

Autumn
2011

Valerie Taylor Trust

Supporting the work of Valerie Taylor in Bangladesh

Hello from the Chairman

- **Stop Press News from Valerie** - A US medical team is visiting CRP in December in support of the Speech and Language Therapy Department to carry out 50 operations for cleft palates; Jake Timothy, a neuro- surgeon from Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust who specializes in treatment of strokes and spinal injuries, visits CRP soon to treat spinal cases and run workshops for Bangladeshi surgeons; the Bangladesh Government has offered land for development of CRP's facility at Moulvibazar; a private donor has offered CRP a gift of land in Rajshahi ; the International Red Cross has just signed an MOU to assist CRP for six months with prosthetic and orthotic equipment; an Australian company may fund a new workshop at Gonakbari to make stretchers, wheelbarrows and bicycle trailers to help with safety at work.
- Congratulations to Philomena Commons, a VTT Trustee, on obtaining her Doctorate of Philosophy from Leeds University. The subject of her thesis was on Social Factors Influencing the Education of Physiotherapists Around Disability in Bangladesh
- The new style CRP website is now up and running – go to www.crp-bangladesh.org. Congratulations to all involved on a really professional job. Work on improving the VTT website is well underway.

Bertie Woolnough CBE

Treasurer's Comment

We are grateful to all our supporters and particularly to those who **use the Gift Aid scheme**. It is also most beneficial where donations to VTT are paid by Standing Order. This enables us to plan regular transfers of funds to CRP.

Michael Woodley, VTT Treasurer

Recent Fundraising

On the 25th June 2011 Helen Mortimer and Helen Clarke, organized a 'Monopoly Run' in London and raised £1600.

VTT/CRP is the 'Charity of the Month' in June at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Marden, Kent, and £1000 was raised this year through various events.

Sonia Norgrove raised over £ 400 by renewing contact with supporters who had attended previous events in Chipping Norton area.

Further donations of £1000 each were received in June and September from the United Reformed Church, Daventry as a result of their regular Tuesday morning sales.

Peter Leutenegger, a supporter from Maur, Switzerland, raised over £3000 through donations for VTT instead of gifts for his birthday.

Other donations

- > £1020 from Simon Liubinas from Victoria, Australia
- > £500 from The Claypool Trust in Norfolk
- > £150 from the Haddenham Third World Link.

Please let the Administrator know of any particularly successful fund-raising schemes so that details can be passed on to others.

Your Invitation to the 2012 AGM

You are all invited to the 2012 AGM which will be held on **Saturday 19th May, 2012** at **St. Paul's Community Centre, Rossmore Road, London, NW16 6NJ** at **2.30 pm**. A 'Light Lunch' will be available from 1.00 pm.

We expect Valerie to be with us so please note this date in your diary now. More details will be sent out nearer the time.

Report from the 2011 Annual Supporters Meeting

- The highlight of the meeting was a stimulating presentation by Neil Roberts and Grace Shepherd on their recent experiences as volunteers at CRP.
- Recent developments at CRP included the appointment of Major General (ret'd) Shafiqul Islam as Executive Director who joined CRP on 24th April, 2011; development of new facilities at Chittagong and Moulvibazar; planning for the Vocational Training Institute to move to Manikganj; work on the new Paediatric Unit at Savar which will increase the number of places from 21 to 30.
- Fundraising - £98,000 was sent to CRP in 2010-11; that income had been helped by Valerie's two visits to the UK.
- In 2011 there is no fundraising in the UK by Valerie. Also the value of Gift Aid to VTT reduces due to the reduction in the rate of tax relief. It will be a challenging year if we are to meet our £100,000 target.
- Catherine Hall resigned as a Trustee following the birth of her son, Dillon, and was thanked for her contribution to VTT since its formation.
- Bertie Woolnough, Fahmida Begum and David Newell were re-elected as Trustees. Bertie Woolnough was subsequently re-elected as Chairman and Wendy Best was again co-opted as a Trustee.

We Remember

DAVID SORRILL

David, a great supporter of CRP and VTT, sadly died in April after a long illness. He first met Val when he was the builder of new hospital buildings in Chandraghona. He maintained a close friendship with her over the years and gave her a lot of advice over CRP buildings. He was also a great help to overseas workers in Bangladesh with supplies and equipment. He had a wonderfully friendly personality and will be much missed. Our thoughts are with his son Jeff and family and Pauline his partner

MICHAEL STUBBS

Our sincere condolences are extended to Valerie, and her sister Margaret, on the death of Michael on 13th September after illness.

