

THE SREEPUR VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010

Happy New Year from all of us at The Sreepur Village in the UK and Shishu Polli Plus in Bangladesh, and we would like to thank you for your support throughout 2009.

Despite the recession, we have had a good year and, largely due to Pat's hard work and commitment, we have extended and improved many of our programmes at Sreepur. Pat continues to spend a large amount of her time at Sreepur, on a volunteer basis, and is able to support Khadija as she takes over responsibility for running the project.



This photo shows the Shishu Polli Plus senior management team taken at Christmas when they celebrate everyone's birthday. Sitting with Pat and Derek are Subrata Chowdhury, PC Fundraising and Donor Liaison, S S Alam Chowdhury, Deputy Executive Director, Khadija Sultana, Executive Director and Mozzamel Haque, PC Implementation.

Raffle

Peter and Ann Wilkes drew the raffle in Beckenham on 11th December with the following results:

1st prize:

2 x return tickets to New York on British Airways.

Winner: Ms W in Ormskirk.

2nd prize:

Diamond and gold pendant.

Winner: Ms J in Farnborough.

3rd prize:

Diamond and gold tie pin.

Winner: Mr C in Sawbridgeworth.

4th prize:

£250 of premium skincare.

Winner: Ms M in Bristol.

5th prize:

£195 Halcyon Days vouchers.

Winner: Ms T in London.

6th prize:

£100 Halcyon Days vouchers.

Winner: Mr J in Berkhamsted.

New Beneficiaries

We have recently welcomed a number of new mothers and children to Sreepur, including:

Bina Begum

Bina Begum is around 17 years old and she came to SPP with five month old twin babies, Habiba and Hamima on 25 October 2009. Bina is from Faridpur, Gopalganj and her parents got divorced when she was 5 months old.

Bina was brought up by her grand parents since her parents remarried separately, but the grandparents are very poor, and arranged an early marriage for Bina when she was only 14. She never had the opportunity for schooling even though she had a great desire to be a teacher.



Bina's husband suddenly died of high fever and infection and neither family was able to support Bina and the twins. Bina is a beautiful bright girl who is settling well into SPP, although she does get homesick for her family, especially her mother.

Aktara Banu

Aktara Banu is a 20 year old unmarried mother who came to SPP with her three year old daughter on 26 October 2009. She is from Joypurhat, in the north of Bangladesh and

she is the eldest child of five children. Nilufar Begum her mother is a house wife and Md. Atoar her father is a day labourer. Her mother became sick and her father had to spend a lot of time looking after his wife in the hospital. Aktara began a relationship with a neighbour Md. Saidur and became pregnant when she was a student in class 9. She told no-one as she was frightened, and she gave birth to a daughter, Shampa. Saidur refused to take responsibility and married another woman.



Finding no other alternative Aktara filed a case in government court which is under process, but in the meantime she came to Sreepur for shelter and care for her child.

Motejan



Motejan is a 20 year old unmarried mother who came to SPP with a one year old baby

on 26 October 2009. She is from Thakurgaon, in the north part of Bangladesh and she is the 3rd child of seven children. Motejan's mother died when all the children were young, and her father is old and too weak to work for the family. Because of the situation at home, Motejan went to live with her elder sister in Chittagong, to look for employment.

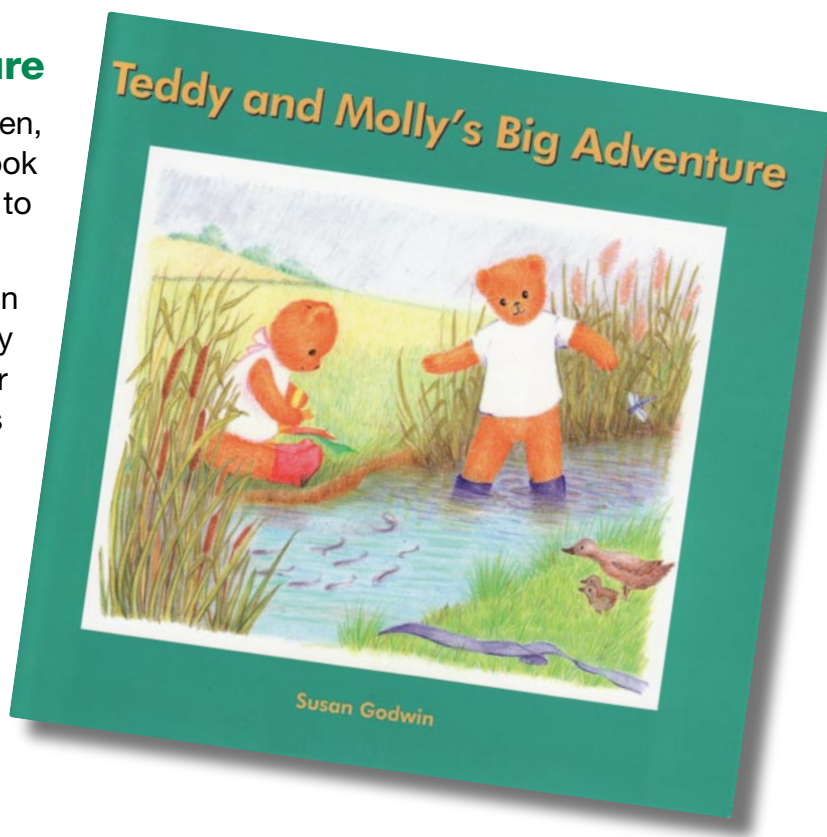
She developed a relationship with Jahangir Alam, and as a result she got pregnant and gave birth to a son in 2008 but Jahangir and his family did not take any responsibility for the child.

The child was malnourished when he arrived at SPP but is gradually getting better.

Teddy and Molly's Big Adventure

Sue Godwin, a friend of Pat Kerr, has written, illustrated and paid for a lovely children's book to be published with all proceeds to come to The Sreepur Village.

The book is suitable for pre-school children and narrates in rhyming couplets the story of two little bears who find ribbons on their walk through the countryside. It costs £4.99 and we will send it with free P&P to any sponsors who complete and return the slip below:



Please send me books at £4.99 each, cheque enclosed (made payable to The Sreepur Village)

Name

Address

.

.

. Post code

Send to: **The Sreepur Village, PO Box 104, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4HN**

Christmas cards sold out

Last November, Miles Brignall from The Guardian newspaper visited Sreepur and wrote another wonderful article about our Christmas cards. As a result we sold over 19,000 cards that weekend and we now have a long list of people who want to buy our cards for Christmas this year.

We apologise to the sponsors who were not able to buy cards from us because we ran out of stock, but it was obviously a brilliant piece of PR for us and it means that we need to plan our card-making carefully this year so that we have the right amount of stock. Quite a challenge!

You can read the Guardian article by going to our website, clicking on *Press area* in grey at the top, and then clicking on the link *New article in The Guardian*. Alternatively, the direct link is:

www.guardian.co.uk/money/2009/nov/14/charity-christmas-cards-sreepur-bangladesh

Blank cards

We still have good stocks of the blank cards which cost £7.50 for 5 cards. Each pack includes 1 x Thank You, 1 x Happy Birthday and 3 floral designs. Beautiful embroidered cards are also available at £2 each. All prices include p&p.

If you would like to order, please send us a cheque made payable to *The Sreepur Village* plus a note of the cards required and your name and address.



(Examples of cards – designs may differ)

The Sreepur Village, Bangladesh • UK Charity No. 1085008
www.thesreepurvillage.org • info@thesreepurvillage.org • Tel: 020 8650 8208

