

June 2015

As I write this letter at the end of June I am suddenly reminded that tomorrow is the 1st July which is the day that Anna and Sunil came in 1999 - and the beginning of shuktara.

Since that day, I have gone from hand writing letters and enclosing photographs that I had printed in a Kodak shop, to Tweeting information about our homes and having a data base full of all your names.

Things have changed so much. What hasn't changed is the support that I have received from you all since those early days and for this I am very grateful.



Sanjay on the day he came in 2000

Sanjay came to shuktara in 2000. He always wanted to work and he always wanted his own family.

Since working at Shuktara Cakes he has managed to save enough money to rent a house outside of the city and in February he married a girl called Munni and they have a baby coming in a few months.

The security of shuktara and his job at Shuktara Cakes has meant that he has been able to do this and he is SO proud.



Sanjay and his wife Munni outside the house he rents for them

Sanjay has always been a devoted member of the Shuktara Cakes team. He's very committed to his work and we are all very proud that through the job he has at the Patisserie Training Centre he has been able to achieve his dreams.



From left to right – Pappu Mishra, Raju Das, Sanjay Sarkar, Alain Cojean, Ashok Chettri, Bapi Das, Laura Chantebel, Somnath Sardar

Photo of the team with Alain Cojean, who flew in from Paris for an event at the Alliance Francaise on 19th June where they released a new range of Patisserie which has been developed by Laura Chantebel.



Raja Mohan Das in Kolkata on his bike being filmed by Ed Francis for YOUNG GIFTED AND DEAF

It takes a lot of energy to catch up with Raja - especially running along next to him in 99°F to get a photo!

Just before the rains came, in the terrible pre-monsoon heat, Ed Francis came to shuktara to shoot some footage for a trailer he is making, which will promote a short film that he has his heart set on making.

Ed has worked for years in Kolkata and London trying to get support for another organization here, called Hope Foundation, who we were able to help out by taking Moni into our girls home. She was in their hospital here, close to the boys house in South Kolkata.

The film is currently under the working title of YOUNG GIFTED AND DEAF.

Here are a couple of photos of Raja Mohan Das by Ed Francis.





If you are in the UK and use a mobile phone, you can text this number to make a small donation to shuktara, up to £10. Please let your friends know and help us to continue the work here which is still in need of donations. If there are any other ways you can think of to help us meet our deficit in regular donations of about £10,000 per annum, you can either talk to me or let Sue Tungay know how we can help you, to help us..... to help run the homes here in Kolkata.

Thank you

David Earp