



**Buwan Kothi  
International Trust**

*helping Haryana's rural communities build a sustainable future*

# A Year of Great Achievements

# Annual Report 2007-2008



# A Year of Great Achievements



## Foreword

I am proud to present the Buwan Kothi International Trust's first annual report, which celebrates the opening of the Gilly Mundy Memorial Community School in Haryana in India and our achievement in raising over £52,000 during 2007-2008. Over 99% of these funds will directly benefit local people in Haryana.

Although the Trust was set up to in March 2006, our registration with the Charity Commission came within a matter of days of the sudden death of Gilly Mundy in March 2007. His marriage to Debbie Quargnolo fifteen months earlier, in the rural village of Buwan Kothi in Haryana, provided our initial inspiration for raising funds to build closer ties with rural communities in the state. Gilly was only 36, passionate in his work challenging racism, injustice and discrimination and his loss has been deeply felt by everyone who knew him. In remembering Gilly, we have been inspired to build and support a school named in his memory that promotes and respects the values of equality and justice for all that he believed in so passionately.

We have found inspiration too from our supporters around the country, particularly in London and Leamington Spa. They have worked incredibly hard to organise events and have made numerous individual donations that have helped make possible the extraordinary achievement of building a non-profit school in under a year.

Most of all, we have been inspired by the way that the school has already begun to flourish. It has close to 200 children and has started providing quality education that pupils and parents can be proud of.

In 2008/2009, we aim to raise a further £60,000 to strengthen the Gilly Mundy Memorial Community School and start work on a Resource Centre. This is a formidable target to reach – one that once again will only be possible because of the energy, enthusiasm and generosity of our many supporters

**Deborah Coles, Chair of the Board of Trustees**

### Our Trustees

Janet Alty	Sangita Mundy
Kevin Blowe	James Partridge
Stephanie Carney	Piara Powar
Deborah Coles	Debbie Quargnolo
Maggie McGreevy	Mota Singh
Jas Mundy	Chris Tully

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## A Year of Great Achievements

The Buwan Kothi International Trust began with a discussion on 25 December 2005 in the village of Buwan Kothi in Haryana, in northern India. Local people and those who had travelled from Europe to attend the wedding of Gilly Mundy and Debbie Guarnolo talked about the issues facing the area's rural village communities and how a charity based in the UK could benefit local people. Central to this discussion was the need to develop the provision of education and skills training.

Because the area is entirely rural and therefore unaffected by the kind of developments that we would expect to see in a city, we felt that the principal focus of measures to address local need would be on developing both the creative and enterprise skills of adults, especially women.

We also identified the need for in-depth education about alternatives to high input agriculture, especially as the cost of fertilisers will be rising inexorably with the price of oil. Climate change is also likely to impact on wet-field cultivation, as the Himalayan melt water from the canal system will be a greater risk.

However we became aware that it would be very difficult to encourage adults who themselves had not had a satisfactory experience of schooling to use an adult education centre, however well planned and built it might be.

Following these initial discussions, our first idea was to work with the local Government school, by fundraising to raise the standard of the school and its buildings, along the lines of a the activities of a parent – teacher organisation in the UK.

Mota Singh, a founding member of the Buwan Kothi International Trust, met with officials in the state education department but it rapidly became apparent that this would not be an acceptable route forward. It was at this point that we were then faced with looking into a much bigger project: buying land and setting up our own project.

# A Different Kind of Education

## Why the Gilly Mundy Memorial Community School is so important

The sudden death of Gilly Mundy in March 2007 acted as a catalyst for those in Britain who had been part of the Christmas 2005 discussions. Gilly's family donated 4.5 acres of inherited land within reach of around 15 villages and helped to set up Buwan Kothi International Trust (India), whose aim is to build and manage the school under a partnership agreement with the Trust in the UK. Local support in Haryana for the project

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secured the services of an architect and successful fundraising in Britain meant that in August 2007, a ceremony was held to begin work on the foundations of the new building.

By October 2007, when Trustees visited Haryana, the project had been named the Gilly Mundy Memorial Institute, to encompass the range of activities that could take place on the land available. It was also agreed that the first phase, the school, would be named the Gilly Mundy Memorial Community School. At that point the foundations had been laid for the Administration Block (that in due course will serve the whole Institute) and the Secondary School, occupying the furthest corner of the site. The Secondary School building will be used for primary-level education until the Primary School and Nursery Unit are built.

Trustees also began the search for a Principal with the vision to take our project forward. Mr T Nammalvar was appointed in January 2008 and is committed to cooperative education and moving away from 'traditional' methods of teaching. Teachers were recruited by the time that the first children started to register and the school opened on 2 April 2008 with 60 children in attendance, numbers that quickly rose to 135. This means that the school is already financially self-sustaining – a remarkable achievement in seven months.

