

## NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2011

Happy New Year to all! We have yet another exciting year to report and celebrate.

### School – “Brahmagna Ma” Balkendra – Established 2002

The school, which is in its 9<sup>th</sup> year of running, continues to provide scores of pupils from the neighbouring community with the basics of learning and life skills. We employ 4 teachers to cover a number of subjects including English, Mathematics, Science and General Knowledge. During the mid-morning break, each child is provided with nourishing snacks. The children are thriving and show immense enthusiasm for learning.

We are keen to broaden the scope of the school curriculum and to extend the school day to include both morning and afternoon classes. The building extension described below will be key to facilitating this. We are investigating the regulations involved in extending the school hours and hope to implement these changes in June 2011. Rita has volunteered to co-ordinate and oversee this project. Jayasree has volunteered to assist with setting out the new syllabus and guidelines for the running of the school.

### Extension

The building plans of April 2010 have now been implemented. A second storey, with 4 new rooms, has been added to Santi Ashram. This extension will supply the infrastructure to provide vocational training to young men and women of the neighbouring villages. It is intended to use the extension to train locals to knit, sew and make simple things like agarbatti, candles. It is hoped that these skills will help the locals to support themselves.

With this in mind, discussions with the local Rotary club have taken place in order to progress the plan for a sewing class. The Rotary club has, in principle, agreed to provide guidance and possibly some funds towards the project. Subroto Roy is arranging for the early inspection of the facilities.

It is intended that the second storey will also be used to provide food and lodging to 2-3 meritorious pupils. A search for such pupils is currently underway and guidelines for the residency are being prepared.

Additional building work has been carried out to the 2-storey building in the Math. This was done to make the lodging more hospitable for the frequent visits by members that are planned.

Nirban Math Trust, Deoghar

### **Board of trustees and well-wishers**

The board of trustees consists of Anima Sen Gupta, Pratima Dhar Roy, Jharna Sen, Nita Biswas, Rita Sen, Jayati Das Gupta, Subroto Roy, Anjan Dhar Roy, Ratna Dhar Roy and Debdatta Biswas.

The unerring work and devotion of the board of trustees and Biswanath Bhattacharya, the in-house resident, has been fundamental to the smooth running of the Math & Balkendra. We would nevertheless welcome your help and support, so please, please do get in touch with Debdatta to volunteer your services.

Special vote of thanks goes to Anima and Pratima, both over eighty years of age, and Debdatta for being the prime movers in the day to day supervision. Nita and Rita, both over seventy years of age, have agreed to take a more active role so that the broadening of the scope of the Math's activities can be carried out smoothly.

Anjan has agreed to assist Pratima with her many secretarial duties to enable the latter to devote more time for the supervisory duties. The other local younger members like Kunal, Dipankar and Rahul too have agreed to assist the trustees and take specific responsibilities.

However, we need the active support of all the members spread around the globe. Sreela has volunteered to take some tasks and it is ardently hoped more volunteers will assist. There is so much more that we can all do.

The trustees thank all the members and well wishers for their donations. At the same time, the trustees highlight the need for larger donations to carry out the many planned activities. Here too we can all be more generous.

A special thanks to late Sri H J Sen Gupta, former Chairman of the Board of Trustees for his substantial donation. The contribution made much of the building work possible.

### **Event commemorating Thakuma**

Thakuma's birthday celebrations will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011. We hope at least some of you will join the celebrations.

We look forward to your support and donations and wish you the best in 2011.