

Autumn  
2017

# Valerie Taylor Trust

Supporting the work of Valerie Taylor in Bangladesh

## From The Chairman

It was a great pleasure to welcome so many supporters to our Annual Meeting in London in May when Valerie gave us news of developments in Bangladesh. She highlighted the new Prosthetics and Orthotics capability (the only one of its kind in Bangladesh), the CRP presence in several Government hospitals and good progress with establishing more CRP out-stations in Districts.

In the UK fundraising has held up well – thank you to all who run such a wide range of activities. One particular initiative is the fundraising campaign launched by Roger and Jan Varney for the refurbishment of the operating theatre at CRP. This is a major project which will hopefully result in a much needed fit-for-purpose facility.

Thank you all for your support which helps to give a better life to those in need.

Bertie Woolnough CBE  
Chairman, Valerie Taylor Trust

## From our Treasurer, Stuart Jeffreys

Total income (net of expenses) in the first half year was £86,419. This is well ahead on last year, and includes £51,089 of corporate and international donations raised by CRP but channelled through VTT. Excluding these amounts, income is comparable with (although slightly lower than) last year. £60,000 will be sent to CRP shortly.

Annual accounts for 2015/16 have been finalised following the independent examination. Last year VTT changed its policy to allow funds to be used by CRP to assist patients in the mother and child unit, the inclusive school, and/or with Prosthetics & Orthotics as well as patients with spinal cord injuries. In order to allow CRP to spend funds where the needs are greatest, future donations should be regarded as unrestricted.

## Journeys - Meet Inspiring People with Spinal Cord Injury

### Looking to buy someone a present?

We still have available many copies of this book which has been produced by Liz Timms, a long-standing supporter of CRP and VTT. 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](mailto: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](http://www.valerietaylortrust.org).

**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. **This is particularly important in the light of new Data Protection Regulations that are due in May 2018.**

## Fundraising Snippets

**\*\*** Another successful Curry Evening was held in Marden, Kent on 17 August at which Valerie was present and updated supporters on the current situation at CRP. Once again, the event raised over **£700.00**

**\*\*** A Charity Fair was held at St. John's Renfield Church, Glasgow on 29th April, 2017.

The Fair allows 10 Charities to have stalls to raise donations. The VTT stall was organised by Ross Gallacher and Glen McGhee and featured "Name the Bear". We also had lip salves and assorted items for sale.

On the day we raised £300 which, with a very generous further donation of £200 made a total of **£500**.

The Bangladesh Association of Glasgow, who are very supportive of VTT, are having an event mid December and we are likely to be represented at that.

**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 2018 Annual Supporters' Meeting which will, once again, be held on **Saturday 12th May, 2018** 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.

## ESSENTIAL GIFT SCHEME

Dr. Bryan Whitty, one of our Trustees, has highlighted the appalling waste that occurs every year when unwanted gifts are given, and urged supporters to remember VTT's Essential Gift Scheme. This enables a gift-maker to fill in a form available on our website at:

<http://www.valerietaylortrust.org/index.php/donate-2/other-ways-of-giving/essential-gift/>

and send it with a cheque to Elizabeth Arthur to buy a gift that **will be very precious to the person who benefits from it at CRP and also heart-warming for you yourself or a friend or family member on a special occasion.** Elizabeth would be very pleased to hear from you on 0141 339 4273, or email at

[elizabeth350arthur@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabeth350arthur@btinternet.com), or write to her at  
51 Burlington Avenue, Glasgow, G12 0LJ

## VOLUNTEERS' EXPERIENCES AT CRP

Charlotte Walker and Hannah Carruthers had gone out to CRP together last August for 7 weeks. Charlotte had studied Prosthetics and Orthotics at University and had just graduated before she went out. She described the challenge of helping patients who, having had limbs amputated some time ago had a lot of muscle wastage. She also found that amputations performed in Bangladesh had often not been made in a way that facilitated the fitting of prosthetic devices. But she had clearly enjoyed the work and made the most of the opportunity to interact with staff and patients despite the language barrier. Back in the UK she is hoping to go out to CRP again some time, and is accumulating for CRP a box of prosthetic devices, which cannot be reused in the UK according to NHS rules, and asked anyone going to CRP to take some of them.

