

THE *Sylvia Wright* TRUST

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 326139

Supporting

New Hospital with 220 beds
Outpatient Clinics treating 80,000 patients a year
2 Day Centres for 80 severely disabled children
Residential School for 210 profoundly deaf children
New Nursing College with up to 80 students

Newsletter **Easter 2011**

www.sylviawright.org

Sylvia's Easter Message



I always associate the celebration of Easter in the U.K. with the coming of Spring: daffodils in bloom, trees in bud and lambs in the fields. However in this part of India seasonal changes are principally measured by the steady rise of the barometer – hot, hotter and hottest. In April, May and June the temperatures often reach 45°C, so it is with a sinking heart that I welcome the Easter season here! However Easter does not just remind us of seasonal changes; it underlines those two great Christian virtues Faith and Hope, both of which I have become all too familiar with over the past thirty years. Of course I am well aware that Faith and Hope without sheer hard work and common sense can easily become vices rather than virtues, so this is my wish for us all over the coming year:

In spite of the doubts, set backs and problems which we are bound to encounter, may the great gifts of Faith and Hope within us be equal to the challenges we experience. Trust in God – but keep your powder dry!

Love and God Bless, Sylvia

See for Yourself

Sylvia, her staff and the children are always encouraged by visitors and in turn give a marvellous and humbling welcome to individuals and groups. Trustees and supporters visited in November 2010 and March 2011; supporters are welcome to join the next small group in November. The Essex group of consultants, GP's and nurses, many themselves of Indian origin, are raising money for an ambulance and will be visiting again in September to run another free medical camp. A group of 20 medical students from Kings College London will spend some time in the hospital this summer and we have restarted our Gap programme for young people wanting to work for three months in the school. If you would like to visit please contact Tony Allinson. Contact details on back page.



The school children celebrating Palm Sunday last year.

Wright in the Hole

As we go to press, Sylvia has arrived for her annual visit. Her many engagements included schools, churches and the Leeds Hindu Temple.

She hosted a most enjoyable coffee morning and spoke to more than 150 supporters in the excellent facilities of Sandmoor Golf Club where she also tested her skills on the putting green. The event raised £1,500.



Children Speaking

'Children Speaking', St Andrew's Roundhay United Reformed Church's annual appeal, raised £3,920 plus Gift Aid for SWT. The congregation, which raised similar amounts for 2 other children's charities, has been a great supporter of Sylvia for many years. Rev David Pickering, Minister of St Andrew's said:

"Despite the recession, people have dug deeply. We thank God for their generosity."

Our photo shows Dr Jane Throssell, a Sylvia Wright trustee and member of St Andrew's, receiving the cheque in January.



Photo Award for Angela

Our sponsorship of children in the school and centres for the disabled goes from strength to strength. This is because of the loyalty and generosity of supporters and the excellent work done by Angela Clark and Miss Rachel, our co-ordinators in the UK and India. In November, Tony Allinson presented Miss Rachel with a certificate of thanks before she left the school to get married. She will be greatly missed. We now wish every success to Mrs Alamelu who has taken on this important role. It costs £30 per month to feed, clothe and educate a child at the school. 200 children are now sponsored Only 10 more to go! Back in Leeds, Tony presented Angela with a framed portrait of the staff and pupils of Rangammal School. Fortunately Angela is not leaving us; she is already happily married to Denis who helps with the work!



Tony Allinson presenting the school photo to Angela Clark.

Schools Support Sylvia

Many thanks to the 8 primary and 6 high schools, which faithfully support Sylvia in many ways including fund raising. UK children gain a great insight into how others live and what one determined woman can achieve by faith and hard work. Sylvia visits the schools each year on request. The children in India are thrilled to have such friends. School to school communication is encouraged. If your school might be interested please contact Pat Bailes, our Schools' Co-ordinator.

Sylvia's Story on DVD

The DVD has been so popular that we have ordered more copies to support our talks in churches, schools and community groups. Please pass the DVD on to family, friends and colleagues and ask for more copies from Tony Allinson or Tony Hartigan.

SWAG Bag Pack

A small and thriving Sylvia Wright Action Group (SWAG) based in Leeds meets three times a year to raise our profile and funds. We are keen to hear from any other supporters interested in offering their skills, ideas and contacts. Our next SWAG event will be a Bag Pack and store collection at Sainsbury's Superstore in Otley on Saturday 16 April.

All offers of help please to Tony Hartigan. Usual wages, perks and bonuses.

thanks to:

Everyone who bought, sold or distributed our Christmas Cards. With your help we sold 30,000 - a new record

Everyone who responded to our Chairman's Christmas letter, either with donations towards the £190,000 building costs of the Nursing College or by reviewing their regular giving

Anne-Marie Rose for organising a record number of talks in 2010; new or repeat talks and venues are always welcome

Michael Lydon for his enormous efforts over many years in recovering Gift Aid which this year will total £30,000

Dr Jane Cassidy who raised more than £2,500 by running the Dublin Marathon in 3 hours and 43 minutes

Angela and Denis Clark for encouraging support from the Indian community in Leeds; this is developing rapidly

Ex-Head Boy at Wedding

Sylvia and visiting trustees were honoured guests at a recent (6 a.m.!) wedding of one of the teachers at the school. Sylvia was proud to introduce us to Prabhu who was Head Boy at the school 8 years ago. He and one of his sisters had gone on to University and had then saved up and bought a small house for their parents. Prabhu is now working in an accountant's office in Vellore.



Another great success story for Rangammal School for Deaf Children! Read about another one in our next edition.

Prabhu and Sylvia at the colourful wedding

contact us

- Chairman:** Tony Allinson 0113 2675735
chairman@sylviawright.org
- Newsletter Editor:** Tony Hartigan 01943 851431
newsletter@sylviawright.org
- Sponsorship:** Angela Clark 0113 2677660
sponsors@sylviawright.org
- Speakers/Talks :** Anne-Marie Rose 0113 2685423
speakers@sylviawright.org
- Schools' Coordinator:** Pat Bailes 0113 2037228
schools@sylviawright.org
- Treasurer:** Peter Spratt
treasurer@sylviawright.org