



Friends of Udayan

Newsletter – December 2008

This past year has seen a variety of activities among Friends in our continued efforts to raise money for Udayan. There have been a number of developments in the home during this period, all designed to improve the facilities and ensure the wellbeing of its three hundred children. The most current edition of Udayan's own newsletter, Dawn, can be seen on:

<http://www.friendsofudayan.co.uk/news/dawn-newsletter-june-2008>



One cheeky little face

A return visit there was made earlier this year by Polly Pearce, this time with her husband Les. They were able to see the new building dedicated to Mother Teresa where the nursery is housed. Funds were sent over from the UK to pay for its internal completion including tiling, flooring, fixtures and fittings. It is now fully operational.



Teresa cottage under construction

Jenny Whelan, the chaplain from St Joan of Arc school, also revisited Udayan and spent five weeks in the summer living there while teaching the children literacy skills, games and athletics. She had words of high praise for the teachers and indeed all the staff. Jenny was deeply touched by the children themselves, and by their hunger for knowledge. She hopes to return.

James and Lallita were in the UK for a number of weeks in the late summer visiting their relatives and friends. Holiday it might have been, but not one without work for Udayan!

While staying in Charminster with Caroline and Keith Bashford, James preached in St Mary the Virgin and gave a talk to the Rotarians.



Eva and Marc



Lallita and James with Caroline



James accompanied by Juliet Chaplin

They then stayed with John and Kathryn Spink/Coo in Dorking where Polly and Les hosted a Soirée which had a Western and Eastern tone, with James bridging both while singing for his supper.

James called in on St Joan of Arc to address the current sixth form, chat to the group going to Udayan in February 2009, and to meet the new head, Peter Sweeney.



Members of the Hillhouse Trio



James with Peter



The Surrey with the Fringe on Top

Later that week James returned to St Joan's where once more he was heard singing for his supper, this time at a Barn Dance organised in aid of Udayan.



Dixie Darlin'

A new website dedicated to the activities of Friends has now been established:

www.friendsofudayan.co.uk

The coming trip to Udayan by Kathryn Spink, John and Pam Chiverton, Caroline Weldon and students of St Joan's will take place

between 31 January - 19 February. A journal and photographs will be posted each day on the website diary.

A talk was given to The Ladybirds Club in Brockham and donations were received during the year from a number of people and groups including the Global Childrens' Foundation.

The parishioners of St Mary Magdalene in Holmwood Surrey have remained committed Friends, as have the children of St Anthony's and St John's primary schools.



Thank you

A final word of appreciation must go as always to the many loyal Friends who give unobtrusively and consistently to ensure the children of Udayan are never in need.

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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