



Friends of Udayan

Newsletter – December 2007

The year opened with a visit to Udayan by a number of long established Friends including Polly Pearce, Caroline Coo, Anne King, and Keith Bashford. They were accompanied by a party of sixth formers from St Joan of Arc school in Rickmansworth under the guidance of Kathryn Spink.



Friends dancing for the children



Arrival at Udayan

James contributed to the evening's enjoyment by singing some beautiful numbers in that fine voice of his, then he and Lallita treated us to a memorable meal up on the decorated rooftop of the medical wing. The full diary of the trip together with photographs can be seen on the website:

www.joa-udayan.co.uk

The children at Udayan, warm and welcoming as ever, were excited and very keen to show us around. They were equally enthusiastic about performing and put on a most enjoyable show for us on our last evening. The students had choreographed a show of their own which even included a couple of dances in which all the Friends were 'encouraged' to participate - the children were clearly delighted to be entertained by their visitors!



Dr. Sen looks on as James receives a couple of cheques from Keith after the delicious al fresco supper.

Keith and Caroline Bashford have spoken about the children of Udayan to the parishioners of their new church, **St Mary's Charminster** as a result of which Keith and Caroline Weldon (no shortage of Carolines!) were invited to give a presentation in the church one evening in August. A number of those present pledged their support and made generous donations. Keith has also given a talk to the local **Rotary Club** whose members were equally receptive.

Talks were given during the year to **VocaLink Co** and the **Pinner Rotary Club** who both responded generously.



Caroline Weldon speaking to the Rotarians

A link has been created with the **Global Children's Foundation** who agreed to adopt Udayan as one of their projects. A generous donation was given by its founder Noreen Bavister:

www.globalchildrensfoundation.net

The parishioners of **St Mary Magdalene, Holmwood** have continued with their support and been generous in their donations. Some of their funds went towards sponsoring bunk beds for boys who up till now have been sleeping on mattresses on the floor.



A St Mary's bunk bed

The children of **St John's** primary school in Rickmansworth were so touched by the assembly given to them by the sixth formers who had visited Udayan that they immediately set about raising money for bunk beds, with each of the seven classes responsible for a bed.

St Anthony's primary school in Slough continue to be faithful young Friends and made two very generous donations during the course of the year as well as provided a number of colourful reading books which were taken out to Udayan for the children there to learn English.

Two teachers from **St Joan of Arc** spent some of their summer vacation at Udayan helping with the literacy programme.

More recently the sixth formers devoted a whole week to raising money for Udayan by all manner of means, with two even walking through the High Street dressed as cows!



Whatever it takes!

Current and past sixth formers served a curry and put on an evening's entertainment centred on a presentation of the recent trip to Udayan. In addition to the music two exotic Indian dances were performed which added wonderfully to the atmosphere. There was a great spirit of giving and a considerable amount of money was raised during the course of the evening.



A group of Friends enjoying Flavour of India

A final word of gratitude must go to the many loyal Friends who give quietly and consistently to the children of Udayan.

Thanking you all for your continuing support, and wishing you a Merry Christmas and peace in the New Year,

Caroline (Weldon)

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