



THE SREEPUR VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2009

Robin's Story

Some time ago, our newsletter included the story of Robin who was trafficked to Dubai as a 4 year old and used as a camel jockey. He had to survive on one meal a day and little rest. He was frequently beaten and lived in the open in the camel shed. Between races he had to look after the camels.

Eventually he fell from a camel, broke his leg badly and was hospitalized. This was mentioned in a newspaper, and he was rescued by the Bangladeshi National Women Lawyer's Association, who brought him back to Dhaka on 18th July 1999.

BNWLA provided him with intensive treatment on his return as he was seriously ill, and they tried to find his family but without success.

Robin came to Shishu Polli Plus on 2nd April 2004 where, unsurprisingly, he was one of the most disturbed children in the project. In 2007 we started to pay foster parents in the local community to care for our abandoned children over the age of

11, and Robin has now been living happily with his foster parents, brother and sister for over two years in their home 4 km from Sreepur. He

feels himself to be part of that family and he helps his foster father in his work as a businessman. He also helps his foster mother in the house and helps the younger sister in her studies.

He is studying in class 7 now and doing well in his studies. He takes part in different social events and sports activities, both in his new community and at Shishu Polli Plus. We have a social worker who is based in his



village, who monitors all local foster family placements, which have been very successful as a way of reintegrating abandoned children into communities rather than just offering them institutional care.

Recently Robin received US\$ 1100 as compensation from the United Arab Emirates government, and this sum has been deposited in his name at the bank on fixed deposit for five years as he is still a minor.

Robin dreams of being an electrical engineer. We are working with his foster family to help him achieve this dream if possible.

A Young Girl's Story - Monjuri Rani

Monjuri was the youngest of four children of a Hindu conservative family living in Dhanbari, a village in the Tangail district of Bangladesh. She was a student in class 9 when she was raped by a local man, who was a respected local healer.



Monjuri kept quiet when she found that she was pregnant, but eventually it became obvious to the family. Finding no other alternative the family arranged a marriage with a local boy. However, the marriage did not last and the boy divorced her within one month of the wedding.

After her divorce, she gave birth to a male child in a government hospital. Her family disowned her, and she had nowhere to go for shelter.

She came to Shishu Polli Plus on 1st April 2008 with the help of BRAC (a local NGO).

Monjuri had a dream to be a teacher but this will be very difficult with a child to support. She is receiving some schooling but is also receiving training in tailoring so that she will be able to leave Sreepur and live independently with her son.

Bangladesh Textiles Exhibition

Monday 17 – Friday 28th August 2009

10 am - 4 pm

Liverpool Town Hall

Free Entrance

Hand made Kantha Quilts Traditional Embroidery Photography of Rural Bangladesh.

Silk Scarves cards and gifts for sale.

All proceeds to the Sreepur Women and Children's Village, Bangladesh.

Come along and see this magnificent building - one of Liverpool's treasures, and please introduce yourself to Ruby Porter, one of our trustees.

Justgiving.com

We are now a registered charity on Justgiving.com, so please remember us if you are doing any sponsored walks, runs or triathlons. The site is a very efficient way of sponsoring someone – the site takes a small percentage but transfers the donations immediately into our bank account and handles the gift aid claim with the Inland Revenue.

It also saves everyone from chasing their sponsors for money once the event is finished!

DVD – A Day at Sreepur

A DAY AT THE SREEPUR VILLAGE, BANGLADESH



SHISHU POLLI PLUS

Sue Godwin, a friend of Pat who joined us at the 20th anniversary in February, has made a short film showing a typical day at Sreepur. It runs for just under 18 minutes and shows just how colourful and happy a routine day can be. We would love you each to have a copy and we will send them out on request as a thank you for all your support and help over so many years. Please email, telephone or write if you would like to receive a copy.

Shishu Polli Plus Annual Report 2008

Shishu Polli Plus (the local name for the Sreepur Village in Bangladesh) has just published their annual report for 2008. You can view this at:

<http://thesreepurvillage.org/downloads/AnnualReportSpp08.pdf>

There is also a link posted at the top of our home page at

www.thesreepurvillage.org

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