

Autumn
2014

Valerie Taylor Trust

Supporting the work of Valerie Taylor in Bangladesh

From The Chairman

Since our formation in 2007 we have now passed the **million pound** mark for money sent out to CRP. This is a remarkable achievement. Some donations have been for specific projects, especially since the Rana Plaza disaster. However the level of unrestricted donations has been sufficient for significant financial assistance to be given to the poorest Spinal Cord Injury patients, a priority for VTT.

This summer we were delighted to welcome Valerie to the UK. Her whirlwind tour included joining us at the Annual Supporters Meeting in London and visiting many long standing friends countrywide. She also was the guest speaker at two events in Birmingham and Tower Hamlets, London respectively, which were organised and attended mainly by British Bangladeshis. We are optimistic that these occasions will lead to new active supporters' groups. .

Thank you for your continuing support – I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Supporters Meeting in London on 16th May 2015.

Bertie Woolnough CBE

From our Treasurer, Michael Woodley

Thanks to our loyal supporters, this financial year has made a good start with higher income. Increases were helped as a result of Valerie being at various events, and by continued Corporate giving, related to rehabilitation of Rana Plaza victims.

We particularly welcome payment by Standing Orders as this simplifies the administration of our charity. We appeal to everyone who pays tax to register for Gift Aid as this increases donations by 25% at no cost to the donor. Please contact the Administrator for details and a form.

Since we started in 2007, over £1million has been sent to CRP.

Congratulations to Dr Rose Mary Harley, a Scottish member of VTT, who was awarded the OBE in the New Year Honours List. Rosemary is a Microbiologist working at Strathclyde University. She is also a very active member of the Glasgow Centre for International Development. Rose Mary is also on committees for all the Bangladesh Associations in Glasgow. She is a great admirer and supporter of Valerie and CRP.

CHARITY BALL

PROCEEDS IN AID OF THE EPILEPSY SOCIETY AND THE
VALERIE TAYLOR TRUST (CRP – BANGLADESH)

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 2015

CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION 7PM DINING 7.30PM

THE MANOR BARN, HARLTON, CAMBRIDGE CB23 1EY

BLACK TIE
TICKETS - £40

CARRIAGES 12 MIDNIGHT charlotte.balaam@yahoo.com

Fundraising Snippets

**** Valerie's visit to Kent proved to be very beneficial. Her attendance at a Curry Evening in Marden on June 12 was much appreciated and a total of £865 was raised. She also visited long standing supporters and friends in the neighbouring parish of Boughton Monchelsea, and this resulted in a donation of £2500.**

****An event organized in Birmingham by Mr. Md Rashid, a VTT Trustee, raised £1010. Also, following an appeal night by a number of Bangladeshi restaurants in the Birmingham area, organized by Saddak Miah, a presentation of a cheque for nearly £8000 was made to Valerie at an event on 15th May. Also present were Khalid Mahmood, MP; David Newell OBE, VTT trustee and Jacqui Smith, Chair of University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust**

**** Hugh Lambert from Camberley raised £1419 by undertaking a sponsored cycle ride.**

**** Karen Heaslip, a recent volunteer at CRP raised a splendid £2053 in aid of a project for an Occupational Therapist in Mental Health at CRP.**

****The re-formed Bangladesh Association of Glasgow held an event on the 2nd August in the Clyde Suite - Marriott Hotel to commemorate the Bangladesh Commonwealth Games athletes competing in Glasgow. The other main item was a short video presentation of the work of CRP and the presentation of a "Lifetime Award" to Dr. Valerie Taylor for her humanitarian work for the poor of Bangladesh. A raffle and auction was held and £1,035 was donated to VTT. 2 other individual large donations were also made to CRP.**

Many thanks to all our supporters who have held events of all sorts to raise funds.

Details of some of these are on the VTT website.

If you are planning an event, and require literature or promotional material, please contact the Administrator.

The Essential Gift

A pilot scheme is currently running in Scotland which is a new venture for VTT. Let me explain...



Do you know someone who has everything and you just can't think what to get them for their birthday, Christmas, Eid, Easter, Anniversary, or to mark a special occasion? Perhaps you are the one who has everything? Well help is at hand.

You can give an **Essential Gift** to someone who really **needs** it instead.

- Would you like to make someone who is paralysed mobile by the gift of a wheelchair?
- Or replace a limb with a personally made & fitted prosthetic/orthotic?
- Or give a child an educational toy to help their dexterity and cognitive powers?

(Just some of the gifts available)

Then the **Essential Gift** scheme is for you.

Donate the appropriate amount and the chosen gift will be made available to a poor person who needs it to give them a better life. You and the person 'receiving' your **Essential Gift** will have the pleasure and satisfaction of knowing a life has been changed and improved by your generosity.

For full details, including other **Essential Gifts** available, please contact: Elizabeth Arthur, 51 Burlington Avenue, GLASGOW G12 0LJ
Telephone (evenings only) 0141 339 4273

2014 Annual Supporters Meeting –

Brian Woodgate, Administrator, reports:

The Annual Meeting was very well attended by seventy-three Trustees, members and supporters. Once again, an excellent 'light' curry lunch was provided by Mokhtar Hussain, Daphne Woolnough and other helpers.

The Chairman welcomed all present and praised the fundraising response to the Rana Plaza tragedy. He then thanked three members, who were standing down from the positions that they had held, for their great efforts on behalf of the VTT. David Newell was a Trustee and had been instrumental in the formation of CRP whilst working in Dhaka; Theresa Keefe had stood down as editor of the VTT website and had handed over to Ben Clackson; Daphne Woolnough was standing down as the long-standing editor of the Spring Newsletter.

The Chairman announced the sad death of Khandakar Mabubuddin Ahmed at the age of 89. As an outstanding Dhaka advocate, he provided the essential legal advice and representation when the CRP was under threat in its early days.

The Treasurer reported that income had risen to £133,000 p.a. although following Rana Plaza this year showed £284,500. As stated elsewhere, over £1m has been forwarded to CRP since VTT was formed. Our banking arrangements provide a vital and secure channel through which to direct funds straight into the foreign exchange account in Dhaka. Sincere thanks were extended to everyone who has been involved. Bertie Woolnough was re-elected as Chairman and Michael Woodley as Treasurer. Wendy Best became a co-opted Trustee.

Cat Newton-Groove gave an account of her time last year at the CRP, the welcome she received, the friendliness and dedication of staff, and their assistance in making her visit to the Centre and indeed Bangladesh fascinating and interesting. Cat has spent time teaching patients and children, including Rana Plaza patients, different ways of learning English. Valerie Taylor addressed the meeting on a wide range of subjects concerning the current position of CRP and future plans and aspirations. She thanked all supporters for their continued efforts, on behalf of CRP patients and staff.



On 30 May, Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, visited CRP. He was welcomed by the Executive Director, Shafiq ul Islam, and students of the Special Needs School. After the presentation he was shown round and saw CRP in action.

Invitation to the Annual Supporters' Meeting

You are all invited to the 2015 Annual Supporters' Meeting which will, once again, be held on **Saturday 16th May, 2015** at **St. Paul's Community Centre, Rossmore Road, London, NW16 6NJ** at **2.00 pm**.

A light Curry Lunch will be available from 1.00 pm.

Please note this date in your diary now.

More details will be sent out nearer the time.

Helping the Disabled Poor and their Families

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