



NewDawn India Newsletter

May 2009

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VIDIYAL NEWS

As usual, life has been very busy at Vidiyal, with Jim, Sharmila and the team involved in a variety of activities, camps and conferences. They continue to work hard to achieve basic rights for the children and some of the teenagers themselves have been representatives at local and national conferences. To think that these “untouchables” from the slums of Madurai are mixing and talking with government officials is absolutely amazing and is hopefully a big step forward.



UPDATE ON THE NEW SCHOOL

The original site was in an educational zone next to a government college. Planning permission was granted only twelve months before Jim was told to stop development. It sounds very similar to the Stansted airport situation and could remain unresolved for some time. We know how bureaucracy can slow things down. The local opinion is that it is unlikely that the airport development will take place on our side of the airport in view of the government college and other buildings that would have to be demolished. However, the government appear to be keeping their options open all round the existing airport. Jim has assured us that the money invested in the original site will be recovered either by way of compensation or sale of the land, but this may take some time. Jim & Sharmila in Madurai feel a real sense of responsibility and guilt for the delay but we have reassured them that we cast no blame, as they went through the correct legal procedures and the problems could not have been foreseen. The education of the children needs to be our primary concern, and therefore we have considered starting again with the plans for a new school. However, it appears that it will be too difficult or too expensive to find an alternative site and Jim now recommends that we wait and see what happens to the current site.

REQUEST FROM JIM

“I hope you would remember that the gift scheme was introduced just to avoid children getting different gifts and a few not getting any gifts from their sponsors. But in recent times apart from the gift that is given to them at three times a year a few children get direct gifts from their sponsors. This brings some disparity among the children which we felt uncomfortable with. I understand the interests of the sponsors that they would like to directly buy gifts for their sponsored children without knowing that Vidiyal is a community and children do share concerns of inequality. In this regard I would like to request you to inform sponsors not to send gifts directly in a child’s name to avoid discrepancy and jealousy among the children. I hope you will be able to put this in a positive way to the sponsors. We can also suggest that if at all they want to send something it could be for the general use of children in the centre.”

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Cake and Plant Sale Saturday 9th May 9.30am
Capel Methodist Church

Music on the Meadow Sunday 14th June
Vauxhall Farm

Gates open 12.30 Bands begin 2 pm
Tickets: Adult £8 Children 5-16yrs £2
Contact: Dave Wells 01473 311385
Balloon Race: Paul & Maddy 01473 311516

Coffee at Poppins Saturday 4th July
73 The Street
Capel St Mary
10.30—12 noon.

Curry Evening Saturday 10th October
Capel Community Church
Days Road

VISIT TO INDIA

One of our trustees, Peter Ellis, along with his wife Alyson and son Simon, recently visited Vidiyal. The first-hand report of their experiences constitutes the basis of this newsletter.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please note that the registered address for NewDawn India is changing to:
8 Long Perry
Capel St Mary
Ipswich IP9 2XD