



shuktara

*a new home in the world for young adults*

43b/5 Narayan Roy Road P.S. Thakurpukur Kolkata 700008 West Bengal INDIA

Contact no: - 91 33 2496 0051



July 2014

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July we celebrated 15 years of shuktara. It was on this day in 1999 that I was asked to take Anna and Sunil from the Missionaries of Charity, (who were trying to move them both out), as they had reached about 16 years of age. Alison and Bryan were living above me, Andrew came over to help and shuktara began - **this is the only photo there is of that day.**



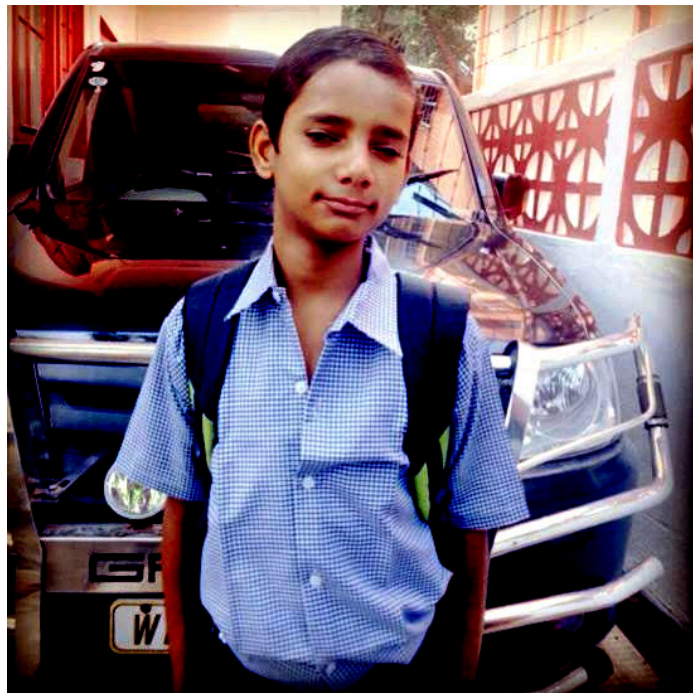
We celebrated our anniversary on the roof of the boys home, with some friends and all the girls from Lula Bari came, along with all of the staff. Pizza was provided by Fire & Ice Pizzeria and the cakes came from our own Shuktara Cakes bakery.

It was wonderful to see Muniya and Raja so settled in and confident with everybody, as it wasn't that long ago that they were new faces at shuktara. Now they are both enrolled at REACH school - Muniya in Special Ed Dept and Raja in their Deaf Unit.



**Our new shuktara family members – Raja Singh & Muniya**

The photo below was taken by Pappu (Chairman of shuktara). Raja Singh finally on his way to school! You can really see the pride in his face and the school tells us he is doing well and enjoying all the studies.



**Raja Singh going to school for the first time in his life**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> June we held an evening at the 606 Club in Chelsea. Thanks especially to Belinda Carlisle who gave an outstanding acoustic performance with her wonderful band. The evening was hosted by Eve Ferret and Steve Rubie (who played with his band Samara) and the evening began with music from The Dave Plotel Trio. The event raised £3670, plus 10 new standing order commitments amounting to £2400 per annum and a pledge from Opera Tavern (Catherine St, London WC2) to continue supporting our work with an amount of £20,000 a year. There are also people still filling out forms and Gift Aid declarations, which we are waiting for them to return, so the total could still rise.



**Being interviewed by Eve Ferret**



**Belinda Carlisle at the 606**

On the 10th June just a couple of days after our evening in London, the Rijnlands Lyceum a school in Wassenaar just north of The Hague in Holland organized an auction of art works by pupils and teachers. The amount raised was for two causes; more seating for the pupils in the atrium designed by a 5th year pupil, and also for us. The event was organized by The Art Department and raised just over 3000 euros for shuktara.

Thank you to Kate Royle, Frank Karremans and all the staff, parents and pupils who took part in this event.

In my last newsletter I mentioned about signing up for Give as You Live, which is a website that links in with stores and companies online who will donate to us, all without charging you a penny. Please type this link in and sign up; it only takes a couple of minutes, thank you:

[www.giveasyoulive.com/join/shuktara](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/shuktara)

It is only supposed to work in the UK, but we have a Japanese supporter, who has signed up and has used it when buying from UK based websites. She entered a competition recently on the Give as You Live website and actually won headphones. Plus £99 will be donated to us.

Things have changed so much since the beginning of shuktara in 1999 when I used to write to everyone and enclose a photograph that I had printed in a Kodak shop in the centre of Kolkata. Now everything is done here in the house without having to venture into town.

Thank you for your support and as you can see from the first photo in this newsletter and the one below – Anna, Sunil and I are still here fifteen years later. Sunil is now a little bit grey, I have much less hair and Anna remains pretty much the same. He is happy in his corner of the shuktara boys home and is always a reminder of why I started. It was to provide a place of safety for people like him, who had suffered so much neglect in their earlier life. Whether you have been supporting us for the last 15 years or are a new supporter - thank you.

