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Dear Friends

The purpose of my visit to Spiti this year was to get the school building in Mane started. This has been largely funded by Pinewood School in Bourton Wiltshire who gallantly raised almost £10,000 towards the building in the last year. David Brown & Partners in Hampton drew up a splendid architects plan at very short notice for us which was extremely helpful.

On my arrival in Manali my first job was to present Laji with a SUMO SE jeep for the hospital in Spiti. It was funded by the Daily Mirror and is registered in Kaza for use in the Spiti Valley; this is to save the hospital having to pay the taxi levy when they do village clinics.

At the Lady Willingdon Hospital Dr Sheila put little Tom in my arms and asked me to take him to Spiti for Jeet and Samtan. This gorgeous baby was born illegitimately to a young Tibetan girl and was up for adoption. Because of the inheritance problem with Jeet's Uncle, Jeet and Samtan were unable to take him. However, Dolma, Jeet's sister has agreed to adopt Tom so now he is well installed in Jeet's house and has two mothers, one father and no doubt endless aunts and uncles!!! Tom was born on 25 May 2002, he is a large lad so if you are thinking of sending anything, clothes for 6-12 month old would be welcome.



In Lari I visited Palden and Tenzin, they are expecting baby number 2 at the end of August, and maybe it has arrived by now. They were all in good health and little Paldon is a very bright and delightful 5 year old. Also in Lari I visited Lata and her family. The Spiti Project is funding her to do an MA at Simla University in the hope that she will return to Spiti as a teacher in a couple of years.

