



JULY 2026*

**1st September 2026 - a brief explanation as to why you are receiving a newsletter dated July, in September!
We always print and mail newsletters. Once they arrive, we send out the Mailchimp.
As of today, the post has still not arrived - so we are sending this now... David*

On Wednesday 1st July, we celebrated 27 years of shuktara. It is also the day that Raju chose for his birthday. We had friends and local supporters and were honoured to welcome Andrew Fleming the British Deputy High Commissioner and four of his colleagues.

There was much cake, a lot of dancing and plenty of food as everyone from shuktara was together on the roof of Anna Bari, our boys home.



Pappu, Raja, Anup, Andrew Fleming, Riya & Swapna



Raju and his birthday cake

It has been quite a full year so far. At the beginning of January, Pappu took all the girls and Lula Bari staff to Odisha, by road. They stayed in a hotel by Chilika Lake.

This is Asia's largest brackish water lagoon and the world's second largest. Although, this time, they did not see dolphins, they enjoyed a few boat trips.

Saraswati Puja is always celebrated as the Winter Season comes to an end and the heat begins again in February. Everyone gathers at Anna Bari our boys home for this and it is an annual celebration.

There are still a number of our young people who attend REACH school and their picnic is also a Winter Season event. Our girls house staff accompanied Moni, Puja and Tamina.



Moni & Puja Basak picnic at Chilika



Moni & Puja Bagh with Sandhya Mashi at REACH picnic

We are very blessed with local visitors who come to see our homes. Often donating food items to increase our storage of rice, dal and other commodities. If they don't donate, they bring sweets and spend time with Pappu and the young people. It is an important way for Pappu to build a relationship with the community.

As always the coming of Spring and the real start of the hot season begins with Holi. With the young people getting older it is not quite as much of a wild affair as it was in the early days of shuktara, but it is still celebrated and enjoyed at both homes.

In February, while Pappu was out in the shuktara ambulance he received a call from a friend to tell him about a young man who was living with his mother alone in a small one room space. The mother was working in Pappu's friend's house and was saying how much she needed help and support to care for Rajdeep. When Pappu received this phone call they were quite near to the house of Rajdeep so they immediately went.



Rajdeep at home



Rajdeep with Pappu at Shuktara

Rajdeep’s mother explained about his epilepsy and autism and how, without a husband it is her responsibility to care for Rajdeep and also work, leaving him alone and uncared for in the locality. The local people were aware of Rajdeep and allowed him to wander freely, but there was always the chance of seizures. After a week Pappu met the village elders and they approved Rajdeep’s move to Shuktara. Rajdeep came to shuktara on 28th March 2026. His mother visits occasionally and he is very settled and happy here.

In March Pappu returned to Purulia. In the future we hope to build a space to use for physiotherapy and nutrition, in one place where everyone can come. This would save Pappu from driving around the villages for two days and bring everyone together in one place.

The young people that shuktara supports seem to all look well and are doing so much better. This is mainly due to the help that Pappu is giving to the families who seem to be happier and prouder of their children. They are giving them greater care and attention and we think this is due to the fact that Pappu just keeps going back again and again. They have never had this sort of consistent moral support before.



Pappu with Malika in Purulia

Our physiotherapist comes twice a week to both Anna Bari and Lula Bari. This is a great form of exercise for everyone that he works with, but over the last year we have seen incredible progress from Moni, who is now walking and standing on both legs. When she came to shuktara she could only crawl.

In May Pappu took the older boys to Puri and Chilika Lake. The beach holiday was perfect for them all to let off steam and Chilika Lake provided a gentle relaxing time for them all to be together.



Bappa at Chilika



Ramesh at Chilika

After my Mum died last year, I moved up to Scotland and this is one of the reasons that I have not been so regular with these newsletters. Finally moving in to a place of my own and getting settled in, it was time to come back to Kolkata ready for the 27th anniversary celebrations.

Thank you all for your support. None of the above would be able to happen without you...
David



With Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner celebrating Shuktara 27 at Anna Bari



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In the UK the most cost effective way to help the running of our two homes is to donate directly to Shuktara Trust UK account:

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Shuktara provides a home for life for children and adults with disabilities in Kolkata, India, who have no family.

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