

## SSG Celebrate Chinese New Year

A flavour of the Orient came to Speen on February 12th when the Speen Supporters Group held a Chinese New Year Celebration in the Village Hall.

The room was beautifully decorated in red and gold with paper lanterns, Chinese panels and banners, beautiful parasols and an oriental theme throughout.

We were served a superb 3 course Chinese

meal, which had been freshly prepared in the kitchen, including traditional chicken and pork dishes.

The tables were decorated with Chinese Crackers and Chopsticks, which had been kindly donated by Top Wok.

A Chinese quiz took place and a fortune teller (looking remarkably like a Chinese relative of John Radford!) wandered from table to table to entertain us. A gift was also awarded for the best costume.

All had a wonderful evening. Many thanks to the ladies who organised this successful event. Nikki

## Project Update from India

Adam and Caroline are happy to report that the money raised through their prize draw last September in Speen has gone towards several worthwhile projects.

With the help of a team of international volunteers, working in collaboration with young Indian volunteers, 3 health clinics and 3 reading rooms have been established in slums and villages in the Bangalore area.

### First Aid Clinics

Schools in these poorer areas have been equipped with first aid boxes and community leaders have been instructed in dealing with minor ailments and injuries. This is particularly important for personal hygiene in rural areas, where the nearest hospital may be quite some distance away.

### Reading Rooms

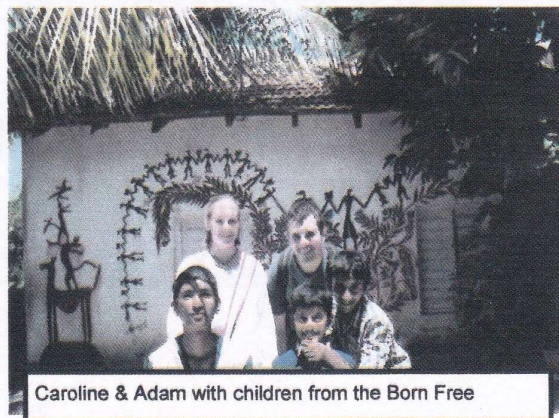
Previous projects have sought to set up libraries in slums and poorer village communities, but these have failed due to the teachers' desire to protect the new books by locking them away out of children's reach. The new reading rooms will not be used as libraries, but as welcoming and inviting places where anyone can go to read. An atmosphere has been created to encourage casual reading and children will be taught by volunteers how to read not only

books in English but also in Hindi and the local language Kannada.

### Street Children

One of the major successes of these three projects has been the integration of the international volunteers with local Indians. Many of the Indian volunteers are themselves rehabilitated street and working children who are now being trained in vocational subjects like electronics, embroidery and tailoring and screen printing.

Caroline and Adam would like to thank those who donated money as part of their prize draw. Anyone interested in seeing project photos or receiving project updates can email Adam on [a\\_t\\_f\\_watkins@hotmail.com](mailto:a_t_f_watkins@hotmail.com).



Caroline & Adam with children from the Born Free