

Gary and Sue Jasper
August 2009

My name is Sue Jasper and I spent a few weeks at the orphanage in August this year.

I'd visited Sri Lanka several times since my first visit in 1982, so when I was made redundant from my job as a project manager working for an insurance company in the UK I grasped the opportunity to do something completely different and searched the internet for a charity in Sri Lanka where I could do some voluntary work for a few weeks prior to my husband coming out to join me for a holiday.

I found the Kathleen Keegel Children's Fund immediately (boy, I love the internet) and after a brief exchange of emails with Georgiana initially and then Olivia I found myself in Hewadiwela a couple of weeks later.

While I was there I taught English, (something I hadn't done since the early eighties!); spent some time teaching the carers how to bake bread, cakes, pastries and pizza and generally helping out with keeping the children occupied and amused. When my husband came to join me in Sri Lanka we took the children to the nearby elephant orphanage for the morning which was great fun.

It's clear to see that the children are thriving under Olivia and Fred's guardianship. When they are not at school they have a timetable of arts/crafts, sport, religion and English language activities. The cricket pitch is very popular, but you do have to watch out for snakes, and I've never **ever** seen kids so happy to do chores like gardening and sweeping leaves.

I have memories of my time at the orphanage that will never leave me. Thank you Olivia and Fred for letting me visit.

Sue Jasper
Sept 2009