

# THE Sylvia Wright TRUST

Reg. Charity No.326139

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Dear Supporters,

Another year has disappeared and another summer has arrived (maybe!). Once again, I thought you might like a brief update in place of a full Newsletter.

It was a pleasure to welcome Sylvia in April. We are encouraging her to visit at least once a year and if possible twice. Our view is that Sylvia, though in robust good health, is in need of regular breaks from her backbreaking work in India and indeed, partly as a result of these breaks, she is looking very well indeed. At the same time, her staff is encouraged to work more independently and to take on increasing responsibilities. During this last visit Sylvia carried out many engagements, publicising her work, gaining support and thanking supporters for their generosity and encouragement. You can see photos and accounts of some of these engagements on our website News Page. Sylvia is grateful to all the schools, churches and other groups which welcomed her and to those who supplied accommodation and transport (and conversation).

In India, the School continues to prosper, with happy children and marvellous examination results. The new hearing aids provided by Rotary and some individual sponsors are making a real difference, the bus donated by Lidgett Park Methodists is in full operation and the erratic electricity supply problems have been resolved by the installation of new generators which were funded by an anonymous donor.

The school now circulates each term a regular and attractive magazine which is sent to UK schools and to sponsors and which is available to all supporters on our website or by e-mail on request. The school is also making some lovely, short video clips which have been posted on You Tube (search on RMSD).

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!

Another Rotary project will shortly kick start the provision of better computer facilities in the school. As computer use is largely visual we hope this will also make a real difference and level the playing field even more for our profoundly deaf children.

Things are going well in the Hospital and standards of care, cleanliness and respect for patients as individuals remain high. The Dialysis Unit has grown again and now has 19 life saving machines running 24 hours a day. Our Essex Group of medics are finalising their plans for another free medical camp at the hospital in September and are continuing their fundraising to refurbish and upgrade the operating theatre.

The two day centres continue to give a vital service, not only to the 80 severely disabled children but also to their parents. Visitors continue to be impressed and humbled by how much good is done at such little cost.

The Nursing College is now in full production with four streams of 20 students taking the four year course and the first intake have all passed their finals. By coincidence the government have been recruiting nurses which meant that the hospital recently lost 20 nurses, just as our 20 students completed their probationary period – another small miracle.

In the college we do charge a modest, break even tuition fee, though even this is beyond the means of the poorest girls and so we are continuing our Bursary Fund which gives partial grants where necessary.

In the UK, the Trust battles on. We have welcomed another new Trustee, Bronwen Robinson, and the Sylvia Wright Action Group (SWAG) has gone from strength to strength, attracting new members and taking on a number of essential tasks. The SWAG group is based in Leeds and meets 3 times a year. New members and indeed new groups in other parts of the country would be very welcome (contact Tony Hartigan on 01943 851431 or visit the SWAG page on our website for more details.)

Visitors to India (who all travel at their own expense) continue to increase, including medical, nursing and GAP students and many well wishers. Visitors are made very welcome and supporters are encouraged to see for themselves, independently, or to join the next Trustee visit in late November.

We now have a UK schools group, led by Andrew Lowe which is working to maintain and improve our links with UK schools, with each school having a specific UK contact.

Tony Hartigan continues to develop our publicity materials and media contacts and the new website, created for us by Steve Bates, can be accessed at [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!

Indian support in the UK continues to increase with interest from the Leeds Hindu Temple, the Northern Tamil Association, our Essex Group and a number of individuals. Local support in India is also developing and although there is a long way to go, all of this is most encouraging.

Our year end accounts are still being audited but thanks to your regular support and to two legacies, we have been able to maintain our monthly grant to Sylvia. 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.

The future is never clear but we are doing everything we can to develop the management board in India, our own local management and to work towards eventual self sufficiency in the projects.

In the meantime, Sylvia continues her tireless work and is as grateful as ever for your loyal support – we just try to keep up!

With Kind Regards

Tony Allinson (Chairman)

**p.s. SWAG has produced the enclosed bookmark mainly to spread the word in schools but if you would like more copies for friends and family just give me a ring.**