## **Creating a Different Educational Environment**

Visits to a number of local schools, both government and private, in the district in the autumn of 2007 were illuminating. We were

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shocked to find schools with little or no teaching aids, with bare concrete walls and floors, inadequate toilet facilities, children sitting at crude desks in bad repair and learning only by recitation from a teacher using a book and a blackboard. These schools included those where parents, seeking the best for their children, were paying significant levels of school fees. We also discovered that many fee-paying schools, set up to make a profit their investors, routinely ask their teachers to sign for a level of salary and then pay them significantly less than they have been promised.

In contrast, when Trustees from the UK again visited Haryana in March 2008, the Community School building and the Administration Block were close to completion and, unlike the schools we had visited, had been built to a high standard, with proper windows and all walls freshly painted.

Moreover, the Buwan Kothi International Trust is satisfied that this project will be entirely different from all the fee-paying schools in the district (and, quite possibly, in the state). This is primarily because it is both founded *and* managed as a completely non-profit educational establishment. Modest fees are charged based on an ability-to-pay but any income accrued beyond the immediate needs of the institution will be ploughed back into improving the school and the education of its pupils. In addition, the Community School will pay salaries fully in accordance with government guidelines and its non-profit status enables it to include – for free – children from families who would not normally find the funds to send their



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children to fee-paying schools. This Assisted Places Scheme is directly supported by fundraising from the UK and includes, in its early stages, at least 10% of the total pupil intake.

The Gilly Mundy Memorial Community School already lives up to its name by becoming genuinely rooted in the local community, with a Management Committee that includes representatives of all the surrounding villages. Committee members will report back to the villages and bring ideas forward to the Principal about possible improvements to the school. Parents are already helping to make decisions about the school's future, its uniforms and the teaching materials it uses.

It is also truly international, developing twinning arrangements with primary schools in both London and Leamington Spa. This relationship will develop with opportunities for two-way teacher and pupil exchanges and sharing of teaching ideas

and aids. This is, unfortunately, unheard of in any of the local private schools that boast they are "English Medium".

Finally, the Community School is also a proudly secular institution unlike all the schools visited in October 2007, which whilst supposedly secular in accordance

with Government decree, were in fact run by religious institutions and actively proselytising their particular faiths.

## **Building on Quality Education for Children**

The next phase of building work will complete the second floor of the school and the construction of a Resources Centre, a base for community activities and adult education facilities that start to address the local needs identified in 2005. Parental involvement in the school is the first step to encouraging adults to embrace the potential of the Resources Centre and participate in programmes that will take place within it. Our aim is that this will be broad ranging and inclusive, from activities aimed at strengthening women's confidence and creativity to health, welfare and agricultural projects.



In 2007-2008, the Trust raised £49,238.96 for its Major Appeal, the building of the Gilly Mundy Memorial Community School. A significant proportion of this, just over £22,300, was achieved as a result of the Buwan Kothi Challenge 2007, a sponsored cycle event held in July 2007 and involved 28 cyclists riding the 64 miles from London to Southend-on-Sea in Essex. We would like to thank the following for taking

# With Help from our Friends

**How we raised £52,000 in just one year**



# A Year of Great Achievements

part in the ride: Janet Alty, James Alty, Andrej Bako, Adam Barty, Kevin Blowe, Alredo Broccolo, George Brown, Tabitha Bushell, Anthony Carney, Stephanie Carney, Marc Craw, Rokshana Fiaz, Nawaz Khan, Kasia Kcmiek, Raggi Kotek, Manju Lukhman, Jas Mundy, Piara Powar, Debbie Quargnolo, Ramesh Ram, Sukhraj Randhawa, Alex Rees, Jatinder Sanghera, Jatinder Sidhu, Jasbir Singh, Cilius Victor, Max Watson, and Julie Willis.

## Assisted Places

The Trust received £350 in standing order donations from supporters for use towards subsidising school fees for the Gilly Mundy Memorial Community School.

We would like to thank all those who make a regular contribution to this 'assisted places' scheme.

## Community Library Project

In 2007-2008, the Trust also launched a fund encouraging supporters to become Patrons of the Community Library that will be part of the Resource Centre planned in Phase 2 of construction in Haryana. Last year, this fund had raised £321.

## 'Lust for Life' Photography Exhibition

Two exhibitions of photographs by Gilly Mundy, which were held at 'Beaucatcher' in Stoke Newington between July 2007 and October 2007, and at the Bridge House Theatre in Warwick in September 2007 raised £2,108. A new exhibition is planned for September 2008 at Garden Court Chambers in central London.



## Buwan Kothi MEMORIAL TREES

This scheme set up by trustee Maggie McGreevy, which involves supporters sponsoring the planting of trees around the boundary of the Gilly Mundy Memorial Institute, successfully raised £530 in 2007-08.

