

Autumn
2016

Valerie Taylor Trust

Supporting the work of Valerie Taylor in Bangladesh

From The Chairman

It was a great pleasure to welcome both Valerie and Shafiq (Executive Director at CRP) to our well-attended Annual Supporters Meeting in May in London and to hear first-hand about current activities at CRP. One particular piece of good news was that, after several years of searching, land has become available for a CRP Centre in Sylhet. This may help to increase our support from the many Bengalis in the UK who come from that area.

Earlier in the year the terrorist activities in Dhaka caused several volunteers to cancel planned visits. However the security situation is now improving so and volunteers should be confident that they will be safe at CRP.

We extend a welcome to our new co-opted Trustees: Dr. Sanawar Choudhury and Mr. Jahangir Alam and look forward to their input to the Trust.

Finally thanks to all our supporters who are helping the disabled to have a better life.

Please do make a note of our 2017 Annual Supporters Meeting in London on 13th May.

Bertie Woolnough CBE

From our Treasurer, Stuart Jeffreys

Thanks to our loyal supporters, this financial year has again been a relatively good one.

Total income (net of expenses) in the first half year was £47,363. This is down on last year, however last year included significant funds from corporate donors or trusts. Excluding these amounts, income is comparable with last year.

For some time VTT policy has been that all Unrestricted funds sent out to CRP should be used to support Spinal Cord Injury patients. VTT has now changed this policy to include patients in the Mother and Child Unit, the William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School and/or with Orthotics and Prosthetics, hence the importance of donations being Unrestricted'.

Journeys - Meet Inspiring People with Spinal Cord Injury

Copies of this book, which has been produced by Liz Timms, a long-standing supporter of CRP and VTT, are still available. The book gives an excellent overview of the work of CRP through the profiles of a number of patients. Books are available for a donation of £10.00, plus £5.00 postage and packing.

Books may be obtained by contacting the Administrator on 01622 743011 or email: admin@valerietaylortrust.org, sending a cheque made payable to VTT. Alternatively, copies of the book may be ordered via a link on the VTT website – www.valerietaylortrust.org.

CONGRATULATIONS to Trustee, Helen Mortimer, on her marriage earlier this year, and to any other supporters who have "tied the knot".

Fundraising Snippets

** A Curry Evening in Marden at which Valerie was present and spoke on June 12 was very successful and over **£700.00** was raised.

** An event organized by M.A. Rashid in Castle Bromwich raised a terrific **£1160.00**. A cheque for the amount was presented to the Chairman at the Annual Meeting.

** Elizabeth Marden was engaged in a production of Shaw's *Arms and the Man*, which she produced with the local Amateur Dramatic Society, The Ladbroke Players in London. A total of £600 was raised for CRP.

** Valerie's sister and brother-in-law, Maz and Keith Bishop had completed the Land's End to John o'Groats cycle ride in aid of 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.

Invitation to the Annual Supporters' Meeting

You are all invited to the 2017 Annual Supporters' Meeting which will, once again, be held on **Saturday 13th May, 2017** at **St. Paul's Community Centre, Rossmore Road, London, NW1 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.

Valerie's visit to Coombe Bissett:-

Over eight days Valerie had a busy time including visiting Horatio's Garden at Salisbury Hospital, speaking at school and church events and briefing supporters from across the Chalke Valley. Although her visit did not focus on fund raising, around £9,000 (excluding any Gift Aid) was donated by generous supporters.

Sadly Margaret Henley, a paediatrician and keen supporter of VTT/CRP died recently. She first visited CRP in 2011 with her husband, the local Team Rector, Revd Canon David Henley, and both of them did so much to encourage the churches of the Chalke Valley to support Valerie's work. It was her wish that half of the Retiring Collection at her funeral would be donated to VTT.

