



**Raphael Ryder Cheshire International Centre**  
**For the Relief of Suffering**  
**Newsletter**  
**January to June 2024**  
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**65 years of Growth, Grit, Greatness .... And Not Giving Up!**

65 years ago, Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire had a mission that was all-encompassing—to relieve suffering. From 1959 when Raphael started in tents to house the leprosy cured, now in 2024, while we continue to care for the handful who still live here, our focus is on disability and health.



Raphael celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> Founders' Day with events spread over three days, culminating in the traditional cultural programme. We were delighted that our overseas friends made the journey to spend the three days with us. Thank you, Carolyn Tapley (Chairperson Ryder Cheshire New Zealand), Susan MacKerras (Volunteer coordinator Australia), James McCartney (Volunteer Coordinator U.K), Rebecca Hayward (Volunteer 1992), Holly (Rebecca's daughter), Minna Munroe (Carolyn's Mum), Jan (James' mother) and John, a friend. You made it special for us.



The events over three days included a breakfast made by the students of the vocational training centre, a community lunch with all the staff, a 4.5-hour drive (one-way!) to visit one of Raphael's outreach centres, and culminated in the traditional cultural programme on the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> April. The students played to a packed house of almost 900 people, sharing Raphael's journey through the years and remembering the stalwarts who have contributed to Raphael's journey.



We were honoured to have Ms. Ramni Nirula with an experience of more than four decades in the financial services sector as our Chief Guest for the day.

To quote many-time volunteer Johanne Sunnex 'Today Raphael stands as a testimony to the visionary goal of the founders, Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire. It is a sprawling complex that cares for over two hundred adults and children in residence.....To be at Raphael is to share in the fullest sense in the lives of the individuals living there....'

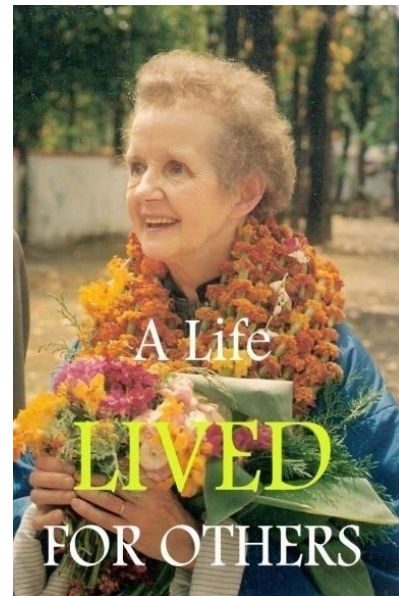


### **Sue Ryder's Birth Centenary Year celebration (1924-2024)**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July this year Sue Ryder would have turned 100. At Founders' Day this year, Raphael put up an exhibition to showcase her relentless and untiring efforts.

Born in 1924 to a wealthy family in Yorkshire, Lady Sue Ryder was a humanitarian who was inspired to work for people by the work of her mother, her experiences on the frontline in Nazi-occupied Europe and her faith.

When war broke out, she left Benenden School in Kent and volunteered to serve in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (the FANYS). She was only 16, but managed to keep that inconvenient fact from the authorities. Within a few years she was recruited to the Polish section of the highly secret Special Operations Executive.



