

THE Sylvia Wright TRUST

Registered Charity No. 326139

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Dear Supporters

Summer 2024

Sylvia has just returned from a “first” visit to India, which was postponed from January after her elbow fracture. She is delighted to report that things are going very well under the wise and careful guidance of the new CEO, John Rajkumar. As expected, she was overwhelmed by her welcome from the staff, the children and the local community. On her return, and after a number of postponements due to Covid and travel arrangements, Sylvia received a well deserved Honorary Doctorate from Leeds Beckett University where she was once a senior lecturer in nursing. The graduation ceremony of the department of health was attended by 700 students and around 3,000 of their family and friends. A lovely video of her work was shown, together with a glowing citation. She herself gave a moving speech of recognition and encouragement, to all the students about to embark on a career in medicine. There are photos on the website which we will include in our Christmas Newsletter.

Following the unfortunate closure of Mount St Joseph’s Care Home due to the concrete problem, Sylvia has moved to a very nice flat in a Methodist care home in Headingley. A group of supporters “The Friends of Sylvia” has formed itself to give her personal care and support – a great blessing.

The work in India continues to serve children with a wide range of disabilities and young people training to be nurses.

In the School for the deaf there has been a good deal of post Covid refurbishment and more smart boards have been installed. The cows have been sold and the area is being repurposed for a large communal dining room. A basic science lab has been opened and the library enhanced.

Sponsorship remains one of our main sources of income. We are grateful to Bernadette Barnes who administers the scheme and of course to our many sponsors. A level exam results have been good and again, many of the students have moved on to further education in colleges and universities, some of the most needy being partly supported by our bursary fund.

The Day Centre for 100 disabled children continues to give a great service to both the children and their parents and the development of a post school vocational centre is now

off the ground. This will provide a useful occupation, even for the most disabled and will produce genuinely saleable and attractive products.

In the Nursing College, numbers continue to creep up to the target Of 120. The new year has just started with the maximum intake of 40, and our application to move from a diploma to a degree course has been submitted. Interestingly there has been a slow but continuous increase in the number of male students.

Future plans remain unchanged – We have continued to work on our 5 year plan to move towards the projects being Indian led and Indian funded. 18 months in, succession has been dealt with and three new governors appointed, with more in the pipeline. The staff are responding to the opportunity to speak up, to use their initiative and to work together. The groundwork is in place for the development of local fund raising, from the government and the community, from businesses and from those parents who can afford it.

Here in the UK, the Trust is in good shape and we are grateful, as ever, for all the work done by trustees and others and for your loyal and unwavering support. However, changing habits and the rising cost of postage have had an effect on sales of Christmas Cards and so, after many successful years, we think, sadly, it is time to discontinue their sale. We do have a small stock of cards if any supporters would like them.

Trustee visits to India continue on an annual basis with the next planned for September. These visits are vital, both to check on results and to give encouragement. They have always been almost entirely funded by the visitors themselves with minimal net cost to the Trust. Indian visa requirements have been relaxed and other visitors are always welcome, including student gap year visits.

I am sure that **Sylvia would be delighted to hear from and meet supporters**, now she is settled again. She is always willing to talk to interested groups and schools and to share her experiences. By all means contact her direct or through me. Her address is Flat 25, Victoria Court, 228 Kirkstall Lane, Leeds, LS6 3FB – 0113 278 4531. She can be visited at any time by arrangement. Although she herself does not use e-mail, one of our trustees, John Howley, manages an e-mail account on her behalf and will relay any messages – sylviamarywright@outlook.com

Sylvia sends her thanks and good wishes and asks for your continued prayers.

To which I add my own,

Tony Allinson