

THE Sylvia Wright TRUST

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 326139

Supporting

Hospital with 220 beds
Outpatient Clinics treating 80,000 patients a year
2 Day Centres for 80 severely disabled children
Residential School for 210 profoundly deaf children
New Nursing College with up to 80 students

Newsletter Christmas 2011

www.sylviawright.org

Sylvia's Christmas Message



It hardly seems any time at all since we were celebrating Easter but here we are with Christmas almost upon us. As usual this has been a very busy year here in Tamil Nadu.

On January 6th 2012, I will be completing 30 years of living and working in India and am now fast approaching the last quarter (or maybe the last third!) of my life. By God's grace I am still "full of sap still green", as the psalm says, "to prove that in Him, my rock, there is no wrong"!

It has been a strange 30 years in many respects, living and working and serving in a country and culture not my own, with different religious traditions, attitudes, values ---- and different climate and food!

I have been very lonely at times – but never alone -- and am always conscious that I still have "things to do before I die", probably a greater and harder work than I have done as yet.

I came to serve people less fortunate than myself, to provide them with services and facilities which in the U.K. are taken for granted but I have still some way to go!

One of the frequent remarks made by patients always gives me great pleasure: "The staff have treated me with love".

One patient added: "...without cruelty". It made me wonder many things.

As we approach Christmas, we think about the many things our Lord taught us. So much was said about Him but one phrase sticks in my mind: "He went about doing good". I hope that can be said about me and all of us as, once again, Christmas reminds us of the true meaning of life.

Love Sylvia

Essex Team Visit

The Essex SWT group, made up of 20 consultants, doctors, nurses and support staff, visited the hospital in September to run their second medical camp. Paying their own expenses, they offered free consultations and surgery as well as advice and training to Sylvia's own doctors and nurses. They screened 1300 new patients. Bhik Kotecha, an ENT consultant, actually cleaned the ears of every single child; that's 420 ears! The group hope to present a new ambulance for which they have been fundraising since their first visit in 2009.

Some of the Essex Team in theatre

Gap Students

Over the years, Sylvia has welcomed many gap year students and they have found the experience both enjoyable and inspiring; several have become lifetime supporters. Samantha Gittings and Peter McGoverin are currently spending 3 months doing valuable work in the school.

Peter, who is himself deaf, has particularly enjoyed cricket, helping in lessons and learning some Tamil.



Peter working with some deaf children

Samantha writes: "I am having an amazing time – the children, teachers and staff are so lovely and welcoming it would be hard not to!"

There are opportunities for more students from the UK, aged 18+, to do voluntary work at Sylvia's school in the future. Two students can be accommodated for about 3 months in January and September.

For more information please contact Tony Allinson.



Lidgett Parks Bus

Lidgett Park Methodist Church in Leeds has made Sylvia Wright Trust its project for the coming year. They aim to raise enough money to buy a new bus for the school. The old one is 23 years old. The first event was a dinner when Tony Allinson gave a presentation about Sylvia's work. Also on display was a floral yellow school bus, prepared by two church members for a flower festival at a nearby church.

The next event is a Christmas Concert at the church in Roundhay, Leeds LS8 1HG, with The Wendell Singers and guests on Friday 9th December at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets (to include tea/coffee and mince pies) are £6, children free. These are available from Barbara Dodman (0113 2619152) or at the door.

More wonderful support from Lidgett Park Methodists!



thanks to:

- Everyone who has bought, sold or distributed our popular Christmas Cards. Order now while stocks last! Ring Barbara Dodman 0113 2619152.
- Peter Spratt who is stepping down as Treasurer. Peter has looked after our finances meticulously since 2001 and we are pleased that he will continue as a trustee. Geoff Fuller is now holding the purse strings. Tight.
- The Leeds Hindu Temple which has become one of our Patrons.
- Cllr Mary Vickers for nominating SWT as one of her charities when she takes office as Otley Town Mayor in 2012. We wish her a successful year.
- Sue Wilson, from St Urban's Leeds, who walked 500 miles to Santiago de Compostela to raise funds for Sylvia. See full story and photos on our website.
- Steve Bates of Ptarmigan Design for kindly taking over the updating of our website. Please take a look.
- Chrissie Poulter & Becky Gibbs of Leeds Trinity University College Media Dept. for adding subtitles to our DVD. Copies are available on request. The original DVD is now online at vimeo.com/thesylviawrighttrust
- Lesley Robinson at Chippendale Press (Otley) for her invaluable help and generous support.

TOP in Tamil Nadu

A Pandiyan, a Year 10 student in the school, has achieved top marks in Tamil Nadu (population 72 million) for hearing impaired students with a remarkable 100% in his Maths exams.

The photo shows him wearing the watch sent to him by his delighted UK sponsor, Liz Rowe.



The Big 30

As Sylvia mentioned, 2012 is her 30th year in India. The Trust plans to mark this important milestone by holding a big thanksgiving event in April when Sylvia will be in the UK. This is also a great opportunity for supporters to offer their own 'Big 30' contributions to help make it a special year (as individuals or in teams). **Could we, for example, find 30 new sponsors/supporters, 30 new hearing aids or laptops, hold 30 coffee mornings, volunteer 30 hours admin work, find 30 venues for talks or 30 supporting schools? Even donations of £30 would be acceptable! Your own ideas are invited.**

Please contact Tony Allinson or Tony Hartigan.



Sylvia's 3rd intake of students taking their nursing oaths. The Nursing College will have 80 students in 2012.

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