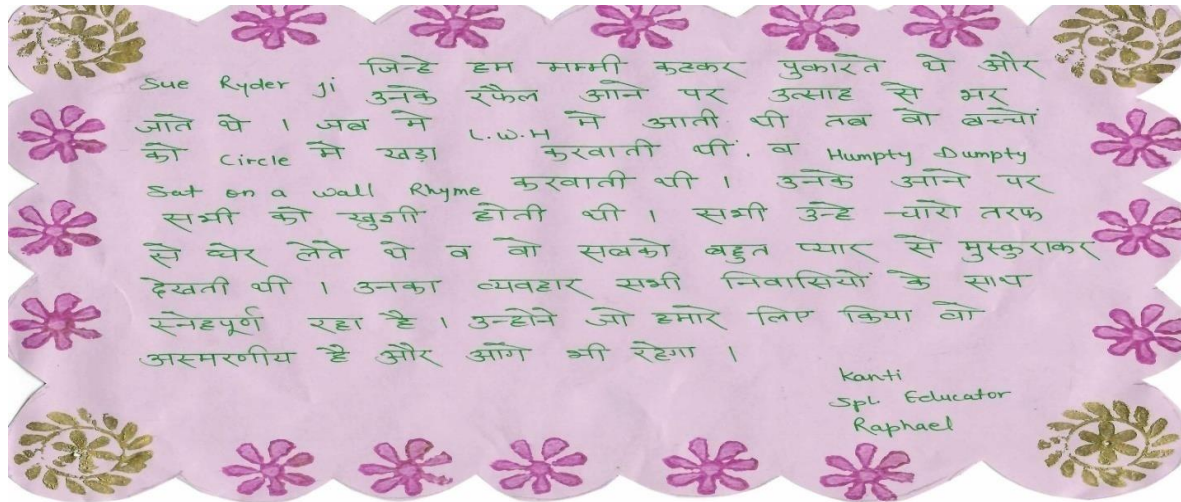
What she witnessed from that time to the end of the war, especially the selfless, cheerful courage of young men and women embarking on the most hazardous operations, left her not only with a passionate, enduring love of the Polish people, but also with a determination to relieve the suffering of a devastated continent.

From 1945 onwards, Sue Ryder devoted herself to the service of individuals from the camps, prisons and hospitals where Displaced Persons were held in Europe. She was their one true friend. Thousands of uprooted men, women and children were given a new start in life by her efforts.

Raphael was the first Ryder – Cheshire project, of Lay Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire. They got married in Bombay, India in 1959 in a small and unfussy ceremony and project Raphael was their wedding gift to each other. They emphasised that they saw their marriage as a deepening of their joint commitment to their work and of extending it.



Message for Lady Sue Ryder fondly called "MUMMY" by the residents of Raphael



**IN OTHER NEWS**

23-year-old Divyansh Bhandari joined Raphael in 2013 at the age of 9 years. Divyansh has Cerebral Palsy. Despite that he is independently making paper bags and photo frames. He is learning how to photocopy and is being trained to work as an office assistant. Divyansh loves playing cricket and he is an important player of Raphael's cricket team. He was awarded the **Student of the Year Award** at Founders' this year. Our congratulations to him!



**International Award for Young People: (IAYP)**

23 of our students completed the residential project and adventure journey in April to win their gold, silver and bronze medals.



**Inclusive Summer Camp:** Raphael hosted a 5-day summer camp which included various fun and creative activities. The highlight of the camp

was that it had children both from regular and special schools. It was a huge success and not only did the children develop a team spirit that accepted diversity, they made lots of new special friends.



On the occasion of **World Down Syndrome Day** Raphael organized an awareness programme for the students and staff of The Doon Girls School.

### Shiv Sadan

A successful **Give** fund raising campaign has enabled major repair and renovation to the Shiv Sadan quarters.

### Volunteers/interns/ visitors



Apart from the overseas visitors who joined us at our Founders' Day celebrations, Rose Harland from Australia volunteered for 3 months and Josephine Lyndoh from Shillong for 10 days. Over the last 6 months, we have had 9 interns from different colleges and universities in Dehradun.

We remain indebted to all our donors, Indian and overseas (institutional, corporate, foundations and individual), for their continuing generosity and support that enables us to achieve our mission to relieve suffering.



### OBITUARY

We regret to inform the passing away of the following residents of Raphael.



Nirmala (Baby) permanent resident passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 due to illness. She came to Raphael in 1975.

Jamuna, a resident of Shiv Sadan passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 due to cardiac arrest. She had been in Raphael since 2000.

