

The Andrew Clark Trust

March Newsletter

TW/news/28/03/2026

Saturday, 28th MARCH 2026

Dear Sponsors and Supporters.

Hello again. I do hope that all is well with you and wherever you are in the world, you are hopefully enjoying some sunshine after all the cold and dismal days of winter.

As we ourselves look to celebrate Easter time, my thoughts go to our many friends in Myanmar who will have no real hope of celebrating - whether it be Easter or another event of their own. In Myanmar, as April approaches, what would usually have been a time for excited preparations for the annual water festival in celebration of Thingyan – the Myanmar new year, for most people, it will sadly not be anything to celebrate at all. Thingyan again this year will be an unhappy time throughout Myanmar. There are so many people who are without hope, facing severe hardship through hunger, sickness, loneliness and despair and it is heartbreaking to think of them needing help so urgently. For those who have nothing, your ongoing support for them can mean everything and help turn their despair into hope. I thank you for your kind understanding and for thinking of them and as we ourselves safely celebrate Easter. Wherever you are in the world, and however you celebrate, I wish you a happy and joyful and peaceful Easter.

I know I say this every month, but I do again want to thank all those of you who have written to me with such kind words and messages of support after you have received my monthly newsletters. I am so grateful for all your very kind emails, and I really can't express enough just how much it means and how much I appreciate hearing from you. Thank you.

Now as I write to you this month, and until I am able to receive more direct news from Lintha, will continue to include a mixture stories and events, examples of that forgiving strength, of courage, friendship, hope, fun and challenges that I hope you will find of interest once again.

Firstly, I include two examples of super students from our school who are having to deal with the daily challenges of studying as well as taking care of a sick parent and having to work to buy food while trying to continue with their makeshift school studies – studies that are so vitally important to them for their futures. We have known them since they were very young – Wine Pone Chit (and her extended family) since she was three years old and Moe Kaung San since he was 12 years old. Here you will read of a child brought up in a loving family, and then the sadness of a child twice abandoned and how their strength and resilience has made them grow into amazing young adults.

I follow with another update from Tun Tun Soe, another of our super-students who we first met when he was just six years old. Tun Tun Soe was in his final year at our school when we had to close. You will recall my writing about him in previous newsletters when he moved to Yangon to find work, and after an initial placement at a hotel, he was able to find work teaching at a school where he has worked hard and achieved remarkable progress. He is much loved by his students of all ages and regularly sends me updates of school events throughout the year. His young students especially are excited when he tells them that their pictures might be seen in lots of places around the world and he tells me that one little boy said "Teacher, does that mean we are famous?" 😊

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Next, you will then no doubt remember the news reports I wrote about following our good friend Oliver and his team of wonderful supporters who, under the banner of 'Chefs Without Borders', an organisation specialising in humanitarian aid, journeyed far and wide across Myanmar to help the thousands of people after the terrible earthquake. I have recently received long emails from Oliver where he tells me of his adventures explaining that he has recently travelled to some areas where help is needed and depending on the fuel situation, he is anticipating returning to these areas in May with a number of chefs from Yangon to deliver humanitarian aid again, Oliver also has strong environmental concerns and is passionate about mangrove conservation. He has sent me some pictures of his latest trip that I share with you. We hope to meet up with him in November What a super guy he is.

Now, following one super guy to another, I am also including an update from our friend Gary Doye the marathon runner. Again, you will likely remember that I wrote of him in my May and June newsletters last year, reporting on his efforts as he took up the brave challenge to participate in the London Marathon to raise funds for our charity. I wrote of his success and how the event had not put him off further challenges – one huge one in particular that might possibly be an option. You can read of his thoughts on running again and Gary will keep us updated as the time passes.

