

Darjeeling Children's Trust

Autumn update, 2011



www.darjeelingchildrenstrust.com

Dear Friends and Supporters.

The autumn has proved a difficult time in Darjeeling. The town was rocked in mid-September by an earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale centred in nearby Sikkim. A number of people died in the town and although none of these were known to the Trust the buildings of the boys' orphanage were damaged with even more cracks opening up. The monsoon was particularly bad and the combination of events caused landslides damaging roads, with the main road to the plains still being blocked.

The work of the Trust has continued though with existing projects and some new ones. As always, thank you for the support you give to the Darjeeling Children's Trust, Marilyn Adams, Chairperson

School improvements

This autumn has seen work taking place at Subash Gram school in Soom, a tea estate on the outskirts of the town. Darjeeling Children's Trust is providing toilets and has provided glass for classroom windows where none previously existed.



Teaching the teachers

With the help of a volunteer from the UK the Trust has once more run a course for teachers which

demonstrates teaching methods and also helps teachers improve their own language skills. The course has been received with great enthusiasm.



Vocational training

Five more young people have started their vocational training course at the Food and Craft Institute and – a new venture – three young women have started a two year nursing training course.



Nursing candidates



Three of the FCI students

The girls at the orphanage continue to enjoy the skills they have learnt in knitting and crochet and are producing goods in their free time which raises money which they keep.



Sponsored children

Each sponsored child was given a pair of gloves and hat this autumn. The temperature falls significantly during the winter months and schools, which are unheated, close from mid December to the start of March.

The Travelling library and Music in schools

Children and teachers continue to enjoy the lessons given by the Trust's music teacher who travels on foot from school to school with his keyboard on his back.

The Trust took delivery of a new batch of children's reading books ordered specially from Nepal.



Helping the Orphanages

Plans are now almost finalised for the redevelopment of the boys' orphanage site and soil testing has been carried out.



Please help if you can –after the earthquake the buildings are in an even more parlous state.