



AUGUST 2017

I have been waiting for the right moment to write and include news about our Prior Permission being granted, but even though we have had a Government inspection of Shuktara and the paperwork is in Delhi awaiting approval, it still has not been endorsed. Obviously I am hoping it will happen by the time I finish writing this newsletter and can add some more good news at the end. As you know, many charities have had their right to receive foreign donations cancelled and Shuktara was included in the mix. It has given the Government an opportunity to make inspections and find organizations that are not working within the correct guidelines, but with an application and inspection they can have it granted again. We have applied for running costs for the next 15 months. Once this amount has been approved and sent by Shuktara Trust UK, we will be able to fundraise again for the following year. We will then make a new application before we are granted full permission for funds to flow freely from outside India. In the meantime, my business has covered the costs of both homes and Shuktara Cakes and I am thankful that in 2004 I thought about doing something that would bring in money other than donations, because without this we would have been in serious trouble.

---

I am so grateful for people continuing to support Shuktara homes with full

awareness of the current situation. Emma D'Arcey who is a Shuktara Trust UK trustee and ran the London Marathon in 2016, is now running the Berlin Marathon with her sister Hannah under the auspices of The Winning Sisters on 24th September. They have a Justgiving page and if you would like to see their updates and support them you can look here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hannah-kokoschka-emma-darcey>



**The Winning Sisters Emma and Hannah**

---

Pappu has been so busy with both homes and all the paperwork that is needed for applications and a million other things with Social Welfare and the schools and Shuktara Cakes, that he surprised me one day by saying that all the girls were now attending school. He had simply forgotten to tell me.

We have always made sure that before anyone is admitted to school, they are settled at home. I had felt that Puja and Guria needed to feel really secure at Lula Bari before admission. One day Pappu was at REACH School and mentioned the girls and they were signed up immediately. They started in April. Guria is in their Cerebral Palsy Unit and Puja is in the Autism Unit. They both love it and Puja is much more engaged than I expected her to be and she loves getting ready and leaving the house every morning. She has her own

corner in the classroom with her name on the wall and that is where she feels safe and where the teachers can interact with her.



**Puja in school uniform**



**Guria first day of school**

Now all of our girls are in school apart from Ipshita who has finished and happily stays at home doing her embroidery and chatting to friends using video calls on her mobile. She has the freedom to go out once a week as long as she returns at a certain time and she hasn't let Pappu down yet.

---





**Somnath, Manager of Shuktara Cakes with the team**

Shuktara Cakes was asked again by the Consul General of France in Kolkata to present a range of French Patisserie to all of their 600 guests for Bastille Day, French National Day on 14<sup>th</sup> July. The team had some very good response and there has also been a video released about them by [The Better India](#) online and this has been viewed now more than 500,000 times, so we expect many more orders to keep them busy.

We now have 12 boys and 8 girls living in the two homes. With two of the older boys, Raja and Sanjay now married and living independently and the others who can, working at Shuktara Cakes, we want to do more to enable some of the others to be independent and part of their society. I look forward to the future with the girls from Lula Bari as they grow up and to see how their embroidery can possibly be used to give them employment and something more in life, in the same way it has happened for the older boys.

---

On 1<sup>st</sup> July we  
celebrated 18 years of  
shuktara - this is the  
anniversary of the day

in 1999 when I said yes to looking after Anna and Sunil and I so appreciate your support and encouragement, because all I really wanted to do was give them a safe place for the rest of their lives.

Everything else just happened.



**Celebrating 18 years of shuktara  
with Anna and Sunil - 1st July 2017**

---

I have written these newsletters since those early days and I love doing it. Everyone at shuktara helps with stamps and envelopes and printing, but now with social media the day to day activities of shuktara are available at your fingertips on your mobile, so if you don't want to receive these letters please let me or Sue Tungay know.

If you have any questions, you can email me:  
[earp\\_david@hotmail.com](mailto:earp_david@hotmail.com)

Or write to Sue Tungay in London:  
Sue Tungay  
Secretary Shuktara Trust UK  
7 Lily Close  
London W14 9YA (phone 0208 748 3151)

Thank You

David Earp

---

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