It has now been embraced by the Haryana State Forestry Department, who have said they will adopt it as a pilot project to demonstrate how children should be taught about native trees and how to care for them. They have already donated twenty large young trees that were planted in April 2008. For more information, visit our website at [www.buwankothi.org.uk](http://www.buwankothi.org.uk)



The Trust's new blog at [www.ipledge.org.uk](http://www.ipledge.org.uk) celebrates the efforts and hard work of our many supporters - and reminds everyone that making a donation is not the only way of supporting our activities.

Anyone can get involved by making a Pledge to support rural communities in Haryana and making a difference in any way they can - whether by taking part in (or organising) a sponsored event, or volunteering some free time, or talking to friends and colleagues about the Trust and what it has achieved so far.



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## A Year of Great Achievements

### Individual Donations

The Trust received a large number of individual donations, totalling £23,972.25, and we would like to thank the following for their generosity in 2007-2008

A Hayer	Dharkund Gupta	JM Roodhouse	Richard Fontenoy
Dr A Paliwala	Dr HN Desai	Joginder Singh Sohal	Richard Hobbs
Amardip Singh Dulku	Dyal Sigh Dhami	Johanna Crozier	Robert Attwood
Amrik Kaur Sohal	Eithne Goode	John Haynes	Rohit Goel
Anita Bhardwaj	Five Rivers Restaurant	John Myers	Romy Sembi
Anita Kirpal	Gus Ark	John Wells	RV Singh Kang
Anthony Carney	Glesni Thomas	JS Malhi	S Gill
Avtar Singh Dhaliwal	GS Ryat	Julie Krish	Samik Chandarana
Balbir Reyat	Gurdial S Khangure	Judy and Robert Blowe	Satpal Singh Dulku
Balbir Singh Gill	Gurdip Singh Anulch	Kamaljit Sond	Shuli Subaya
Baldev Singh Nijjar	Gurnam Hayer	Kashmire Singh Gill	SS Kang
Balwant Singh	Gurnam Singh	Kevin Blowe	Stephanie Carney
Barry Longden	Gurnam Singh Dhillon	M Hundall	Stephen Simblett
Bhajwan Dass Badhan	H Griffiths	Marcia Watson	Suchu Singh
Bhupinder Singh Sagoo	Hanraj Kang	Margaret McGreevy	Sukhdev Singh Saikhon
Bikarmajit Singh Rai	Hanuail Singh Bains	Marion Haywood	Sukhjinder Mahal
BS Aujula	Harbhajan Singh Flora	Mark Blowe	Sukhjinder Singh Bajwa
Butta Singh	Hari Prinjha	MJ Compton	Surinder Kaur Jhutti
Caron Malcolm	Hari Singh Sohal	Moshik Kop	Surjit Singh Varaich
Chain Singh Atwal	Helen Parker	Mota Singh	Susan Rasmussen
Chris Tully	I S Sandhu	Nirvair Singh Chakal	Sydney Tooth
Christopher Davis	Jagdish Mitter	PA Blundell	T R Varma
CKN Browne	Jaipal Poonia	Parwinder Singh Sohal	Tania Poscotis
D Riat	James Partridge	Patrick O'Connor	Tara & Co
Dalbagh Singh Kang	James Plaskett MP	Phillipa Kaufmann	Teja Singh
Danny Friedman	Janet Alty	Piara Lall	Terry Munyard
Darren Thiel	Jas Mundy	Piara Singh Sidhu	Tim Fillmore
Darshan Singh	Jatinder Sindhu	Rabinder Singh	Tom Reeve
David Greenwood	Jatinder Sanghera	Rajinder Singh	TWM Naylor
Debbie Quargnolo	Jatinder Singh Birdi	Randip Singh Bahra	Wheatsheaf Tavern
Deborah Coles	Jephson Homes	Ranjit Singh Hayer	Cricket Club

# A Year of Great Achievements



## Financial Report 2007-2008

A copy of our full accounts and financial report is available on our website [www.buwankothi.org.uk](http://www.buwankothi.org.uk)

### Income



### Expenditure



Funds sent to India  
**£40,123.00**

Sponsorship from events  
**£22,349.04**

Individual Donations  
**£23,972.25**

Gift Aid Reclaimed  
**£2,767.67**

Donations by Standing Order  
**£500**

Fundraising Costs  
**£956.90**

Administration Costs  
**£38.98**

## Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 March 2008

		2007-2008		2006-2008
	Note	£	£	£
			-	-
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash at bank			£13,781.85	£1,900.00
Reserve account	8		£0.00	-
Debtors			£0.00	£0.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<b>£13,781.85</b>	<b>£1,900.00</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Creditors</b>				
Amount falling due within one year			£0.00	£0.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>			<b>£13,781.85</b>	<b>£1,900.00</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>				
		<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
General Funds		<b>£12,680.85</b>	<b>1101.00</b>	<b>£13,781.85</b>



**In Memory of  
Gilly Mundy  
founding member and trustee  
1970 - 2007**

**[www.buwankothi.org.uk](http://www.buwankothi.org.uk)**