Supporting
Charity Hospital with 200 beds
Outpatient Clinics treating 80,000 patients a year
2 Day Centres for 80 severely disabled children
Residential School for 200 profoundly deaf children
Nursing College with 80 students

Sylvia’s Summer Visit

Sylvia will deliver her message personally this summer. Please refer to the enclosed letter from our Chairman for details of opportunities to meet her in July.

Well done St Urban’s Primary School in Leeds who made these lovely cards for Sylvia’s 77th birthday in January.

Educational Therapy Centre

The plan to merge the two Day Centres for Severely Disabled Children into a new purpose-built Educational Therapy Centre (ETC) for 100 children is moving on and an architect has drawn up plans and outline costings. The design is simple and functional but will meet the children’s needs admirably.

Fund raising for the building continues in the UK and the USA though the Trustees have decided that the work should not be started until the final costs have been established and at least 75% funding secured.

In the meantime, 5 local Rotary Clubs are working hard to raise additional funds for a hydrotherapy pool. Our photo shows the site in the school grounds which has been identified for the ETC which Sylvia would like as soon as possible. No pressure there then!

Spreading the Word

Anne-Marie Rose reports that recent talks included: Fleetwood Rotary Club, Abbey Grange C.E. Academy, Holy Name, Assumption and St Mary’s (Horsforth) Churches, Harrogate Ladies Forum, Headingley and Calverley Rotary Clubs, Crofton Mothers’ Club, Wakefield. In the diary we also have North Leeds Probus Club and Garforth Women’s Luncheon Club. Please let Anne-Marie know (tel: 0113 2685423) if you would like one of our experienced (and free!) speakers to visit a venue near you. Testimonials can be seen on our website.

Thanks to Headingley Rotary: Our photo shows their popular charity bridge drive at St Giles Church Hall in Bramhope in support of Sylvia’s work.

Sponsor a Child

Angela Clark reports that almost all the children are sponsored. They are thrilled and delighted when they receive a simple birthday card. There is no obligation but some sponsors even send a small present such as a toy, book or jigsaw. These are luxuries for children living in poverty and are always shared among their friends. In return, the children write lovely letters to their sponsors thanking them for their personal support and telling them about their families, school, “kind” teachers, new IT/computer classes, enjoyable celebrations…. and their exams. One girl wrote last year: “I returned to school after my summer break full of energy. Our Madam Sylvia provided uniform and notebooks free of charge. She is my role model.” For further details, ideas and advice about sponsoring a child please contact Angela on: 0113 2677660
Visitors to India

Recent visitors to India include:

- Katie Grimbley and Louise Harrison currently at Sheffield Hallam University studying for a qualification in adult nursing. Katie wrote: ‘The work Sylvia and the team are doing out here is incredible and is a privilege to witness.’

- 2 ‘gap girls’, Maddy Durkan and Hannah Armitage, have returned after 3 months with Sylvia. Hannah reported: “This trip was certainly a once in a lifetime experience. The school is just the most uplifting place; the children never stop smiling and it’s contagious. Teaching them was a pleasure because they love to learn but they taught me 100 times more than I could ever teach them.” Our photo shows Hannah (L) and Maddy visiting a Temple on a day off.

- 3 sixth formers from St Mary’s School (Menston) are due to fly out immediately after their A level exams and return to collect their results. They had good news recently from Harry Turner, the Charity Officer of the Catenians, who informed them that they had each been awarded a grant towards their expenses. Thanks to the Catenians for this great support. Bon voyage to Niamh Lacy-Roberts, Laura Hickie and Agnieska Bucholc and good luck with your A level results!

Tony Allinson will be leading the annual visit of trustees and supporters to Tiruvannamalai in November. They will receive a great welcome. As usual, visitors pay their own expenses.

ARISE & SHINE

As we go to press, the school is on holiday. Sylvia expects about 20 new starters in June, mostly aged about 4. Once the children are settled in, the Rangammal Staff will start the process of measuring them for the new hearing aids that 157 existing pupils received a few months ago. Our aim is to ensure that all 200 pupils have these aids which give a massive boost to their educational opportunities, lives and future employability. Thanks to the Hear the World Foundation, UK schools and individual supporters who are making this continuing process possible. Each pair of hearing aids costs £285 and as the children grow they need new ear moulds on a regular basis.

Dianne Ward reports that the HWF volunteer audiologists, Talita Donini from Brazil and Lindsay Roberts from the USA visited the school in February to enhance the teachers’ skills. Talita said: “Before I came, I did not expect to find such good children, such cultural differences, such real poverty and yet the potential to achieve so much with almost nothing. The school team is very passionate and they do their best for the pupils.”

We have received the latest colourful edition of the Rangammal School Magazine. It would be too expensive to print and post but we have e-mailed it where we have addresses. Please let us know if you would like to be added to our e-mail list. The magazine can also be viewed on our website: www.sylviawright.org