Valerie's other visits this year

- 1 **USA** – the Bangladeshi community in Houston and Washington, including talk to students at Texas Women's University, Houston
- 2 **Castle Bromwich, Birmingham**, hosted by Mr. Rashid
- 3 **Hurstmonceux Castle, Sussex**, hosted by Queen's University, Ontario
- 4 **Marden, Kent** hosted by Brian and Ann Woodgate
- 5 **St. Austell, Cornwall** hosted by Jan and Roger Varney
- 6 **Bergen, Norway** - 3 day conference, Disability and Global Health,
- 7 Attendance at the Swinfen Charitable Trust reception for HRH The Princess Royal
- 8 **London** - Interview with ATN Bangla TV,
- 9 **Berkhamsted, Herts** hosted by Janet Ivin
- 10 **Jakarta, Indonesia**, 3 day WHO conference on Assisted Devices
- 11 **Daventry**, 2 talks hosted by Sheila Heath and Keith Bishop
- 12 **Draperstown, N. Ireland** hosted by Patience Holt
- 13 **Sheffield Spinal Injury Unit**, arranged by Andy Wharton
- 14 **Leeds**, hosted by Jill Fisher
- 15 **Pinderfields Spinal Injury Unit, Leeds** arranged by Phil Commons
- 16 **Leeds Beckett University**, arranged by Phil Commons
- 17 **York St. John University**, arranged by Corinna Thomas
- 18 **Edinburgh University**, meeting with Lucie Stokes who hopes to arrange for student volunteers to CRP
- 19 **Glasgow**, Bangladesh Association, arranged by Bryan Whitty
The Bangladesh Association of Glasgow held their Annual Dinner in the Glasgow Science Centre on the 1st October. Valerie was the main Guest speaker at the event which also included the Leader of Glasgow City Council, a local MP and the Chairman of the National Theatre of Scotland.
The event began with a curry meal and was followed by the very moving "MEMORAI". a play about the 1971 Liberation War. This was performed by BAG members and dancers. The production was subsequently performed at the Tramway Theatre in Glasgow as part of the National Theatre of Scotland.
Valerie gave a very good update on the work of CRP. The BAG regard VTT as their main charity for support. Dr. Rose Mary Harley, VTT member, worked very hard on the evening to raise money for VTT from a raffle.
- 20 **Glasgow**, Professor Tracey Howe, who has asked for CRP's assistance in applying for funding for Assistive Devices.

2016 Annual Supporters Meeting –

Brian Woodgate, Administrator, reports:

Once again, the Annual Meeting was very well attended by Trustees, members and supporters, who were treated to an excellent 'light' curry lunch beforehand that was provided by Mokhtar Hussain, Daphne Woolnough and other helpers.

The Chairman welcomed all present and, in particular, Valerie Taylor, and Shafiq-ul-Islam, CRP Executive Director. He also thanked Area Co-ordinators for their help, and St. Paul's Church Centre for their assistance. .

The Treasurer pointed out that income in the past year totaled £270,000, but some concern had been raised by the increase in Restricted Funds – 51% Last year - which reduce CRP's flexibility in how the money is used. In many cases the Trust was used as a secure conduit of funds into Bangladesh. Expenses of the Trust in supporting this work were £2,992.

Shafiq-ul-Islam addressed the meeting and outlined and outlined some key achievements included improved patient administration, Bangladesh Government acknowledgment of CRP's national value, new courses, sports development. Infrastructure developments including construction of Rajshahi and Chittagong centres, the Prosthetics and Orthotics school, a hostel for students and outpatients and the new workshop at Ganakbari. Future work includes work on the Rajshahi and Barisal divisional centres, establishing facilities in government hospitals for Spinal Cord Injury and Mental health patients; a permanent centre in Moulvibazar, and CRP out-stations in Pabna, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Rangamati and Khulna;

Valerie reported on her very successful visit to the US, which raised \$60,000 from an event arranged by the Bangladeshi family who donated land for the CRP. Other events took place with the Bangladeshi community in Washington, DC. She also commented on some other key developments and events of the past year including: A) motorised wheelchairs are now being built at the CRP workshop; B) On the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare, a disabled cast, including 3 CRP patients, performed Romeo and Juliet in Dhaka; C) It was a shame that Bangladesh will not be able to compete in the Paralympics. However CRP has been asked to set up the national Bangladesh Para sports organization; D) A rising concern is the number of cases where women have suffered severe injury through scarves catching in rickshaw wheels – a simple redesign of rickshaws is under way.

HISTORY OF CRP

Liz Timms is producing a history of CRP which is now well advanced. This will be based on the experience and recollections of the Contributor. Please send any late contributions you may have to Liz by email to: elizabethtimms2@gmail.com. In due course we will let you know when the book s being published and how to obtain copies.'

PLEASE let the Administrator know if your details change, e.g, **change of name, address, email address, telephone number**, or if you no longer wish to continue your support. It would also be useful to know if you change your standing order, or tax position as these are all relevant to reclaiming tax on your fees and donations. A new form will be forwarded to you.