

Supporting

Residential School for 220 profoundly deaf children
Education & Therapy Centre for 100 severely disabled children
Nursing College for 120 students

Newsletter Christmas 2018

www.sylviawright.org

Dear Friends

The past year has been a very unusual one for me.

In all of my previous working life, I have been involved with the care of the sick in hospital or in the community, comforting and supporting both relatives and patients. Even when I was teaching at 'Jimmys' (St. James Hospital) I was doing regular ward rounds with the student nurses.

However this year my life has been devoted entirely to the care of our profoundly deaf, physically and mentally challenged children as well as their staff, teachers, ayahs and domestic workers. I have been able to get to know the children and their parents at a much deeper level and, with the grace of God, empathise and support them in their ongoing challenges, helping them to lead full and happy lives in spite of their difficulties.

I have learnt much.



Sylvia's morning walk – with escort

In the course of a day, I meet many people and it always makes me feel very humble when they share with me their concern for those less fortunate than themselves and their anxiety to help them in some way.

You, of course, are among these people and I can sincerely assure you that your efforts have helped to bring happiness into many, many lives.

There is a description of our Lord in the Bible as 'someone who went about doing good'. I think this is a wonderful way to describe anybody and it can definitely be said of you and all the supporters of the Sylvia Wright Trust.

God bless you all this Christmas *Sylvia*

Rangammal School welcomes new pupils



New starters in 2018

22 children joined the school on 1 June, the start of the academic year.

9 of them are the usual little ones and the rest are older children who have made little or no progress at "regular" schools which have little provision for the education of the deaf.

Physiotherapist appointed

The Day Centre has employed an occupational therapist for some time. Sylvia has now recruited a physiotherapist, Mrs Lakshmi, to work with the children who have muscular or skeletal problems and need special exercises to moderate and improve their condition.



Mrs Lakshmi gets down to work

Lamplighting Ceremony

140 students have qualified from Sylvia's Nursing College. Some were helped by our bursary fund and all have readily found jobs.

Tony Allinson and Sue Wilson attended the recent Lamplighting/ Graduation Ceremony

for the nurses who were watched by their proud parents – a most moving and dignified occasion.



Pool well used



Swimming lesson for deaf students

The therapy pool in the new Day Centre is in regular use from Monday to Friday. It provides great benefits to the severely disabled children, with exercises in warm water for some and play and relaxation for others. Suzanne Rose, our visiting Hydrotherapist, has just paid her fourth

visit to enhance staff training. On Saturdays and Sundays, the children at Rangammal School for the Deaf (next door) use the pool on a rota basis for swimming lessons and fun. This is a great treat and the first time any of them have ever been in a pool!

Bursary boosts for students

The bursary fund set up by the family of Denis and Frances Macaulay continues to help the more needy students from the school to go on to higher education. The fund pays one half of their course and accommodation fees;



Bursary students' reunion 2018

this has been a huge boost to their lives and employment prospects. Once a year, the students come back to Rangammal to report to Sylvia on their progress. One student wrote to her donor: "I am very happy to inform you that I have completed my Commerce degree with good marks. As my parents could not afford the fees, your bursary has been a great help. Thank you for your love and support. Madam (Sylvia) is a great blessing in my life."

Sponsorship

If you would like to sponsor a disabled child or a child in Sylvia's school for the hearing impaired, Angela Clark would be delighted to hear from you. The children who do not have sponsors would love to have one. See her contact details below.

CONTACT US

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Sylvia's summer visit



Sylvia talks to students at St Mary's Menston

Sylvia has sent her thanks to all who welcomed her in July when she visited churches, community groups, schools, Rotary as well as coffee mornings and a lunch. Sylvia's visits allow many personal contacts with supporters and give her a break and a change (as well as giving her staff in Thiruvannamalai a break!)

Independence Celebrations

For the first time, the disabled children from Sylvia's Day Centre were able to join in the annual celebration of India's Independence Day. The children gave a little show and they and their parents were delighted to receive medals and certificates from the Collector (The chief government official in the area.)

School Magazine

Another colourful and informative edition. Is it the best one yet? It is available on our website or by email from Tony Allinson.



Deaf children sweep the board

Sylvia took a party of children to Chennai to compete against other Special Needs schools. The children were delighted to come away with a great haul of first prizes. Congratulations to them all!

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