

THE Sylvia Wright TRUST

Registered Charity No. 326139

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Dear Supporters,

March 2014

Over the years, we have made very good use of our small brochure which describes Sylvia's work in a nutshell. This Easter, instead of a newsletter, we have refreshed our brochure as our old stocks are exhausted. I have enclosed two copies – do feel free to pass one on to a friend or to any church or group you belong to.

Sylvia's Easter Message

It would not be Easter without a message from Sylvia herself. She will be visiting us shortly for a break, but in the meantime she writes:

"Once again Easter is nearly upon us. 'Traditionally' I am asked to send you, my friends, a message at both Christmas and Easter.

This is never easy but I am happy to share a few thoughts with you 'friend to friend'.

India, as we all know, is a multi-religious society, with approximately 82% Hindu, 10% Muslim, 6% Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains etc. and approximately 2% are Christian – so it is a land of many festivals.

As my staff, patients, school and day care children are all of different religions – we celebrate them all! Every month we have at least one.

Easter, of course is especially important for us Christians. It is a lovely feast, full of meaning and significance. In the Russian Orthodox Church, the traditional greeting for each of the congregation is: 'He is risen, with the reply: 'He is risen indeed.'

How lovely, but - apart from the words – what does it really mean to you and me?

For me it means I renew and ponder on my efforts to live a life in the service of others less fortunate than myself. It is certainly not easy to 'die to oneself'; I have never succeeded even with the grace of God! But it is soon Easter and by His grace I can continue to try – so Happy Easter to you all."

Website

Not printing the Newsletter does of course keep expenses down but you might like to take a look at our newly refreshed website which has lots more news and fresh photos. You can view it at www.sylviawright.org

School Developments

In November I visited India with other Trustees and supporters. The welcome was as humbling as ever and the results of all your support continue to amaze.

The school in particular is buzzing, with a new deputy head, a very active chair of governors and several enhancements to level the playing field for our deaf children. Each will add to the already high standard of care and education and improve life skills and employability.

The first of these improvements has been the provision of a new IT room, with 30 networked computers, funded by Roundhay Rotary and a supporter from Kent. The children's faces when they first saw it were a picture! This new facility will be a great asset as IT is of course largely visual. It will also be used by the student nurses.

The second is our main project for 2014, to provide every child with a good quality, digital hearing aid. Headingley Rotary kickstarted this project and by November 50 children had been fitted. As at today, this number has grown to almost 75. Improved hearing of course leads to improved education, speech and social skills. As part of this project we will be also encouraging staff to develop their audiology skills and supplying the equipment for them to test hearing, tune the hearing aids, fit them and monitor and repair them as the children grow.

Hospital Developments

The Hospital and Nursing College are both running well. In the College, the second batch of 20 students has qualified and is now learning ward management in the Hospital.

Government services are slowly improving and two developments in particular are worthy of comment. The first is an excellent scheme whereby those below the official poverty line are allowed to have a selected range of medical problems treated at approved hospitals (including Sylvia's), at the government's expense. Most dialysis patients for example are now funded in this way.

The second development is the building of a large new Hospital in the town, linked to a new Medical College. These are very welcome developments, although it will be some time before its standards are known and the exact effect on Sylvia's hospital can be established.

The Trust

In the UK we are continuing to work on fund raising and on supporting Sylvia through our encouragement and our prayers. I am grateful to everyone who helps Sylvia's work to be so productive and so rewarding. For our part, as St David instructed, we try to "Be Joyful, keep the Faith and do the little things (and do them well)."

With every good wish

Tony Allinson (Chairman)

Dates for your diary

Friday 4th April : 10.30 - 12.30. Coffee with Sylvia – Sandmoor Golf Club, Alwoodley Lane, Leeds — everyone welcome – bring a friend to enjoy refreshments and meet Sylvia

Saturday 7th June : 7.30pm. Summer Concert at St Andrews URC Church, Roundhay – Harrogate Male Voice Choir and the Sally Barnes Madrigal Group – details to follow