

# CHITCHAT MARCH 2010

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## Building Futures for Children

*In February a carefully planned visit to India by a multi-talented team took place.*

Stuart and Claire Brown went a week before the others and threw themselves into a programme of teaching English to the children in the school, with separate help for teachers, and out-of-school coaching for the senior staff in the home. Staff and children alike were captivated by their charm and inspired by their industry.



*Claire teaches Rani, Hepsy, Sulochana, Manika Rao and Guravaiah*

This time we had an ace up our sleeve in the shape of a dynamic junior school teacher from Warminster called Fiona Morris. She came along with a load of teaching materials. The Indian teachers were extremely impressed by her expertise. One can only surmise what a difference it would make to have CHIT teachers trained and equipped to this level. Fiona also brought a load of games equipment for outdoor play and soon had hockey and handball going.



The School organised a special party for the Browns. The great progress made underlines the benefits of regular visits.

When we had our traditional outing to the beach, Fiona's games came with us and when everyone had been in the sea and needed to dry out, trustees and teachers were soon involved in highly energetic activities. Hand-thrown rockets were the most impressive; hockey the most dangerous.



Indian culture requires complete segregation between boys and girls. This includes the dining room, and the classroom, where girls sit on the left of the class and boys on the right. Organised games are again totally separate. It is a bit of a shock for our students when they go off to college and find that the outside world is not like that. We are not surprised that problems have arisen. It is hard for us in the UK to comprehend the enormity of the changes that CHIT is bringing to children's lives. See the picture below of one of our bright trainee nurses, standing in front of her family home. We have to help them cope with a generation gulf!



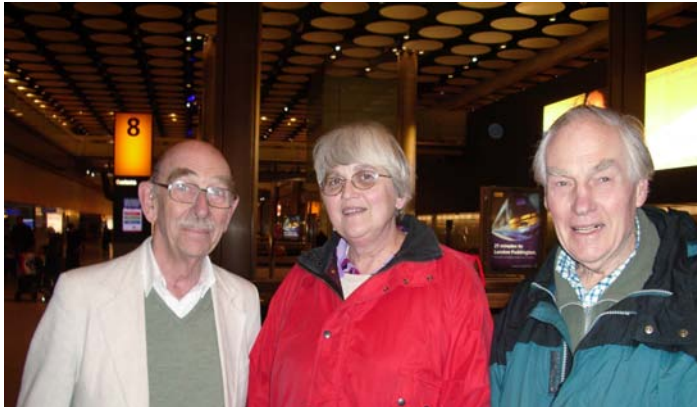
*Malleswary (centre) with her mother and her sister*

Claire and Stuart have introduced a whole range of board games. Last year the children played with these but girls kept with girls and boys with boys. This year it was not like that. Have a look at the pictures. This just happened.



Something else happened this year for the first time. We encouraged the children to quietly sing some worship songs. Their normal songs involve a great deal of hand clapping. Recognising that fact led us initially to introduce rhythmical choruses with the children clapping off the beat in time with George's tambourine. This time we had a very old action song "Wide wide is the ocean" and then "Praise the name of Jesus" and "He is Lord" This was a totally new experience for them and they took a while to learn the melodies

and the words which were up on a big screen. Then Howard stopped playing the keyboard, and Pauline and George stopped singing. The children worshipped quietly on their own. After a final jolly song, Halle Halle Halle, we stopped. Johnson (the evangelist) was asked "should we have asked them if they wanted to come up for prayer?" he said "yes but it is too late now" With children milling around, one boy then **did** came up for prayer, followed by fourteen more. At the worship time two days later sixty children and four staff came forward for the laying on of hands with prayer.



*George, Pauline and Christopher on the way home*

We were very pleased that we had with us Rev Christopher Turner from Great Rollright, former Head of Stowe and before that Dean Close. He gave the address on Sunday morning, helped with the prayer ministry and was able to bring his long experience to bear on the plans for the Elizabeth Barrie High School to become English-Medium. He and Pauline Stanton-Sariger had meetings on this subject with the School Governors. An ap peel is being constructed.



*Visiting Trustee Kal with resident Nurse Mary*

It was a big plus to have with us Kalwant Rai, an Indian-born GP from Coventry who was appointed a CHIT trustee last year. He and Pauline had a meeting with the welfare staff. After a sticky start they warmed to Kal and felt secure enough to share the many problems which they encounter during the year. Kal soon came up with ideas and practical solutions, and has come home with much to think about. We approved the expenditure on one firm policy change which will be made at once. All children on entry will have a chest X-Ray. It really was a blessing to have him in the party. We took funds with us for the purchase of another water buffalo. This came from a parent at Fiona Morris' school.

The handsome creature is to be called Daisy and joins Ruby, Goldie, and Brownie, all formerly given to us by supporters.



*Daisy gets a bath. Completed water-tower in the background.*

Water buffalo give very nutritious milk which is ideal for building up children suffering from malnutrition. The problem is that the heat they have to endure in the summer, higher last year than ever before, makes them so very uncomfortable that their milk yield is greatly reduced. They also suffer with mosquitoes.

We are installing fans. These, together with new mosquito netting will improve matters. We have plenty of cold bore-hole water and the herdsman and his family hose down the buffalo and their calves two or three times a day.

The joint meeting with the Indian Committee took place as planned and the opportunity was grasped to point out that the very hard-working UK team recognise that there are important things to do which cannot be done from afar.

The senior staff at both homes were struggling with the challenges presented by having so many students stepping out into further education without the parental support that is available to their contemporaries. Help and friendship, and wise advice in the area of relationships, is needed. We urged the Indian committee to take some positive steps.

Special thanks are due to our Treasurer/Secretary Howard Mathers, who organised this trip and looked after the complicated finances involved. He also took several hours of film and made a skype video link with Walcot Church in Bath. All the visitors paid their own expenses. Most of us were laden with gifts, and equipment, especially Fiona, recruited by George at his tennis club. Many thanks to Heytesbury C.E. Primary School for kindly sparing her.

George has built a remarkable team. A key member is easily overlooked. It's **Angela**. Unstinting in her support, with never a day off, CHIT could not function without her office skills. George and Angela celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary this year. You can guess the presents they have asked for: donations to CHIT, or for those with financial worries, how about a legacy? They will be slowing down soon, but fear not, help is at hand and the work will go on.

**With the pound sterling again weakening, please pray that we meet the financial challenge ahead.**