



Model Farm  
The Green  
Upper Poppleton  
York  
YO26 6DP  
mail@projectmala.org.uk  
[www.projectmala.org.uk](http://www.projectmala.org.uk)

# Mala News

Patrons  
Felicity Kendal CBE  
Maharaja of Benares  
Sir Mark Tully OBE  
Lady Young  
Madeline Weinrib  
Obeetee Pvt Ltd  
Surya Inc

An action programme for the elimination of child labour in rural India

---

Greetings!

## Long term friend of Project Mala dies in India

I would like to mark the passing of Mr Edward Oakley, a long term friend and financial supporter of Project Mala. Edward and I first met in the early 1960s when Edward was running Obeetee, which was, and still is, the largest carpet manufacturer in India.



He was born in India and educated in England. At the age of 23, he returned to India where he lived for most of his life. He was well known for his "larger than life" character and could be charming and abrasive within minutes. His dinner parties were always memorable for their good food and interesting company.



Edward was well aware of the need for education in the rural Indian community and supported our work continually from our foundation. He was so keen to see schools within the carpet weaving belt that he donated some land for the establishment of what is now our flagship school at Guria, which he visited many times. He always showed a genuine interest in the children's work offering advice and guidance to the children.

When the new partners joined the business, he encouraged them to support Project Mala. They have done this with equal enthusiasm through financial support and encouragement.

Edward went on to donate money from his personal foundation and was always present at the opening of every new school.

Edward will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Robin Garland  
Project Mala  
01904 341004  
mail@projectmala.org.uk  
[www.projectmala.org.uk](http://www.projectmala.org.uk)

