



October 2015

I am writing this as we start the Puja season in Kolkata. This is the time of year that everyone here, except me, really looks forward to. Five days of holiday with people crowding the streets and visiting the pandals, which are erected to house the goddess Durga and there is one in every locality! Our little family goes out in groups, the girls one day, the boys the next day and the older boys have the freedom to go where they wish. Ipshita, the oldest girl from Lula Bari goes out for one day on her own, so she has the independence to meet her friends and wander as she pleases.

On Sunday, 27th September we were called to ask if we would take a new girl in to Lula Bari. So Pappu went and visited and was happy to say YES. We made preparations to receive her the following day and then they brought someone else! After we received the new girl, Pappu went back to find out what had happened and it seems the nurse on duty showed him the wrong girl and she had been placed there by another NGO. So now we have Guria.



From the Kolkata Police diary on 17th August 2015 it is stated that she was found "lying on the road" in Kolkata 700014 which is the centre of the city. Since then she has been in a night shelter. The medical report states that she is "unknown girl" "mentally ill", but clearly she is as bright as a button. She is eager to communicate using sign language and in my opinion, far more intelligent than the so-called "experts" that wrote her medical report. She is hearing, non verbal and with severe cerebral palsy. We will have to provide 24/7 care for her as we do for Ratan.

We are calling her Guria and have told her that as we do not know her name and we need to call her something, until she can let us know this is not OK - Guria it is. She is already really happy and we look forward to helping her with her education and giving her a safe home here in Kolkata.



I have a memory of watching a TV programme way back in the 1980's, where people were being asked what they knew was true. It was true that they were in love, it was true that God loved them, it was true that they were there in the studio. They all had lots of different answers and I remember thinking back then that the only thing I really knew with 100 percent certainty was that eventually I was going to die.

With the loss of two friends this year who were both younger than myself and my commitment to the homes here in Kolkata, I have had to make sure that everything is in order so that when I die, any money left in my account ends up with Shuktara Trust UK to pass on to shuktara, India.

If like me, you are thinking of or in the process of making a will and leaving gifts and if you do support our work, please remember shuktara.

For all donations to shuktara you can go to the website: shuktara.org/donate

If you want to speak to Sue Tungay, please contact her at:

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Thank you
David Earp



The girls on the roof of Lula Bari celebrating Indian Independence Day on 15th August

Shuktara provides a home for life for children and young adults with disabilities in Kolkata, India, who have no family.
www.shuktara.org is the official website of Shuktara Trust (UK).
UK Charity Commission No: 1112303

