

15 YEARS OF ROSEBERRY SCHOOL

Letter from Helen Jones July 2022

It is wonderful to have something to celebrate after two dismal years of Covid related school closures in India. We are especially delighted to share with you the fifteenth anniversary of opening Roseberry School.

We set up the charity School Aid India in 2007 after I saw hundreds of children in India walking miles along perilous roads to reach schools which were scarcely worthy of the name. I teamed up with local guide Bijoy and his wife Rachana and set up a charity to help us build and support Roseberry School in Darjeeling. Having coped with earthquakes, civil unrest and then Covid, Roseberry has established an excellent reputation in the wider community, not only for the quality of education it provides but also for the care and attention given to each and every pupil.

This year the school reached a special milestone as the first of its ex pupils came to the end of Secondary schooling. We were overjoyed to hear that all of Roseberry's ex pupils finishing school in 2022 had passed their final exams. The head start they were given at Roseberry is giving them confidence to follow their dreams, pursuing a variety of paths including further education, and training for specific professions. The best reward for all those involved with School Aid India is to see these confident, appreciative youngsters take their place in the world pursuing a career of their choice, rather than following their parents into an uncertain future in poverty.

All of us involved with School Aid India have been motivated by the wish to give just a few of the world's most disadvantaged children the education which is all children's birthright, and the success of these youngsters follows years of striving towards this goal. Roseberry School still depends on subsidies from School Aid India to support its work with those who cannot afford regular private school fees, but we have in fact developed a very cost effective way to make a difference. Where else could you change a life for just £2.50 a week?