RUBY MARTER

Sincere condolences are also extended to Mr. Leslie Marter of Taunton on the recent death of his wife, Ruby, both long-standing supporters of Valerie and CRP.

Remarkable Young Man Rolls Back Home – Peter Donnelly writes:

Rolling back home was a personal challenge I set myself that I was determined see through. And even though I didn't know all the particulars, I wanted to show people what could be achieved when you use a wheelchair. After volunteering with the peer counsellors at CRP for 4 months at the end of last year, I thought it would be a good idea to raise some money for the CRP as I made my way back home and I set a £5000 goal.

The more people I told about my trip the more people were interested. Friends I've not seen in years got in touch with me inviting me to stop by and say hello. All the invites changed my route considerably and built the 6 week journey into a 5 month, 14,000 mile marathon. I've always enjoyed travelling so it was no hardship and I really like to be challenged so any difficulties I came across were more than welcome.

As I travelled back through a mix of developed and developing countries I saw varying levels of acceptance and accessibility. These ranged from reluctance

of my abilities in Nepal, to tank-like stair climbers in Beijing's Forbidden City to (kind hearted but mistaken) people trying to give me money as I passed through the markets in Kazakhstan. Undoubtedly there were people who looked down on me but their views are formed out of ignorance which I believe one day will change. The reason I believe this is because, as I came back home, whenever I did need help I would always find someone willing to aid me quite easily.

A classic question that people ask about any travel is the food situation. The strangest food that I had while I was away would have to be the snake soup I tried in Taipei. I actually thought it was tasty but when I bit into the snake meat at the bottom of the bowl I got a mouth full of bones which I'm not a big fan of. The soup was accompanied by 3 alcohol shots made from the snake's gall bladder, venom and blood. My favourite was the blood!

The most difficult journeys were the longest ones.

My trip included a 48 hour ferry from Osaka to Shanghai which left me sea sick on the second day; this could be partly due to my time spent in the karaoke bar on the first night. I spent 24 hours on a bus crossing from China to Kazakhstan which was made easier by the fact we had beds on the bus. This journey ended in disappointment after I realised I left my hat on the bus and it was gone forever. That was my favourite hat! The longest train journey followed shortly after, when I spent a gruelling 71 hours crossing Kazakhstan to get to the Caspian Sea.

I have managed to raise a little over £5000 thanks to the generous people who have donated to VTT. The money has gone to opening a small centre in Moulvibazar where two physiotherapists are now treating those in need. Since getting back I've also given a presentation about my story at Southport Spinal Unit to people in similar situations to myself to let them know that anything is possible. This is something that I hope to do more of in the future.



My Route



Beijing



At the Taj Mahal

Valerie's Story

Work is underway to gather experiences and information about both Valerie and the development of CRP, with a view to a book being published. Three VTT Trustees, **Margaret Hakim, Bryan Whitty and Wendy Best**, are, at no expense to VTT, contacting as many people as possible who have been involved in some way over the years. If you, or someone you know, can assist in providing any stories or information, please telephone Margaret on 01234 825459 or margarethakim@aol.com.

Keeping Contact

- In order to keep costs low, we would like to maintain contact with you by email whenever possible. Please let me have your up-to-date contact details.
- We are forming a team of 'regional co-ordinators' to help pass on information and provide you with a local contact. Current ones and their areas are:-
Bertie Woolnough (Wiltshire & Dorset); Michael Woodley (Hampshire/W.Sussex); Ben Clackson & Margaret Hakim (Bedfordshire); Brian Woodgate (Kent/E.Sussex); Mokhtar Hussain (Leicestershire/W.Midlands); Wendy Best (South West); Dr. Bryan Whitty (Scotland); David Newell (Oxford); Sonia Norgrove (Chipping Norton); Charlotte Balaam (East Anglia); Keith Bishop (Daventry); Elizabeth Marden (London); Corinna Klaentschi (Yorkshire/N.East).
Please get in touch with me if you want the contact details of your local co-ordinator or if you wish to know what is involved in covering one of the remaining geographical regions, eg. Manchester/Liverpool/N.West; Middlesex/Surrey etc.

Brian Woodgate, VTT Administrator

Helping the Disabled Poor and their Families

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