

## Photography turns Lesley into a celebrity in India



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**FORMER Hucknall woman Lesley Saunders only took up photography as a hobby two years ago.**

But a photographic portrayal she has produced of The 'Real' Women of India has led to her becoming a celebrity on the sub-continent.

Widely-travelled Lesley has been in India since January, based in Bangalore and working in the hospitality industry. After her arrival, she honed her camera skills under the tutelage of a well-known photographer, Anand Sharan. Lesley says: "India fascinates me and I am in awe of the country's womenfolk. Their resilience and fortitude have left a lasting impression on me."

She adds that The 'Real' Women of India is a portrayal of her perceptions of these amazing women – their strength, beauty, resolve and contentment.

A big turning point for Lesley came when she met Shaun Rana, an international broadcaster with Radio 5 Live, and he has done much to promote her new-found photographic career.

An exhibition to promote Lesley's groundbreaking work was booked for the Royal Gardenia Hotel in Bangalore in aid of ROKO, a leading breast-cancer awareness charity.

But interest in Lesley's photos is now dramatically spreading all over India and also to London and Paris.

Lesley was born and bred in Hucknall and lived on Babbacombe Way for 17 years before moving to the Nottinghamshire village of Whatton.

Her husband, Mike, has revealed that she was close to death after a ski-ing accident about six years ago.

He said: "She suffered multiple blood clots on her lungs as well as pneumonia. At one stage, I was told she may not last through the night.

"A consultant advised her to stop working and warned her that she should never fly again."

But although Lesley now has to take warfarin anticoagulant tablets, she was determined not to let the daunting setback end her love of travel and ambitious outlook.

In this respect, she has shown much the same resourcefulness as the women she depicts in her photos.