

THE  
*Sylvia Wright*  
TRUST

Reg. Charity No.326139

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Dear Supporters,

Once again, I thought you might like a brief Summer Update in place of a full Newsletter.

In preparation for Sylvia's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we spent a little time reading back through the minutes of the Trust from its creation in 1982. We were struck most forcibly by the huge amount of work and fundraising which supporters had done to help Sylvia and the sick and disabled in Tamil Nadu over so many years.

It was marvellous to celebrate Sylvia's anniversary with her; this culminated on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in the service at Leeds Cathedral attended by over 400 supporters from many parts of the UK. A full report and photos of this special occasion can be seen on the News Page of our website. Some spare copies of the Order of Service are available on request. Sylvia is now of course back in India and hard at work but has asked us to thank each and every one of you for your loyal support and for your many prayers and good wishes. She continues to remind us: "Without you I can do nothing"

During her visit, Sylvia gave a one hour interview on local radio. This was a most interesting and moving dialogue, together with some music she had chosen; with kind permission of the BBC we have audio CDs of this programme available free of charge. Just give me a call.

The School continues to prosper, with happy children and marvellous examination results. More and more of the children are now able to go on to further education using the communication and social skills they have been given. Headingley Rotary have completed their fund raising for good quality digital hearing aids for 40 of the children. These will make a huge difference to their learning capacity and quality of life.

Lidgett Park Methodist Church have spent the last year, raising money to replace the 32 year old school bus. This is another tremendous effort by one of several groups of supporters and a marvellous provision. We will be asking our UK supporting schools to help complete this project over the next academic year. Other support is welcome.

Angela and Denis Clark continue their heroic efforts to find sponsors for all the children, with only a handful left. It is now also possible to sponsor the children in the disabled Day Centres, so please consider this. Angela can be contacted on 0113 2677660. Sponsorship accounts for almost half of the Trust's income !

Things are going well in the Hospital. The Tamil Nadu State Government has enhanced its scheme to fund those below the official poverty line for certain procedures, including at last dialysis, for which Sylvia now has 15 machines. Last month, the Essex Group handed over the new ambulance they have provided and they are now fundraising for a new steriliser and a new operating table. At the same time another Trust has funded a new digital X Ray machine.

The two centres continue to give a vital service, not only to the 80 severely disabled children but also to their parents. Visitors, including myself, continue to be impressed and humbled by how much good is done at such little cost. A group in California has now joined in to help improve the current, basic facilities.

The fourth intake of 20 students is being interviewed at the Nursing College and the first intake of 20 are now sitting their final exams. This group will then spend a year in the hospital undergoing management and probationary training and Sylvia is renovating an old house in the grounds for their accommodation. Almost all the 80 students are from poor village backgrounds and several are now being helped via our Bursary Fund which has been made available on an ad hoc basis by specific donations from a few supporters.

In the UK, the Trust is in good health. We have welcomed two new Trustees and we much appreciate the work of the Sylvia Wright Action Group which is based in Leeds and which meets 3 times a year. The next meeting is on September 13<sup>th</sup> and new members are always welcome (contact Tony Hartigan on 01943 851431) Please visit the SWAG page on our website for more details.

Visitors to India continue to increase, including medical, nursing and GAP students and many well wishers. Over the years, many have become lifelong supporters. Visitors are made very welcome and supporters are encouraged to see for themselves, independently, or to join the next Trustee visit in the Autumn.

Pat Bailes and Andrew Lowe have made further progress in developing school support in the UK and we are working to enhance communications. The school magazine, Skype, video clips, and e-mails are all being used and one school is looking to include Rangammal School as part of its International Schools Award, sponsored by the British Council. Perhaps Sylvia will soon have her own Facebook profile! She has no time to tweet!

Tony Hartigan continues to develop our publicity materials and media contacts. The publicity surrounding Sylvia's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary was unprecedented and produced many valuable contacts and new support. Links to many press articles are given on the News Page of our website [www.sylviawright.org](http://www.sylviawright.org)

We have had another good year for talks but Anne-Marie Rose is always on the lookout for more venues!

It is more than ever difficult to keep up with Sylvia and the work of the Trust has grown yet again. This has left us even more stretched and in need of additional practical help from anyone with IT, administrative or graphical skills or even just time. Every little helps - if you can help do get in touch.

Our year end accounts are still being audited but thanks to all your regular support and to two legacies, we have been able both to maintain our monthly grant and even to restore our reserves a little after funding the building of the Nursing College. I am still amazed that so much is raised by so few despite all the headwinds in the economy. In particular can I thank those who have felt able to update their regular contributions to reflect inflation.

Sylvia continues her tireless work and is as grateful as ever for your loyal support.

With Kind Regards

Tony Allinson