

On Saturday 28th December 2019 it was announced that David Earp, founder of Shuktara Trust was awarded a British Empire Medal in recognition of his work with vulnerable children in India. He was nominated by Shuktara friend and supporter Patrick Tissington, who writes below why he nominated David.



"Two years ago I was ranting about the honours system and why so many undeserving people get them. Why didn't people like David get rewarded? And as I thought about this, my thoughts went to why I am so drawn to shuktara. For me, the attraction of David's example is that he saw an awful situation that he decided he could not ignore. The extent of the problem was such that he must have known he couldn't completely solve homelessness in the world or even solve it in Kolkata. But what he couldn't do was ignore it. He could provide a loving home for at least some of the children whose families couldn't support them.

Coming to that conclusion and taking action was the embodiment of [Loren Eiseley's starfish on the beach story](#) that I have held dear for many years. So I asked myself what I personally could do. I don't feel able to be as brave as he was and I don't have huge spare wealth or a massive media following. So I decided I could perhaps try to see if the honours system could be used for the purpose it was really supposed to - provide public recognition for people for doing great things.

There are some pretty obvious problems with this of course with the name of the awards that in the UK we somehow still cling to and also how it is used by politicians to reward political cronies. But I hoped that perhaps if the nomination was successful, it would be a public endorsement of the work of shuktara and possibly help a little in the various wranglings with officialdom. I checked with Sue who I think shared my views of the pros and cons but came to the same conclusion so helped with the nomination form. In any case, it's the only way we have as a country to officially recognise people.

I also knew David would immediately recoil from the individual nature of the award as he talks constantly about the incredible work that so many people do with shuktara - especially Pappu. But awards of this type can only be for individuals so I went with it. I hoped that David would see it in that light and wouldn't mind the connotations.

The work of shuktara is an inspiration to me and my family every day. And so we have **David Earp BEM!** I'm so pleased for him and can't wait to see him presented with the honour. And there must be a party!"

Patrick Tissington



Patrick and Sally Tissington

We wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful new year.



Merry Christmas and happy new... from Muniya
(click on image to see video)

Shuktara provides a home for life for children



and young adults with disabilities in Kolkata, India, who have no family.

shuktara.org

Official website of Shuktara Trust (UK) | UK Charity Commission No: 1112303



DONATE TO Shuktara Trust UK

DONATE DIRECTLY

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:

Santander UK plc.

Account no: 04404505

Sort Code: 09-01-50

Account Name: Shuktara Trust (UK)

If you're a UK taxpayer, **Gift Aid** increases the value of your charity donations by 25%, because the charity can reclaim the basic rate of tax on your gift – at no extra cost to you.

DONATE ONLINE IN £



DONATE ONLINE IN \$



DONATE TO shuktara, Kolkata

KOLKATA BANK TRANSFER DETAILS

Swift Code: PUNBINBBDCA
IFC Code: PUNB0008500
MICR Code: 700024004
Account Name: shuktara
Account No.: 3187000100080165
Bank Name: Punjab National Bank
Branch Name: Kolkata Gariahat Road Branch
Branch Address: 18/1 Gariahat Road, Kolkata 700019

Copyright © 2019, All rights reserved.



This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Shuktara Trust (UK) · 7 Lily Close, London, United Kingdom · London, W14 9YA · United Kingdom

