

THE *Sylvia Wright* TRUST

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 326139

Supporting

New Hospital with 220 beds
Outpatient Clinics treating 75,000 patients a year
2 Day Centres for 80 severely disabled children
Residential School for 225 profoundly deaf children
New Nursing College with up to 80 students

Newsletter **Spring 2010**

Sylvia's Easter Message



Owing to the kindness of friends, I was able to spend a lovely 'family' Christmas in England, the first time in many years, complete with snow-covered landscape, blizzards and ice (coming from 33°C to minus 3°C!) and a delightful New Year in the slightly warmer climate of Gibraltar.

Now, unbelievably, Easter is approaching. However many difficulties and hardships I face, I am never bored and time flies! Now much of my time is taken up with steering our fledgling student nurses along the first steps in their profession.

The girls come from very humble backgrounds and most parents have made great sacrifices to enable them to train for this work, knowing that they have the prospect of secure and reasonably well paid jobs in the future. One mother, after her day working in the fields, stands outside the temple selling flowers to earn a little more money for her daughter's professional education. Others are making similar sacrifices. Owing to your continued generosity and kindness, we charge only minimal fees.

May God bless you all at Easter. May it be a peaceful and joyous time for you and may He reward you for all your generosity, which enables us to do so much for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Love as always, Sylvia

Be Amazed & Inspired

Over the years Sylvia has received many visitors and each one of them has been amazed and inspired. Some first time visitors went in March. There will be another opportunity in October. (Contact Tony Allinson)



Andrew Lowe,
a recent visitor to Sylvia's school

Concert for Sylvia 9 May

Sylvia will visit family in Dorset before coming to Leeds in late April accompanied by two teachers. They will visit some of our supporting schools and institutions for the deaf.

A special **Concert for Sylvia** will be staged on Sunday 9 May at Notre Dame Sixth Form College (Leeds) at 2.00 pm. Singers, dancers and musicians will celebrate Sylvia's visit, pay tribute to her work and entertain what we hope will be a large audience. Please bring your family and friends.

Box Office: Tel. 0113 2037228

Some free overnight accommodation is available for supporters with some distance to travel. Contact Tony Allinson.

Dialysis Unit

The hospital has 10 dialysis machines working 7 days a week, supervised by a visiting consultant Dr. Mahesh, who supplied most of the machines and gives his services free. Kidney failure is a common problem in India and the unit not only improves patients' quality of life but is also life-saving. Each treatment costs £10 and 3 cycles per week are normally required for each patient. Dr Mahesh has now sourced 5 more machines for us free of charge.



Cockburn College of Arts

In January, Pat Bailes (our Schools' Coordinator) visited Cockburn College of Arts in Beeston in response to an invitation from "Wright House". The pupils are divided into four Houses, named after famous Leeds people. Pat spoke to a packed and attentive assembly of pupils aged 11-16 about Sylvia's work and her achievements. The pupils then presented Pat with a big cheque for £470 which they had raised through a non-uniform day and the sale of Christmas cakes, baked in the Food Technology Department.

Thanks to the House Co-ordinator, Nicky Menzer. The pupils of Wright House will continue to support Sylvia for at least the next three years and maybe beyond. How wonderful that a Leeds school has named one of its Houses after her.

A Wright Good Idea!

Sponsoring a Child

The number of sponsored children has reached a new high of 190 with several more promised by individuals and schools. It costs £30 a month to feed, clothe and educate a child. Sponsors pay what they can afford. Only 30 children are left and it would be marvellous if they, too, could find a Friend in The West.



(Contact Angela Clark)

contact us

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Sylvia's Story on DVD

A DVD is being prepared in partnership with staff and students of Leeds Trinity University College. Superb filming has been done free of charge by Indian supporter, Mr Ambrose, and editing (also free of charge) will take place in Leeds during May & June. The Trust is seeking a sponsor to support the production and distribution of the DVDs in July. We hope to send a copy to all supporters, present and future! (Contact Tony Allinson or Tony Hartigan)



The Rangammal Cricket Team delighted with their new scoreboard - a present from a UK supporter

In Brief :

Essex Group

Featured in the last Newsletter, our new and very active Essex Group has now set about fundraising for an ambulance, a microbiology lab and a keyhole surgery unit; it is itself now being supported by an associated youth group. What great vision and energy!

Cards with a Difference

The school children have sent us some very attractive hand painted cards with a Hindu or Muslim theme. Supporters might like to send these as greeting cards to Hindu or Muslim friends. There is no charge and the cards are available from Angela Clark.

Thanks to:

- Barbara Twigg who has retired after editing our Newsletter so professionally from its inception in 1982. Barbara was the first to visit Sylvia and was the architect of the first (Yorkshire) TV programme about her. Barbara has made a marvellous contribution over 28 years and we send her our heartfelt thanks and best wishes.
- Everyone who bought, sold or distributed our 2009 Christmas Cards. This was our best ever year and every single one of the 25,000 printed was sold.
- Hilary Thackray who has kindly distributed this issue of the Newsletter.
- Mark Wilkes for looking after our website (www.sylviawright.org) on which this newsletter can now be read.