

NEWSLETTER



Correspondence address: *Friends of the children of Orissa, Rose Cottage, 19 Filgrave, Bucks, MK16 9ET*
email: *secretary.foco@gmail.com* website: *orissa.org.uk*

December 2020

Registered Charity No. 1074935

From Malcolm Harper, Ex-Chairman:

Dear Friends,

The most significant development for me and the charity in the past few months is that I have resigned as Chairman. After almost thirty years, some might say it's about time! I will remain on the board, supporting the new Co-Chairs Kate Wilson and David Landsberg; both of whom have served on the committee for some time. I hope you will all join me in welcoming them as our newest honorary officers, I am sure they will do a fantastic job.

Philippa Baylis and Linda Deverell, both of whom are committee members will support David and Kate in their communications with our partners in India. Philippa, who has spent more time at PUSS than the rest of us combined, will be the main point of contact for Kuku and her colleagues at PUSS, and Linda will do the same for Manoj and SOCH. Linda first introduced Friends of the Children of Orissa to Hat Trick, almost ten years ago, and has visited Odisha many times.

The Indian railways continue to operate at a very reduced level. Manoj and his colleagues at SOCH have spent much of their time distributing food and other vital supplies to slum families and others who have been 'locked-out' of their work and are therefore destitute.

Schools have remained closed by order of the Government, and as of now they are meant to re-open on 4th January. About forty children have remained at PUSS; the rest of the 300 children, along with the fifty 'day boarders' from the nearby slums in Bhubaneswar, have had to remain at 'home', whatever that may amount to. Kuku and her staff have been doing their best to maintain contact with them, and some generous friends have been able to provide a few of them with laptop computers so that they can try to continue their schooling 'at a distance' with the help of some PUSS staff and others. Generally, however, their education has suffered, and there will be a lot of catching up to do.

We have continued our efforts to support the PUSS staff in providing regular on-line classes to the children who have no home of any kind to go to, apart from PUSS. I think I can speak for all of us when I say that it is great fun, for us and I think for the children too. Their English has significantly improved, and I hope that the following copy of one of the 'homework' assignments they have done for us will be appropriate for the Christmas season:

Once there is a big forest there lives many types of cats and dogs they decided to celebrate christmas with great joy. there is three dogs her name is Marry, digger, timmy they sitting on the dining table with his friends to make the preparations. cat are went to shopping and bought gifts and flowers and cake they came to home. and on christmas day their friend prepared a wonderful christmas lunch. The cats and dogs are decorated the hall with lights, streamers, bells and small christmas trees. Everyone enjoyed ~~to~~ themselves and had a wonderful christmas day.



All that remains for me to do is thank you all sincerely for your continued support, particularly during this challenging year. The committee, our partners in India and most of all, the children are ever grateful for the generosity of our friends and supporters.

Have a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for a happy new year!

Malcolm Harper