



## Newsletter May 2013

**Garden Opening** June 9<sup>th</sup> 1pm to 5pm at The Granary, Langbaugh Grange, on the B1292 off the A172, and on the edge of Great Ayton, with home made teas, excellent plant stall, and photos of Roseberry School, Darjeeling. Plenty of parking

We are pleased to report that Roseberry School has come of age! During the past twelve months, the unfinished extension has been transformed into 6 splendid classrooms, light, airy and colourful. The rooms are large, each with a small carpeted area. This feature is very popular with the teachers, who gather the children round them, sitting cross legged on the floor, Indian fashion.



Travelling with me this year was volunteer Jill Nichols from Hutton Rudby. On our first morning the children greeted us with flowers and the traditional white silk scarf of welcome. One of the girls delivered a little speech. Jill is a retired PE teacher and has made a great success of her three weeks here, passing on new skills to teachers and children alike. She has introduced team games, exercises, and even some Scottish dancing, using the play area on the flat roof of the new building. She is a real hit with the children, who bring her sweets and flowers.

Roseberry will pass another milestone in late November when the first cohort leave after 7 years. It is a delight to see what fine little citizens the school has made of them

and we wish them well. Everyone associated with the project can feel proud of their contribution to the lives of these children.

The teaching staff has been strengthened by the arrival of 3 new recruits, but we are always worried about the possibility of losing key teachers, because a post at a government school would offer three times the salaries we can pay. Our teachers are very enthusiastic and loyal, but in most cases they are the family's only bread-winner, so this is a difficult issue.

SAI's commitment to support the school continues, with costs rising as pupil numbers grow. Numbers reached 128 this year, close to our original target of 140, so we dare not slacken fundraising efforts. The 140 club is growing slowly, but is still small, and we were grateful to receive a few unexpected donations this year, because the school urgently needs furniture.

On our last day the children put on a short concert. They love performing. Parents of the older children were invited and we all assembled on the top floor of the new building, where an extra large classroom for one of the nursery classes doubles as a small hall.



A specially written number bidding us goodbye left both Jill and me surreptitiously wiping our eyes. The good news that we will bring back is that there is real sense of purpose about the school now, and with the help of SAI and its supporters its future is very bright.

**Helen Jones | The Granary | Langbaugh Grange | Great Ayton | Middlesbrough | TS9 6QQ May 2013**