

It is pleasing to report on yet another successful year in the life of Sylvia Wright, her projects and the work of the Trust, aided as always by our energetic Trustees and our marvellously loyal supporters.

As always, some services continue more or less unchanged and some things alter.

The numbers in the School for the Deaf remain at around 200. Exam results have again been excellent and almost all the 6<sup>th</sup> form leavers have once more gone on to further education in a hearing environment. IT provision has been further consolidated and hearing aid provision has now been extended to all the children up to year 10. Next year we will again fit the new intake and by the year after we will reach 100%. Many thanks to Dianne Ward, who has managed the programme and to all who have helped.

The day centres continue to give outstanding care to 80 children with severe mental and physical disabilities, although one of the centres has had to be moved to temporary premises pending the new build, now approved.

The Nursing College continues to turn out qualified nurses with good skills, a caring attitude and real job prospects. 60 girls have qualified to date and 80 more are at various stages of their studies. The Nursing Bursary Fund, which Sylvia holds in India, continues to subsidise the most needy.

The Hospital is running well and is still offering a high quality service in a caring environment. The dialysis unit is running flat out and a separate dialysis ward has been created for patients with Hepatitis B

It is pleasing also to note that the new government hospital in Thiruvannamalai is commissioned at last and will soon be able to offer an adequate alternative to some of Sylvia’s services. After her magnificent work over the last 34 years, this is a most welcome and overdue development for the local population but does have implications which are being carefully considered.

At the same time, Sylvia is giving careful thought to the questions of succession and future management in India. This may well result in some radical changes in the nature of the hospital in particular and I shall keep supporters informed as things develop.

Sylvia has again had many visitors including Trustees. As ever, they have all come back hugely impressed and committed. Our GAP programme is working well and is open to two students to work in the School for up to months, each September and each January.

In the UK, we continue to serve as best we can. Our SWAG group is a most valuable resource and gives excellent practical support. Bernadette Barnes has offered to help with the management of our UK schools group and a number of new schools have been added to our list which is most helpful to the Trust and most formative for the young people involved. Anne-Marie Rose continues to organise talks to a wide variety of groups with the number of talks this year having reached a new peak, while Angela Clark has continues to manage our sponsorship programme with her usual charm and efficiency

I am grateful again to Sue Wilson who looks after our mailing list and who has now taken on much of the work involved in claiming gift aid and also to Barbara Dodman, Anne Cogan and Finola Fox for their continued work on Christmas Cards. Tony Hartigan continues to develop our publicity initiatives and with the help of Steve Bates, keeps our website updated – do take a look on [www.sylviawright.org](http://www.sylviawright.org).

Both the number of active supporters and the amount of regular giving have held up well. As a result of all this help, we continue to manage without any paid staff and to send at least 97 pence in every pound to Sylvia.

Yet again I have been encouraged and humbled by your continued generosity, which has helped Sylvia to achieve so much for so long!

God bless you all,

Tony Allinson (Chairman)