



September 2016



As I write this it is the end of Vishwakarma Puja which is the very first of the pujas that mark what is known here as Puja Season. It will end with Kali Puja and Lakshmi Puja in November and by the time you get this we will probably be right in the middle of Durga Puja, the festival that Bengal is famous for.

As the boys get older we don't tend to do so many of these pujas in the homes, but Sunil loves them and has been very excited about everything, so we gave in and he went with the staff to buy the idol and has been fully part of everything from day one. As the main Durga Puja approaches he will get more and more excited, as will everyone else in Kolkata.

The week before Vishwakarma Puja we had a lovely visit from Steven Rose and his partner Tracy. Steven is Chief Executive of Choice Support a leading social care charity providing services to people with a wide range of support needs throughout much of England and they have been supporting Guria for the last year.

It was wonderful for the girls to have visitors and Tracy and Steven came with lovely gifts as well as nail varnish so Tracy opened a salon for one afternoon.

Steven as a professional in the field of disability will update us on his thoughts of how

things are run at Shuktara and I hope to be able to share that with you all.

However he was very touched by what he saw here and happy to see Guria in a safe place.



Guria now has a standing frame as well as her other aids, which include splints and knee gaiters. When she is in the standing frame, which we have to put her in, she is able to be much more independent. She can draw and do her embroidery without any assistance.

However, she often prefers to lie on the floor for needlework and just like Prity, uses her fingers and her mouth for threading and pulling the needle through. They have lots of activities at Lula Bari and our two tutors who come from 3pm til 9pm are very regular. This means that when they are home from school they still have lots of things to do and occupy their time with rather than just watch TV.

It was Bastille Day, (French National Day) on 14th July and **Shuktara Cakes** were invited to present Patisserie to 400 guests of the Consul General of France in Kolkata at the Novotel Hotel. Fabien Rouillard who originally trained the boys and was Head Patisserie Chef at Fauchon in Paris came over to see how everyone was getting on.

As a surprise Alain Cojean (who supports the project through his Nourrir Aimer Donner Foundation) was hidden in the back of a taxi. He had arrived from Paris on the day of

their presentation. At the event Somnath Manager of Shuktara Cakes and Pappu chairman of shuktara were introduced to the Management of Novotel Hotel who promised to place orders.

Currently we are very happy with our customers including Calcutta International School, Red FM Kolkata's local radio station and Sienna Café and Store, where everyone who buys coffee receives a mini madeleine, financier or petit four from our production as well as all our other patisserie being available.

It's great to see the older boys gain so much independence and pride in their work and we are grateful to Alain, Fabien, the French Consul General and all our supporters not only here but from all over who encourage and support them.



SOMNATH, FABIEN, PAPPU & ALAIN

An old friend of mine from Portobello Road, Patrick Tissington, recently signed up to raise money for shuktara by doing what is called THE WOLF RUN in September. The Wolf Run is Wild Running – a unique combination of three kinds of off-road running, including mud runs, trail runs and obstacle runs. It is a hardcore 10k run across raw natural terrain, including open ground, woodland, lakes and thick mud. So far he has raised an amount of **£691** which is well above what he hoped for. You can still donate to his page by going to the JustGiving website – [Pat's Wolf Run Page](#).

Please continue to see updates about shuktara on our website shuktara.org



The management of Novotel Hotel Kolkata visited us after Bastille Day and presented their range of cakes as a gift for the boys of Shuktara - you can see me here, pretending to share them!

Thank you for all your support

David Earp

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



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