

THE Sylvia Wright TRUST

Registered Charity No. 326139

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Dear Supporters,

July 2014

The sun is shining, which has reminded me to send you a short summer update on Sylvia's activities which are as busy and example setting as ever.

Rangammal School for Deaf Children

The children started the new school year in June in their newly decorated classrooms and everywhere is a hive of activity. Tellingly the new intake included 8 children aged between 8 and 14 whose parents had previously sent them to mainstream schools where they had made little or no progress. This has given our teachers some remedial challenges which they are tackling with their usual energy and dedication.

Exam results have again been excellent and for the first time the fifth form have taken the state English exam – and all passed! Two of the fifth formers have gone on to practical courses and all the others have gone into the sixth form. Of the 6th form leavers, all but two have gone on to further education, most to university which is a great credit to the staff and to the children themselves and a revelation to the parents.

I mentioned at Easter two other initiatives to level the playing field for our deaf children; both are progressing well. This month we will be fitting the extra good quality digital hearing aids to 80 children. These have been provided by the Hear The World Charity and by supporters. Also the new IT room is in now in full swing, with a new syllabus and with three IT teachers in place.

English, IT and better hearing aids will make a further massive difference to the children's lives, skills and employability.

The spring edition of the school magazine was e-mailed recently to supporters for whom we have e-mail addresses. It is a most colourful and interesting account of school life. If you didn't receive a copy and would like one, do let me know.

Hospital Developments

The hospital continues to offer a high quality medical service with real care and respect for the patients and is still extremely busy despite the advent of the new Government Hospital nearby.

The Trust has funded a new Ultra Sound Machine and two more dialysis units have been purchased. A small ward has been hived off, dedicated to dialysis patients with Hepatitis B.

From mid July, Sylvia will offer additional cardiac services in a new unit which can do angiograms and angioplasty. This is a joint venture with consultants from Chennai who are providing most of the equipment. Running costs will be largely funded by a government scheme - another small step in the right direction and a step nearer to the hospital becoming self-funding eventually

The Nursing College

Time really does fly. At the end of June, the third intake finished their finals and began their probationary year in the hospital. Then on 1st July the sixth intake of 20 students arrived.

Remarkably in the first 5 years only 2 out of 100 students have dropped out, one in her first week and one due to an arranged marriage. Their replacements and the other 98 have worked extremely hard to qualify in a difficult subject, taught in English.

To date, all the students have been girls and they have all been a credit to themselves and the college and a source of great prides to their families.

The Day Centres

The centres continue to give marvellous care to our 80 children who suffer from a range of chronic disabilities. They are housed in two borrowed buildings which are far from ideal and there is some hope that a project funded by US supporters might provide a single, purpose built facility on the Rangammal site.

Over the years, Sylvia has brought the children into the day centres in a rather old collection of vehicles without proper safety features and the Trust has therefore approved the purchase of a new 25 seater bus for one of the units, helped very much by a supporter from Otley.

The Trust

We battle on, encouraged and supported by the best set of supporters Sylvia could wish for and there are more news items and some lovely photos on our website at www.sylviawright.org.

Sylvia enjoyed her visit in April and was pleased to see so many at her coffee morning at Sandmoor Golf Club. In June we had a most enjoyable Summer Concert at St Andrews URC in Roundhay where the community has given key and generous support for many years.

Indian support, both in India and the UK, continues its steady growth and it has been encouraging this year to have help from the Dharma foundation in Hull.

Sylvia again sends her good wishes and grateful thanks to which I add my own,

With every good wish

Tony Allinson (Chairman)