

## Supporting

Charity Hospital with 160 beds  
 Outpatient Clinics treating 80,000 patients a year  
 New Centre for 100 severely disabled children  
 Residential School for 200 profoundly deaf children  
 Nursing College with 80 students

## Newsletter Summer 2016

[www.sylviawright.org](http://www.sylviawright.org)

### NEW CENTRE Takes Shape in the Heat



Sylvia celebrated her 78th birthday on 21 January and received a special present. She watched building work start on the new Education & Therapy Centre specially designed for 100 severely disabled children. The construction, next to her Rangammal School for Deaf Children, is going well, despite temperatures of up to 106 degrees!

Completion is scheduled for November this year when the children will receive special care and education for 5 days a week. Some of them cannot walk or even sit without support. Others have severe learning difficulties.

Sylvia says: "The children come from very deprived backgrounds and have no other opportunity to develop and learn. Their disabilities are distressing and confining." They will be brought into the centre each day by special transport.



The Architect's Plan



Sylvia surveys the building progress.

The Centre will provide a stimulating environment including classrooms with sensory, music and art facilities and a physiotherapy room - a far cry from being left in a small house when parents have to go out to work, if they can find it. The design of the small hydrotherapy pool has now been incorporated – another great facility, especially for those with muscular or skeletal problems.

The Trust is most grateful to Rotary and all those organisations and individual supporters who are making this wonderful provision possible. Photos showing the progress of the building work can be viewed on our regular website updates. There is still much to do as we must ensure that the Centre's running costs are met. All Sylvia's staff contribute 1% of their salaries towards this.

### “Caring doesn't need language”

Mary Crotty and Emma Nicholson clearly had a most instructive and enjoyable time in Tiruvannamalai earlier this year. Mary says that she returned with “an abundance of unforgettable memories.” Her report can be read on the Visits to Tiruvannamalai page of our website along with Emma's personal reflections. Emma shares a lovely story: “One day I was sitting on the ground in the sun watching the boys play cricket. Without saying a word, one boy came across, went into the School, brought out a chair, and placed it in the shade for me. I thought about how he had communicated his care for me without using any language at all. I was struck by the fact that caring for each other doesn't need language, whether you are hearing or not.”

**Note:** Tony Allinson will be leading the annual visit of trustees and any other interested supporters and/or cricketers to Tiruvannamalai in November. They too will receive a great welcome and visit the new Education & Therapy Centre. But will they win the annual India v England Test Match? Most unlikely.



Emma Nicholson (left) and Mary Crotty with some Rangammal children.

# “Something Amazing is going on at Rangammal School!”

In February, two volunteer audiologists, supported by the Hear the World Foundation (HWF), visited Rangammal School for 5 days. Anna Biggins (Zurich) and Crystal Variava (Mumbai) delivered a superb, intensive training programme to the four teachers responsible for audiological care at the school. They also trained the other 30 teachers to do basic hearing aid checks.

Crystal said: “After this week I’ve come to see that something truly amazing is going on at the Rangammal School! It’s at each level, starting with Sylvia’s vision...my conclusion is that every single person involved understands the purpose which is being reflected in the children directly.”

## MORE SUCCESS

In March, our second major bid to HWF was successful. Our special thanks go to Frances Ward who volunteered her professional expertise and experience with this bid. HWF have given generous technical support and donations of essential equipment which will enable us to continue to provide high quality digital hearing aids and support services to the children.

Thanks also to the continuing generosity of supporters and active fund raising by some UK schools, the number of children with digital hearing aids at Rangammal School has now increased to 187.

The next stage of the Hearing Aid Project, coordinated by Dianne Ward, is to broaden and develop the Speech Therapy provision at the school. Are you a Speech Therapist? See below:

## Situations Vacant

Thanks to all our energetic and unpaid volunteers who fund their own personal expenses, the Trust continues to send more than 97 pence out of every pound raised to Sylvia - a remarkable record which is appreciated by supporters who are confident that their donations go to the point of need and not into ‘expenses’ or ‘admin’. However, more volunteers are always welcome!

- We are forming an SWT Advisory Group of supporters with professional experience of disability to advise and mentor Sylvia’s staff -

### In particular:

physiotherapists, osteopaths, hydrotherapists, teachers of the deaf, speech therapists and those with related skills are encouraged to get in touch with Tony Allinson to discuss their possible involvement.

- We are also looking for a Christmas Card Organiser from 2017 to lead a team of existing volunteers.

Please contact Tony Allinson to find out more.

## Thanks to:

- Rev. David Pickering, Minister of St Andrew’s URC, who is moving to a new ministry towards the end of June. He has enhanced a fine and generous community at St Andrew’s which has given great support and encouragement to Sylvia over many years.
- The Catholic Universe newspaper for publishing a full page feature on Sylvia in its 20 May edition. Those who missed it can now read the article on our website - by kind permission of the Universe editor.
- Supporters who gift aid their donations. £22,803.13 has just arrived in our bank from Her Majesty’s Revenue & Customs.



Anna (left) & Crystal (right) use the HWF pose (hand behind the ear) with the deaf children - now happy with their new hearing aids.

## HAVE TALK, will travel

The Trust has a panel of experienced speakers prepared to go (almost) anywhere to spread the word. In 2015, we gave talks to 5 Rotary Clubs, 7 Churches, 5 Schools and 5 other social groups and a similar number of talks are already booked for this year. There is no charge or obligation. Just get in touch with Anne-Marie Rose 0113 2685423 - swtspeakers@outlook.com

**Note:** Sylvia herself is visiting us briefly in the second half of July and might be available for a visit. Please contact John Howley who is keeping her diary.



## Contact us - please note new emails

Chairman:	<b>Tony Allinson</b>	0113 2675735 swtchair@outlook.com
Secretary:	<b>John Howley</b>	0113 2673936 swtsecretary@outlook.com
Treasurer:	<b>Geoff Fuller</b>	01226 383757 swttreasurer@outlook.com
Sponsorship:	<b>Angela Clark</b>	0113 2677660 swtsponsorship@outlook.com
Speakers/Talks:	<b>Anne-Marie Rose</b>	0113 2685423 swtspeakers@outlook.com
Schools' Coordinator:	<b>Andrew Lowe</b>	01937 531512 swtschools@outlook.com
Hearing Aid Project:	<b>Dianne Ward</b>	0113 2758260 swtheating@outlook.com
Newsletter/Publicity:	<b>Tony Hartigan</b>	01943 851431 swtnewsletter@outlook.com