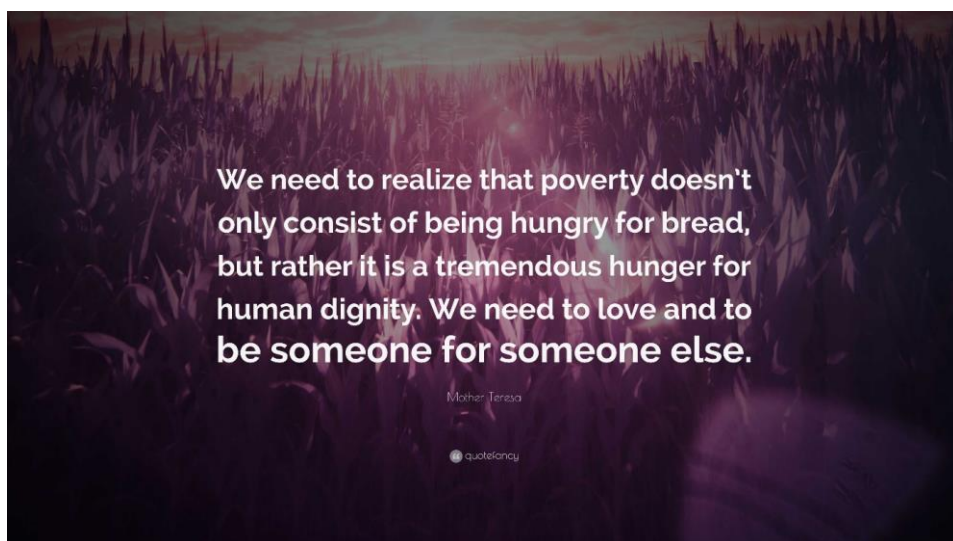
And finally, my dear friend Khine at the Mitterwaddy has sent me some pictures of the residents helping the kitchen staff with food preparations. This also includes the very patient dog, Nhar Mel who thinks that if he looks away, he might just be thrown a fish or two 😊

In hoping that you will enjoy this month's news, I send my love and my thanks for your kind support and wish you all a very happy Easter

With love.

Tilly

Tilly Wilkinson
Trustee Administrator



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WINE PONE CHIT

Is now 17 years old and is in the 10th Standard at school where her favourite subject is English. She loves to read books and enjoys writing stories.

Wine Pone Chit has a very loving family. Her father and her older brother are labourers. Unfortunately, her mother has a heart disease and is unable to work at all.

At home, Wine Pone Chit helps by cooking for her family, she washes the clothes and cleans the house.

Wine Pone Chit wants to be a successful businesswoman when she grows up.

Click to hear her tell her story

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/d73Eq7ZogeJNeS4j9>



With Wine Pone Chit in February 2024 age 14



and in November 2013 age 3

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MOE KAUNG SAN

Moe Kaung San is now in his final year at high school where his favourite subject is English. He is a gentle kind young man.

Sadly, his father left him when he was just ten years old and then his mother left him when he was thirteen. More recently, he has been taken care of by his aunt and uncle who are both hard working. His uncle is a carpenter but there is little regular work, and the family constantly struggle. When not studying, Moe Kaung San works at a motorbike repair shop where his wage helps the family buy food.

Moe Kaung San wants to be an engineer when he finishes his education. He is very grateful for his sponsorship support that allows him to attend school.

Click to hear him tell his story

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/eBfo7SrdTGT7manK8>



With Moe Kaung San in February 2024



and in November 2019 aged 12

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Tun Tun Soe's various classes at the end of term

Here we see the younger children at their sports day event.

The children learn about our prehistoric world and created their own dinosaur

Here at the last day of term the children have created a wall mural artwork using their own painted hands in many colours



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Here is Tun Tun Soe with his older pupils as they attend their end of term awards ceremony.

He said that he was very proud of them as they had all done exceedingly well.

Afterwards, they all gathered together and attended and enjoyed their end of term concert.

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Here is Oliver after travelling by motorbike to a known village where assistance has been previously given.

The locals know of Oliver and his team and were delighted to see him



A warm welcome for Oliver from those he has helped before

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Oliver supports environmental protection and is hugely involved in protecting the mangrove forests.

Here Oliver takes a boat ride to check on the mangroves where replantation will be on the way shortly. Good luck with it all Oliver.

Take good care and safe travels

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Marathon Man Gary Doye



I wrote previously that Gary's next possible adventure was the hugely steep climb of Mount Popa, but as the re-scheduled date for the event is now at the end of June, Gary will not be in Myanmar at that time. He tells me that an alternative event was to be in place over at beautiful Kalaw, but this too has had to be put aside due to the current situation. Gary tells me that he is hoping to be able to focus on a project later in the year, but where it will be is yet to be decided - perhaps in Bagan. He is keen to thank again all of those who supported his challenge last year and hopes that he can perhaps organise something again in the not-too-distant future. Stay safe and well Gary.

Beautiful Kalaw



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Here some of the residents are helping the kitchen staff after a supply of the tiny fish that had been freshly caught that morning was taken over to the Mitterwaddy, My friend Khine tells me that after sorting and cleaning it will be cooked with tomato and fried chilli



Sitting alongside some of the ladies, here is NHAR MEL one of the many pets at the Mitterwaddy patiently hoping that a little fish or two might come his way



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And here, the ladies and staff
sort, clean and prepare
MANRIAN PLUM

It is a plum grown in the
Mittarwaddy gardens and is
being used in place of Tamarind

