

Autumn  
2010

# Valerie Taylor Trust

Supporting the work of Valerie Taylor in Bangladesh

## Chairman's Update

"I was delighted to see so many of you at our Annual General Meeting this year. It was marvellous that Valerie was with us and thank you to everyone who helped to make her fund-raising tour a great success. Thanks also to Tony Stephens who, after many years sterling effort, has stood down from selling CRP cards. Our new Trustee, Margaret Hakim, has now taken on this task. Work commitments also mean that we say good bye to Christine Coyne from our administrative team. Finally, thank you to all our supporters for your contribution. Yet again we appear to be on course to raise over £100K during the year – an excellent effort."

*Bertie Woolnough CBE, VTT Chairman*

## Treasurer's Comment

"Our total income comes from four sources: Core monthly donations, Special events, Gift Aid and Specific donations, all these are growing but do vary through the year. The total income for the first half of this year is over £69,000, this comparative figure for the first half of last year being £66,000. So, we are hoping that the total for the whole of this year will be more than last year, which was £115,000."

*Michael Woodley, VTT Treasurer*

## Recent Fundraising

As well as volunteering at CRP for six months, Occupational Therapist **Anne O'Hea** has raised £2,730 for VTT. She has managed this with support from businesses in Hampstead, near her workplace at The Royal Free Hospital and near her home of Clonakilty in Ireland. She would like to thank her colleagues, friends and family who helped along the way.

**Jill Fisher** raised £238 by organising a tea party.

**Manik Huda** has raised £496 by running the Leicester half marathon on 10th October 2010.

**Iain Whitty** raised £195 from the sale of a signed Glasgow Rangers Shirt.

**Bryan Whitty** raised over £1000 from a collection following a Glasgow Rangers Match.

## Valerie's Tour

This summer Valerie carried out a tour around the UK to raise funds and awareness about the work carried out at CRP.

Valerie attended several events in: Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Midlands, the West Country, Yorkshire, Kent and London. Many of these events included an evening meal, entertainment, and an opportunity for guests to learn more about how CRP has developed and continues to expand its services. Of particular note were evenings at The Eastern Pavillion Restaurant in Edinburgh, St John's Church in London, and a Curry Evening in Marden, Kent. Fundraising at the event in Marden was enhanced by a local artist, who produced personalised sketches for supporters on napkins.

During the tour, Valerie visited several medical and educational institutions including the new Spinal Injuries Unit in Pinderfields General Hospital in Wakefield, the Queen Elizabeth Spinal Injuries Unit in Glasgow and York University. While visiting Pinderfields Hospital, Valerie met with a neurosurgeon who plans to take a team to CRP in January to offer training to medical and nursing staff there. She also had a series of meetings with staff at York University regarding plans about academic support for CRP.

VTT supporters also organised a variety of other fundraising and publicity opportunities. These include: a concert in Adelaide's auditorium in Glasgow, an interview on BBC radio's 'Sally on Sunday' programme, addressing the congregation at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Marden and visiting a school in Boughton Monchelsea

The total donations received from the tour were a wonderful £21,978, which would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of many supporters who organised events, transport and accommodation, often at their own expense.

## Keeping in touch

So that VTT can make the best use of funds, we aim to make more use of email to keep you informed of fundraising activities and events. If you have an email address and have not given us the details, please contact our administrator at [admin@valerietaylortrust.org](mailto:admin@valerietaylortrust.org) so that your details can be updated. Also, please contact the Administrator if you would rather not receive further copies of our Newsletter or if there is an error within your mailing details. Thank you very much.

## Save the date

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on **Saturday 21st May 2011**  
St. Paul's Church Centre, 5, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London, NW1 6NJ.

## Welcome to a new Trustee – Margaret Hakim

Through her late husband Asad, Margaret has been closely associated with Bangladesh since 1964, living in Dhaka from 1967 to 1971. Since then she has regularly returned to visit family and is at ease speaking Bengali and Urdu. Following a recent visit to CRP Savar she was impressed by the work going on there and especially by the atmosphere of hope and determination. Margaret, a retired head teacher, says 'I look forward to working with VTT in supporting CRP and hope to spend time at CRP whenever I visit Bangladesh'.



Margaret has been very quick off the mark with fundraising. A family Garden Party in June during Valerie's tour raised a total of £5,000. Well done Margaret!

### An Inspiration...

All supporters of The Valerie Taylor Trust will remember the first time they experienced the wonder of what one woman, with minimal resources and some steep obstacles, can achieve with enough compassion, determination and selflessness. Visitors to the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed continue to leave with feelings of amazement and inspiration. Here are some reports from recent and current volunteers:



"CRP is such an amazing place. So many projects are being planned and every idea is gratefully received. They really have thought of everything here: the half-way hostel that allows patients to practice everyday living skills; the CRP shop that allows clients to practice community skills and have an opportunity at managing the shop."

*Anne O'Hea, Volunteer Occupational Therapist.*

"It was at CRP where I was first introduced to a true 'culture of service', where volunteers and staff alike made it their duty to do as much as possible for the disabled patients ... If I have ever felt duty bound to help Bangladesh, I feel much more so now. What was once an abstraction in my mind has been made concrete, bolstered by images that refuse to stop swimming before my eyes."

*Kameel Mir, General Volunteer.*

"I have been amazed at the level of activity and accomplishment across the many departments of CRP, and how everyone from these many areas of CRP are working together, towards the same goals for the rehabilitation of people with a disability. My experience at CRP has definitely been a very positive and inspirational one, and has demonstrated to me that anything is possible, with hard work, dedication and passion!"

*Heather Miles, Volunteer Occupational Therapist.*

### Notices

#### Fundraising Cards

To purchase a selection of cards painted by CRP patients, or a new series of photographic cards produced by a VTT supporter, Carol Bennet, please contact Margaret Hakim by telephone on 01234 825459 or email on [margarethakim@aol.com](mailto:margarethakim@aol.com).

All profits are donated to VTT. Images of the photographic cards can be found on the VTT website.

#### November Happenings

8th November - Lord Mayor of Oxford's Reception in aid of VTT with Valerie as the guest speaker

Gill Lambert in Camberley plans to hold a fundraising lunch for 20 people on 10th November. She then intends to ask those present to each arrange a lunch for 5 people at their homes. All proceeds will pass to VTT.

On 19th November 2010, Valerie is due to receive an honorary degree at York St John University in York Minster

Fundraising concert presented by the Cygnet Singers on November 30th at Christ Church, Flackwell Heath, HP10 9AA. Tickets are available from Alan Dye on [adye57@btinternet.com](mailto:adye57@btinternet.com) or by telephone on 01628 521451 or 07899 085431. They cost £10.00 and include a Bangladeshi Buffet.

### Closing Note

Over the last six months VTT supporters have worked hard to raise funds and awareness that will continue to make a real difference to the lives of people who are poor and disabled in Bangladesh. To continue this work we are keen to develop our links with further sources of potential support such as CRP volunteers, medical professional organisations, the British Bengali community, schools and universities. Any assistance that supporters can give with this would be much appreciated. We are very grateful for the continued support.

### Helping the Disabled Poor and their Families

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**Valerie Taylor Trust** is a charity registered in England and Wales (number 1122245)