

Supporting

Charity Hospital with 220 beds
Outpatient Clinics treating 80,000 patients a year
2 Day Centres for 80 severely disabled children
Residential School for 205 profoundly deaf children
Nursing College with 80 students

Newsletter **Easter 2013**

www.sylviawright.org

Sylvia's Easter Message



Dear Friends,

My 75th birthday in January was celebrated in a "grand manner" here in India with blessings from Muslim clerics, Hindu priests and Fr. Francis Xavier, our Parish Priest, who offered Mass in the hospital chapel.

All our staff and children took part happily in the celebrations which continued into the evening when they performed a gala programme of dance and song.

I find it amazing that I have reached this milestone and yet, by the grace of God, still have abundant energy. Apart from

struggling occasionally for the correct word, I have no obvious loss of memory power!

I am equally amazed by the resilience and loyalty of all my supporters and my friends and colleagues in the SWT and SWAG. Some of you (*all of us? Ed*) have also grown older but you all still retain such abundant energy and enthusiasm in planning activities and in helping those less fortunate than yourselves.

As the psalm says: "They shall bear fruit even in old age; vigorous and sturdy shall they be, declaring how just is the Lord, my rock, in whom there is no wrong." I have always felt comforted by those words when I say my morning prayers. With these thoughts I wish you all a very happy Easter and, as always, thank you most sincerely for your work and support over the years.

I cannot be the easiest person to work with but, by the grace of God, you persevere! God bless you! *Sylvia*



Nursing Students join in the celebrations.

Elephants in the Room

Many thanks to all those who bought, sold, delivered or posted our **2012 Christmas Card**.

The 'elephant' design proved to be very popular and we sold 24,000 cards. Congratulations go to Michael Lydon, our longest-serving trustee, and his wife Judith who received no fewer than 16 of these identical cards.

..... **Is this a world record ?**



The new school bus donated by Lidgett Park Methodist Church, Leeds

Small is Beautiful

Sylvia will be visiting us again in April. We are not planning one major event but are hoping she will be able to meet as many supporters as possible in smaller groups in different places. Supporters might like to invite her to their homes, churches or social groups. These will be social visits with a chance to talk, listen and ask questions and are not essentially fundraising. Visits outside Leeds and even beyond Yorkshire are quite possible if time allows. **Just contact Tony Allinson.**

Levelling the playing field

The deaf children in Rangammal School get first class education and pastoral care which helps to level life's 'playing field' a little for them. During 2013 we will be trying to level it a bit more by improving their IT facilities. IT and computer studies, being more visual than aural, will offer the children life skills and boost their employment prospects. The Trust hopes to fund a new computer room based in the Nursing College. This will be used by the children in the day and the student nurses in the evening.



Arthi, who is 8, shows off her new dress outside Rangammal School. This was a birthday present from her UK sponsor.

Those interested in sponsoring a deaf or disabled child are invited to contact Angela Clark. See below.

FROM OUR OWN correspondents

Hannah Wilson and Kate Burton, our gap students who are working in the school for 3 months, write:

"It has been the most amazing experience of our lives! Bring on the next two months! The children are absolutely wonderful and they approach everything with such enthusiasm (especially if it involves cricket, dance or drawing). We all enjoyed 'Madam' Sylvia's birthday on 21 January; the children performed dances in the morning and enjoyed some birthday cake. There were evening performances in the Nursing College auditorium by the children and the student nurses (see the photo in Sylvia's Easter Message) as well as a drama by the hospital staff. The children, in their superb costumes, also gave excellent performances in the India Republic Day celebrations at the Thiruvannamalai sports ground.

Essex Group's New Appeal

Our energetic Essex Group are fund raising again. After last year's successful ambulance campaign, they are now planning the much needed refurbishment of the operating theatre. They hope to install air filtration, a new steriliser and a delivery table. A large group of GPs, consultants, nurses and other medics from Essex will again visit Sylvia's hospital this September to conduct a temporary medical camp with 1,000 patients expected to benefit.



Hannah giving out the skipping ropes at play time.

We have been to local villages with hospital staff; they were putting on folk song performances to raise awareness about the spread of HIV/AIDS. It was amazing to see how people really live in India. All the village children were very excited to say 'hi' to some strange foreign visitors!"

Website re-launched

Steve Bates of Ptarmigan Design (www.ptarmigan.co.uk) has now refreshed the content and appearance of our website

www.sylviawright.org

Please take a look at the new features and tell us what you think. You may also have noticed our new logo at the top of this newsletter. We are most grateful to Steve for his professional advice and generous support.



Steve working on the new website.



Bishop's Letter

It was good to receive a letter from Rt Rev John Packer, Bishop of Ripon & Leeds, in which he wrote: "I have just received and read your annual report and Christmas newsletter. To learn of all that has been achieved in 2012 in the UK and in India is both inspiring and humbling. I want to send my gratitude, prayers and best wishes to Sylvia and all those who work hard to enable the hospital, clinics, day centres, school and college to flourish."

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A Day in the Life

A video about a typical day at Rangammal School has just been made by Mr Vinayagam, the IT teacher. This very lively 5 minute film can be seen on our website or on:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=we8VNaShNIA