



UPDATE

SPRING 2023

Editor's Note:

At the beginning of the year, your editors had the great pleasure of being able to visit Hope again after a long, Covid-enforced absence. We are delighted to report that all is well there, children are thriving and happy and staff are as dedicated and committed as ever to their mission of giving the children in our care the best life possible. It was a real pleasure and privilege to witness, day in, day out, the professionalism and dedication with which they go about their daily work. No two days, even two hours, are ever the same but they meet each situation with competence, confidence and calm. That is all we can ask!

There were some special events to celebrate with children and staff. Firstly, we had the grand opening of The Meadows – our hostel for over-18 girls - kindly and generously sponsored by trustee, Cheryle Berry, whose moving article you can read later in this newsletter. Secondly, we had the annual Founder's Day to celebrate the birthday of Hope's founding father, John Veitch. The lovely performances of the children were a joy to watch and the event was enjoyed by all..

We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and see you again in summer!

Great North Run

As usual, we have procured five prized places at this year's event on 10th September. Our first place has already been taken by our veteran trustee runner, Cheryle Berry. who has decided to celebrate her 75th birthday by having a final whack at the half-marathon course. Cheryle began running marathons at the age of 50. wound down to half-marathons at the age of 70, and this one is her fifth and final one. All five have been for Hope and we thank her for her sterling fundraising efforts and wish her all the best.

If you would like to take part in this fantastic event and raise funds for Hope Community Village, please email steveredmond205@hotmail.com to reserve a place. First come, first served!

Our renewed thanks to last year's runners who raised over £5,000.



Hoisting the Founder's Day Flag.



One of the many items Daya will need to get acclimatized to late winter temperatures in Tbilisi!

Off to Study in Georgia! Update on Daya's Journey.

Hope sets a very high priority on encouraging each child to achieve to the best of their ability – they supply the hard graft and Hope will provide the opportunities. I don't think any of us foresaw where this would lead us. Daya, who has been with us since early childhood has very recently set off on a huge undertaking – to pursue her long-held ambition to become a doctor. Her fairy-tale has come true and she is on her way! (See our previous issue!)

Grateful thanks to all supporters who have helped her on her journey. Special thanks to a group of hugely generous supporters from Dorset – you know who you are – and to two supporters from Ireland who are undertaking very demanding sponsored physical feats to raise funds for Daya. And, indeed, to all who have donated to the Hope Higher Education fund, including a very generous donation from **Hebden Bridge Rotary Club**. If you would like to contribute to this fund, contact us on info@hopeindia.org. Particular credit too to Hope staff who encouraged her every step of the way. We wish her every success.



Reflections on sustainability at Hope from my Vantage Point in the Visitors' Area

What a peaceful haven of tranquillity Hope is. Everybody is calmly going about their business. The chillies are drying on mats in the sun. Families getting on with being families. The driveway is being swept and there is a lady raking up leaves.

OK, the traffic makes a bit of noise passing on the road outside, the odd crowd is occasionally rowdy but there are also the sounds of exotic birds, and the auto rickshaws make a bit of a 'tuk-tuk' racket when dropping off or picking up children at the kindergarten. But most of the time the only sound is that of happy children's voices.

The time for building new houses and ancillary buildings is over. We have all we need to sustain a comfortable home and facilities for future generations of children. Sound maintenance and upkeep are the key now.

Already a consciousness has been built into the attitude of the children towards the environment. Plastics are virtually banned from the site and waste is meticulously separated and disposed of sensibly. Food waste is at a minimum and what there is, is composted on site or fed to the chickens. Every house has a garden for growing vegetables. Peppers and tomatoes do really well. There is an abundance of fruit from the trees on site – bananas, coconuts, mangoes and jackfruit. 24 hens provide plenty of eggs and there is a mini fish farm for raising fish to eat. Children have established, and carefully tend, an amazing butterfly garden. The recently installed solar panels are able to provide enough electricity to power the admin. block, the kindergarten, the I.T. block and library.

Financially, Hope staff have gradually been able to increase the number of sponsors they have recruited locally and they are getting lots of local donations, particularly for their popular Offer-a-Meal scheme. So, the amount raised in India for the support of Hope has risen from nothing a few years ago to around one-third of the amount needed to run the facility today, and it is still increasing.

So, the future looks bright and sustainable, if we all can continue to be supportive, as we have done in the past.



Founder's
Day
Dancers.



THE MEADOWS

My mother and father, **Nellie and Ray Meadows**, loved and cared for children all their lives. I was an only child, but our house was filled with laughter and activity with the many children who were welcomed to join us for meals and to play. Wilby, a small village in Northamptonshire, was where they lived for most of their married life and they helped for many years at the Village School, Church and Chapel. Mum would teach crafts, (knitting, sewing, crochet and embroidery), passing on many skills to the young people. Dad taught gardening and helped the children to have their own gardens, growing vegetables, fruits and flowers. They both encouraged everyone to appreciate their education and always do their best. I am so very grateful that they encouraged and supported me to go to university and have a career in education as a Headteacher and Director of Education. Sadly, both my parents died at a very early age but are fondly remembered by many.

In 2012 I came for the first time to **Hope Community Village** and saw the wonderful love and care provided for the children here. It was a pleasure and a privilege to help in any ways I could and I have returned many times. One of the things I do is teach first aid skills to the housemothers and older children as I am a volunteer with St John Ambulance in England. Thinking of the future I wanted to leave something in memory of my parents and am so very grateful to everyone who has made it possible for the new house "**The Meadows**" to be built in their honour.

I know that it will be well used by the young people over 18 and my parents would have been delighted to see them there.

Dr Cheryle Berry MBE PHF OSTJ



Cheryle preparing to cut the tape to open The Meadows building.