

Another busy year has flown by and with your help Sylvia continues her service to the poor, sick and disabled in her remote and still deprived part of South India. Every one of the last 36 years has seen change and this one has been no exception.

Following much improvement in state medical provision, the hospital was transferred to a group of Indian doctors who have improved it still further and who are treating Sylvia's former staff well.

In the School for the Deaf, numbers have increased yet again to 220 and once more the new intake includes a number of slightly older children who have tried to study at "regular" schools and found the provision for their deafness totally inadequate.

IT provision is settling down nicely and the children and staff are as enthusiastic as ever, with the digital classrooms having being used for both formal studies and to show a range of other visual programmes.

Audiology provision has improved yet further and we are again grateful for the generosity of the Charity - Hear the World. In a few days time, every single child will have a good quality digital hearing aid. Two more teachers have been trained in basic audiology and Sylvia has employed her first qualified speech therapist.

The accompanying Christmas Newsletter gives details of the school's Silver Jubilee, organised by past pupils – clear evidence of how life chances have been improved so amazingly by Sylvia's work.

The Nursing College continues to turn out qualified nurses with good skills and a caring attitude. 100 have now qualified, all have found employment and 60 more are in training. Building work has begun to extend the hostel accommodation and permission received to increase the numbers in training to 120.

The new Day Centre came into operation in the Spring and the dedicated staff continue to give outstanding care to children with severe mental and physical disabilities. There is a long way to go but already staff numbers and skills have been enhanced and facilities much improved. Furniture, physiotherapy equipment and wheelchairs have been purchased and the therapy pool, kindly funded by Rotary is now in use.

In addition a number of UK mentors have given up their time to visit and to train the staff.

In the UK, we continue to do our best. We have a range of skills in the Trust though additional offers of help would be most valuable, especially from those with experience in the fields of education, nurse training, disability and those with leadership skills.

Our support group (SWAG) continues to give valuable practical support and we continue to work with UK schools. Additional school contacts are always welcome as are opportunities for our Trustees to speak at church or social gatherings via our new talks organiser John Howley (01132 673936)

Sponsorship, which is looked after by Angela Clarke (01132 677660) is going well and there is now an opportunity to sponsor the children in the new Education & Therapy Centre as well as the deaf children.

I am grateful as always to all who help with our many tasks - records, mailings, Christmas Cards, talks, visits, publicity, web site, Gift Aid, accounts etc. This dedicated help allows us to continue our proud record of sending Sylvia more than 97 pence of every pound you have so generously given. We are especially grateful to Tony Hartigan and Anne-Marie Rose who have retired as Trustees after many years of fruitful work and we welcome Sue Wilson who has joined us.

Our efforts are rewarded both by the practical results and by the heart warming support and encouragement of such a marvellous, friendly and loyal group of supporters. God bless you all this Christmas and in 2018

Tony Allinson (Chairman)