



THE SREEPUR VILLAGE

NEWSLETTER

September 2017

Birthdays at Sreepur

“Many of our beneficiaries have no idea on their true date of birth”



As most of you know we celebrate everyone’s birthday at Sreepur on the same day; Christmas day. Each year we like to buy a present for each beneficiary and member of staff to help them celebrate.

On a regular basis we get asked if toys and small gifts can be bought and sent to us but with the high charge of carriage to Bangladesh we usually have to decline these kinds offers. However, this year we can say YES! Mat, Trisha’s son, is having his wedding celebration at Sreepur at the end of October and some of the very kind guests travelling from the UK have agreed to take out these gifts in their luggage for us.

Now what are the ideal gifts you will be asking? We are thinking soft toys, brightly coloured hair bands, cars, puzzles, Barbies My Little Pony, Polly Pocket; costume jewellery, all need to be of a miniature size so that they can be easily carried. Please nothing that requires batteries.

If you want to help us buy some of these gifts then please contact Emma so that we can co-ordinate what will be donated. **Please note that any donations must be received by us no later than Thursday 12th October.**

SAVE THE DATE

House of Commons Dinner 27th April 2018

Our Patron Jim Fitzpatrick MP and his wife Dr Sheila Fitzpatrick MBE, who also happens to be one of our wonderful Trustees will be holding a fund-raising dinner on behalf of The Sreepur Village. We are currently looking for auction or raffles prizes so please let Emma know if you have any ideas, or indeed if you are interested in buying a ticket.



DOUBLE YOUR DONATION TO THE SREEPUR VILLAGE THIS CHRISTMAS TIME



This year The Sreepur Village is taking part yet again in The Big Give Christmas Challenge, this match-funding scheme allows us to double any online donations made to The Sreepur Village over a FOUR day period. Taking part is easy! Go online at <http://bit.ly/2gl4QpI> and make a donation. Thanks to a little Christmas magic your donation will be matched, e.g. a £10 donation becomes £20! However, you must make a donation on the dates above so please add these dates to your calendar or if you’d appreciate a reminder send us an email at emma@sreepurvillage.org or text us on 07921 187850

Life at Sreepur: Monira and Konika

Three months ago we took a visit to the northern districts of Bangladesh to visit a few mothers whose only dreams are to be part of the Sreepur Village, and we are now pleased to share that already our rehab team has started to make rehabilitation plans for them.

Early today, we had a visit to the Baby House to talk to Monira and Konika, two mothers who were referred to us from another organization TLMI (The Leprosy Mission International).



Monira and Konika were victims of domestic violence, tormented and beaten up for the dowry. Unable to endure the harassment and constant torture, they were forced to abandon their husbands and their families. Presently, they live in the Baby House to look after children. Here is what they have to say about life in The Sreepur Village.



Monira: "I've been here for a few months now and I still can't make sense of it all. In the beginning, I had some really tough days. Jori, my little girl, experienced extreme diarrhoea but the sisters of the clinic all worked hard and she became well again. This meant I was able to concentrate on regular life of village. Since my child is little, I have to stay in the Baby House but here, like other families living in the village, I get a lot of support. In our room, we take care of 11 babies. In the afternoons, I go to literacy class where I am learning level four. I have had little schooling throughout my life, but I need to learn more for my business plans. One year later, after my daughter has grown up, I plan to master the art of tailoring and candle making, schemes which are taught here in The Sreepur Village. There is a candle making factory in my local area where I can work and earn some cash. Then I would love to open a small tailoring shop. So, that's the plan for now, but most importantly I do not want to be a burden to anyone."

Konika, is more reluctant to speak but she did say: "Monira di (sister) and I were at TLMI and came to The Sreepur Village together. I am also in the Baby House. I will start the tailoring training scheme from January, as my daughter will be old enough to be looked after by others. I want to start a tailoring business in my own village. We are indigenous people. Nobody does this work in my community. So, if I could run a shop, this would be a great challenge for me. I would like to take some more training but first I would like to try the tailoring scheme."

The Sreepur Village, Bangladesh,

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