

THE Sylvia Wright TRUST

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 326139

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 Christmas 2012

www.sylviawright.org

Sylvia's Christmas Message



Dear Friends,

For a few weeks in September, I had the pleasure of being a member of various families, albeit in a small way; I was treated with unfailing kindness and love.

'Families together' is an integral part of Christmas for most of us in the West but in India, where only about 2% of the population are Christians, Christmas is seen in quite a different light.

We go to Midnight Mass and wish each other a Happy Christmas but there are no turkeys, plum cakes or mince pies and certainly not 'a drop of the hard stuff'! However, though it was hard at first, it has made

me realise more clearly the wonder of St John's words ... "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we saw His glory, the glory of the only begotten Son of God, full of grace and truth".

So with these thoughts, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, wherever you may be, knowing that even for a short time He came to live amongst us and became part of us.

Much love Happy Christmas ... Sylvia

New Ambulance Presented

Congratulations to the SWT Essex Group which presented a brand new ambulance to Sylvia's hospital in the summer. They have raised the funds in just 2 years. The ambulance is adapted for rural roads in Tamil Nadu and is now being used for seriously ill patients needing medical staff and life-saving equipment on board. As well as providing a Medical Camp every two years, the energetic Essex Group is now raising funds to refurbish and re-equip the operating theatre.



Our photo shows Dr Sathanandan, the group's leader, next to Sylvia. He paid tribute to the Indian Heritage Foundation-UK and Rotary Club of Hornchurch and Upminster for their significant help. Mr Vijayram, the Hospital Manager, is second from right. As usual one of Sylvia's ubiquitous dogs is keeping an eye on proceedings.

Amazing Value for Money

We are often asked how much it costs to run Sylvia's school.

In brief:

ANNUAL SALARIES £62,000

That's for 32 teachers and 28 domestic staff

FOOD for 205 children £15,000

OTHER COSTS £25,000

TOTAL **£102,000 per annum**

Cost per child is £500 a year **about £40 per month**

Sylvia, her staff and the children are so grateful for the generosity of sponsors who make it possible to ensure a first class education in a caring and happy environment. More sponsors are always welcome. Please contact Angela Clark.

Note: We understand that the cost per child in a UK residential school for the deaf is over £30,000 per year. That's £2,500 per month. What a difference!

Christmas Card 2012

Thanks to everyone who has bought, sold or distributed our Christmas Cards. The 2012 card is a unique and colourful design with an Indian interpretation 'In search of Bethlehem'. On the back is the first ever picture of the 80 students in Sylvia's Nursing College. As many of the student nurses come from very poor homes, a Bursary Fund has been set up to help those who, in Sylvia's opinion, are suffering the greatest hardship in paying their tuition fees of £700 per year. Donations to this fund are very welcome.

Please contact Tony Allinson. Cards can be ordered now, while stocks last, by ringing Barbara Dodman on 0113 2619152.

More details are on our website: www.sylviawright.org

Rotary Funds Hearing Aids

The children make great progress in school but their deafness is still a major handicap. We aim to provide each child with a digital hearing aid programmed to his/her hearing loss. Even partial hearing can vastly improve their understanding, learning and speech. Headingley Rotary made the school its charity over the past year and has now funded 40 pairs of hearing aids - the first 24 children to be fitted are pictured here. Their smiles speak volumes: **"Thank you Rotarians!"**



Our Oldest Supporter?

Congratulations to Mrs Dolores Lawson from Tyneside who celebrated her 100th birthday in September. She is seen in our photo holding a card made for her by the children at the school. Her nephew Colin had travelled from Vancouver for the big day. Dolores is also the aunt of Denis Clark (who helps wife Angela with child sponsorship) and is believed to be our oldest supporter. Unless, of course, you know otherwise!



contact us

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thanks to:

- Canon Alan Griggs who has, after 22 years, stepped down as a trustee. Alan has been a loyal supporter of Sylvia and has contributed enormously to the work of the trust in many ways.
- Pat Bailes who has co-ordinated great developments in our supporting schools; Pat has handed over this role to Andrew Lowe who will be delighted to hear from any schools interested in supporting Sylvia's work.
- Cllr Mary Vickers, Mayor of Otley, who is steadily raising funds for Sylvia as part of her 3-way charity appeal during her busy term of office.
- Catherine, Julie, Helen & Frances from Horsforth and their parents Maureen & Peter (who came over from France) to hold a very successful garden party in aid of Sylvia in August.

Lidgett Park's Christmas Present

Lidgett Park Methodist Church's annual charity appeal has provided an early Christmas present for Sylvia's school. The existing school bus is now 32 years old and in urgent need of replacement. It is used to transport day pupils and for educational trips and visits. Our photo shows Dr Barbara Dodman, a SWT trustee and member of the church, handing over a magnificent cheque to Sylvia who was in Leeds on a brief visit in September. This will enable a new 40 seat school bus to be bought. Many thanks to all concerned for all their efforts and this wonderful gift.



GAP Students

Bon voyage to Hannah Wilson and Kate Burton from Leeds who will be spending 3 months helping in the school from January to March. They will be acting as classroom assistants, giving feed-back to sponsors and also helping the teachers and the nursing students improve their command of English.

Rangammal School Magazine

The latest colourful edition has been sent to sponsors for whom we have email addresses. All supporters can request a free copy by emailing: johnhowley@ntlworld.com