



shuktara

A new home in the world for young adults

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On the 22nd October, we were finally able to purchase our girls home. Our dream home for the girls of shuktara . They are now out of rented flats and in a home of their own.

This is the culmination of years of hard work by Pappu (chairman of shuktara), who has been looking at houses for a long time now. He has been so let down, by so many people, so many times, but finally we got it. It means we can now take more girls at shuktara, girls who are in need of a loving home – a place of safety.

It is also the culmination of my own work, leaving London in October 1998, not really knowing what I was going to do, but wanting to do something for children and young people with disabilities who had no family to care for them.



Pappu & Swapan arriving at the house from the Court

So 15 years later – here we are with a Boys Home and a Girls Home and a wonderful Training Centre (funded by COJEAN-Paris) where the older boys are learning the art of French Patisserie. Personally, I could not have asked for any more than this and I am so grateful to all of you, who have supported me personally in my dreams and my goals.

I could not have achieved them without your generous donations and your encouragement, not to ever stop believing that we could do it. And we could not have done any of this without Pappu – who has tirelessly devoted himself, first to the shuktara boys and now the girls. As a young father with his own daughter, I find it amazing to see how much time he commits to our children as well as to Navika.

For all those years that you have faithfully given us this support – thank you. And I hope you can rejoice with us in this wonderful achievement.



Pappu carrying Prity into Lula Bari

After 15 years living in India I am so incredibly thankful and somewhat in awe of the timing of everything that has taken place - that it took me exactly 15 years to achieve what I set out to do and for Lula Gibson, who started her fundraising page for a girls home for shuktara on the 22nd October 2012, just less than a month before she died. Her husband Mike and I have talked about the timing of all this. Isn't it incredible that the day we bought Lula Bari, was the day that Lula set up her fundraising page for the shuktara girls. We will never forget her, and our girls home is in her memory and called Lula Bari – Lula's House. We are all so proud to have known her and that her love of life, her passion and her love of India will live forever in a beautiful home for girls in need. It is a fitting tribute to a wonderful person – Lula Gibson 1952 – 2012

So thank you. From the bottom of my heart – thank you.



Lula Bari – a room with view

I have been sending out newsletters for many years now, by Indian Post. In fact on the 1st July 1999, the evening of the day that we took Anna and Sunil, our first boys – I remember sitting and writing to my friends and family and telling them what I had done. I continued to do this and will continue to do so, but this is the first time my letter has gone out as e-news. So if this is the first shuktara newsletter you have ever received – welcome to shuktara. Welcome to our little family – and thank you for supporting us.

David Earp



David with Prity

All of the photos in this newsletter were taken on 22nd October immediately after taking possession of Lula Bari