difficult for us and the sponsorship money was a lifeline for my family and provided for my education. It has been simply wonderful to be able to attend the 20th celebration of Ocean Stars . To meet with all the people who have supported Ocean Stars over the years was a truly amazing experience. I am blown away by the support of the Fleet community for Ocean Stars. I have seen first hand all the hard work the Ocean Stars Team puts into the charity everyday. And I am a beneficiary of this hard work so thank

you from the bottom of my heart. I also visited Calthorpe Park School and that was a great experience for me. Thank you Mr Walker for taking the time to show me round the school. Thank you Ocean Stars for bringing me over to the UK so I could be part of these very special celebrations.”

Ann : “I sponsored Abdul Basith from the age of 5 years till he was 18 years old. I had no idea in a million years that I would ever get to him. It has been an absolute joy meeting Abdul Basith as a young man with a very successful career. I am so proud of everything he has done. He needs to be incredibly proud of himself because he has succeeded against all odds all due to his own hard work. It has ben a dream come true and such a delight to meet up with Abdul.”

Ann with all the photos and letters that Abdul had sent her from 2005 to 2018.



Ocean Stars was also delighted to welcome Thusanthan from Grace Children’s Home, Vavuniya, Sri Lanka to our celebration evening in March 2025. Thusanthan is now living in the USA.



Thusanthan grew up in Grace Children’s Home Vavuniya and we first met him in 2005 when he was 9 years old. Thusanthan reflected on how visiting Fleet and meeting so many volunteers who had visited Grace Children’s Home over the years brought back lots of memories if his childhood. Maureen our former Chair, first met Thusanthan in 2006 and will never forget the sight of him aged 9 up at 4.30 in the morning ironing his shirts. Meeting up with Thusanthan in Fleet was an emotional moment for us all at Ocean Stars. He says he will never forget the day Ocean Stars way back in 2006 donated 30 mattresses for the home as the boys had been sleeping on planks of wood on their beds. October felt like Christmas for all the boys at the home as the Ocean Sars team would arrive laden with gifts. After

Thusanthan left the home aged 18 he worked for the railways in Sri Lanka and was promoted to the position of Station Master at Vavuniya Railway Station. Thusanthan is now in the USA having been successful in the Green Card Lottery and we wish him well.



OTHER NEWS

- Annual Review published in June 2025. To have a look please visit our website www.oceanstars.org.uk
- Our new website was launched at our celebration evening.
- Gift catalogue gifts purchased over Christmas and so far in 2025 have been distributed . These include sewing machines, boats, shoes, chickens , stationery items, food parcels, preschool resources and bicycles. Thank you to everyone who purchases gifts through our catalogue and help us to transform lives of families and children in Sri Lanka.
- Our annual residential Teacher Training event for some 70 OST preschool teachers is due to take place in July 2025 and we thank Fonhill Foundation UK for their continued help supporting and funding this innovative training event.
- Students from Calthorpe Park School are busy preparing for their visit to Sri Lanka in October 2025.



Ocean Stars Lanka Team



From left to right: Salujah: Assistant Director and Finance Manager, Nishanthini: Preschool Manager and Sponsorship Supervisor, Danushika: Sponsorship Manager, Chitra: Office Manager.

Founder and Trustees of Ocean Stars Trust UK



From left to right: Dan: Trustee, Dilanee: Founder, Jo: Trustee, Jennie: Trustee, John: Chair of Trustee Board, Cameron: Trustee, Rachel: Trustee, Denise: Trustee.

We thank you for your continuing support.