

Supporting

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

Newsletter Easter 2018

www.sylviawright.org

Dear Friends



This year has been a year of many changes and developments for us. In March 2017, I finally handed over the administration of the hospital to a registered Trust in

India. The hospital is now run by a team of doctors headed by Dr. Pandian.

The transition has been very amicable and I am still in close contact with management and staff there and visit fairly regularly.

Our School for the Hearing Impaired celebrated its Silver Jubilee and our two Day Care Centres for the Physically and Mentally Challenged were amalgamated and housed in our new Centre on the campus. This was officially opened in November 2017.

An increase in the yearly intake of our Nursing College has been approved by the authorities (see opposite) and this last year, one of our students won 4th rank in the whole state of Tamil Nadu in her finals.

I now run three Units on the same campus working together as a team united by a wish to do something good for others and "something beautiful for God" as Mother (St) Teresa of Calcutta used to say!

Nothing is achieved without a struggle and some suffering, as the Easter story so clearly shows us. As we again approach the Easter season, it is very humbling to remember this. I understand in the Greek Orthodox Church their traditional greeting on Easter Day is 'The Lord is risen'. The reply is 'He is risen indeed' - a belief which should bring great comfort and strength to us all.

Love and God bless. Sylvia

Nursing College expansion

The new extension is now complete, with extra dormitories, a common room and a paved garden area. The college staff are currently interviewing for this summer's intake. This is a careful and painstaking process which has worked extremely well since the college opened in 2009, resulting in very, very few dropouts (3 in 8 years). From June, the college will take 40 students each year. The training is a tremendous opportunity for village girls to enter a really worthwhile career; all those who have qualified to date have secured good nursing jobs. As ever, with Sylvia of course, nothing stands still and last year she accepted the first male nursing student with more likely to be accepted in the future.



The Nursing College extension



One of the new dormitories



The Nursing College garden - almost finished

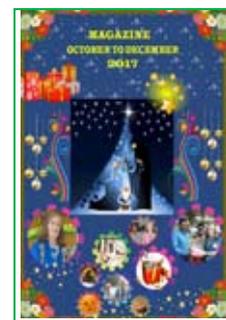


The first male nursing student

School Magazine

Another lovely school magazine has arrived and has been circulated to supporters for whom we have e-mail addresses. It covers September to December last year and is as entertaining and informative as ever. The children's joy shines out of every page.

The magazine is available via our website or by e-mail from Tony Allinson.



80 not out !

Sylvia celebrated her 80th birthday on 21st January. The day began at dawn with the Hindu ceremonies followed by the Christians at 11 am and then the Muslims, all reflecting the peace and diversity within Sylvia's work. 1500 well wishers came to congratulate Sylvia. After a shared lunch, the children from the School for the hearing impaired and the new Day Centre for children with disabilities, the nurses and the staff all gave a marvellous performance of both traditional and modern Indian dancing and gymnastics.



Starting the day with the staff



Gathering for the ceremonies



The procession



The Hindu prayers



The Hindu blessing



The Christian blessing



The offertory



The teachers' choir.



The Muslim blessings



Sylvia passing on her blessings



The congregation



Queue for the buffet



Past pupils also came along



And so did the hospital staff



Some of the children dancing



Even the staff joined in



Gymnastic display



And don't forget the cake

Good wishes !

Sylvia was delighted to receive many cards and messages from her supporters in the UK and elsewhere, including some beautiful handmade cards from our supporting schools. Among many tributes, the two Bishops of Leeds sent kind endorsements (see website) and Leeds City Council sent Sylvia a special recognition award for outstanding compassion.

Visitors



Hydrotherapy with Suzanne Rose



Physiotherapy with Heather Angilley



Speech therapy with Mrs Chandra and Eleanor Clark

Three visitors arrived in February to help Sylvia and mentor her staff. Eleanor Clark, the daughter of our sponsorship organiser, Angela, is spending two months helping in the schools and investigating speech therapy options. Heather Angilley, a senior physiotherapist, is making a second visit to do further training in the Day Centre and Suzanne Rose is also making a second visit to reinforce safety training and hydrotherapy techniques in the pool.

Day Centre

The new Day Centre is settling down, the additional staff are settling in and Sylvia is working towards developing a team approach across all three projects – the School, the Day Centre and the Nursing College. The Day Centre now employs an occupational therapist and a trained physiotherapist will be joining shortly. Very promising links and exchange visits are being set up with another similar organisation in Pondicherry.



Playtime in the new centre

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.

Help needed

The Trust has run now for 36 years with the help of dedicated Trustees, action groups and of course with the support and generosity of so many loyal individuals. With no paid staff, all this help still enables us to keep total expenses at under 3 pence in every pound.

However, to maintain this proud record we do need some additional help to continue running the Trust effectively and efficiently.

If you or any one you know is willing to help, especially with publicity but also with record keeping, administration, finance, schools or talks, do please get in touch. – with no obligation and have a chat – every little helps!

CONTACT US

Chairman:	Tony Allinson	0113 2675735 swtchair@outlook.com
Secretary:	John Howley	0113 2673936 swtsecretary@outlook.com
Treasurer:	Geoff Fuller	01226 383757 swttreasurer@outlook.com
Sponsorship:	Angela Clark	0113 2677660 swtsponsorship@outlook.com

Sylvia's Summer visit

Engagements are already coming in for Sylvia's visit in July. She will be available from the 12th to the 21st to speak to churches, groups etc. before she takes a well earned break. More details of supporter meetings will be given in our Summer Newsletter.

Audiology

Audiology has gone from strength to strength in the school, helped along by the sterling efforts of Dianne Ward. In February, audiologists from the Hear the World Foundation visited the school again to refresh the training of the 6 teachers leading this work and to deal with any problems. They also introduced an e-learning system and a video link for any future queries. The older children were shown how to care for their hearing aids and how to help the younger children do so.

Speech is of course as important as hearing and Sylvia has recruited a qualified speech therapist Mrs Chandra. She is working mainly with the younger children, many of whose speech is improving enormously.



Audiology refresher - Sylvia, Teachers and visiting audiologist Crystal



Child learning about his hearing aid

Speakers/Talks:	John Howley	0113 2673936 swtspeakers@outlook.com
Schools' Coordinators:	Andrew Lowe	01937 834361 swtschools@outlook.com
Hearing Aid Project:	Dianne Ward	0113 2758260 swtheating@outlook.com
Newsletter/ Publicity:	Tony Allinson	01132 675735 swtnewsletter@outlook.com