Hannah was a trainee Rehabilitation Engineer in the NHS in the middle of a 3 year Graduate programme in Clinical Engineering and had chosen to go to CRP to satisfy the course's requirement for a month's experience of this work in another environment. She had divided her time between Savar and Gonokhbari, where the manufacture of wheelchairs is now located. She had been impressed by the enthusiasm of Firoz and his team at the workshop, and had welcomed the opportunity to be involved in the whole process from clinical assessment to specification of device (e.g. wheelchair) to manufacture of the device, since in the NHS she had no involvement in the manufacturing. At CRP she had been involved in assistive devices for children with cerebral palsy.

They both said they had enjoyed the food there, and put on weight, but the main point for them had been the friendships they made with staff and patients.

## 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. In due course we will let you know when the book is being published and how to obtain copies.'

## MORE OVERSEAS SUPPORT

On 1<sup>st</sup> November, the Chairman and Administrator of VTT met with Mr. Murteza Khan, of the AKKhan organisation, which enabled the setting up of the Centre in Chittagong. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the processes necessary in establishing a FCRP network in Holland. Murteza, who is marrying a Dutch girl, has already met to discuss the plans with Hanneke Cusell, a long time CRP supporter in Holland. We wish them well.

## 2017 Annual Supporters Meeting –

### Brian Woodgate, Administrator, reports:

The Annual Meeting was, once again, 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. He also thanked a Trustee, Helen Mortimer, who had moved to New York, Area Co-ordinators for their help, and St. Paul's Church Centre for their assistance. The Trustees had agreed to widen the scope of our grants to CRP to include, not just the poorest Spinal Cord Injury patients (as before), but also the mother and child unit, the inclusive school, and Prosthetics and Orthotics.

**Reports from the Treasurer** and Dr. Bryan Whitty are produced elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Volunteers** - Charlotte Walker and Hannah Carruthers had gone out to CRP together last August for 7 weeks. A summary of their experiences is produced in the box opposite.

**Valerie Taylor** thanked everyone for attending, and said how precious our grants are to CRP. She spoke of a recent case of a young man who had multiple fractures after a tree fell on him. The community responded by going round the village to raise money to take him to Dhaka. However, someone in this position may also need a helping hand as regards treatment costs and this is where our grants to cover the costs of the poorest Spinal Cord Injury patients come in.

She was grateful for the fund-raising done by VTT volunteers, like the beautiful cards made by Carol Bennett, and the events in Glasgow organized by Bryan Whitty. She also said CRP greatly welcomed volunteers like Charlotte and Hannah. And she thanked us particularly for the support of our prayers, noting that like all organizations CRP sometimes goes through difficult patches.

She had recently spent time in Melbourne, and had been able to meet up with three members of staff at CRP studying for PhD's at Australian Universities, fully funded, and doing research which will benefit CRP. There are also plans afoot to start an Australian organization analogous to VTT.

She reminded us that the Diploma in Prosthetics and Orthotics has now started at CRP with the support of ICRC.

Referring to the plan to establish Service Centres in each Division, she explained that land is now available for a Centre in Sylhet. Also work is now under way on a Centre in Mymensingh, and progress is being made towards centres in Pabna and Rangpur. As well as providing treatment, these Divisional Centres will facilitate the follow-up of patients who have been discharged to their homes from CRP and also support the establishment of units in Divisional Government Hospitals to improve the care of patients with Spinal Cord Injuries.

Recently in response to an enquiry from Stephanie in the Kadoorie Foundation in Hong Kong about services for people with Mental Health problems in Bangladesh, Valerie had explained that Occupational Therapists trained at CRP are potentially an important resource for Mental Health patients and as part of their training they are given 6 weeks of Practical Placement with the National Institute of Mental Health in Dhaka. However neither of the 2 posts that have been created for OT's in Pabna Psychiatric Hospital, are occupied by OT's and when Valerie visited both places with Stephanie, they found the conditions desperately sad. The Kadoorie Foundation is now considering whether it could support a day-clinic at CRP for mental health patients.

Valerie had been delighted by the offer of help by the Rotary Club of St Austell for the refurbishment of the Operating Theatre. Roger Varney explained the situation and outlined the plans for the future of the theatres. She also paid tribute to Primark for the way they have continued to support CRP in the years following Rana Plaza: they have now agreed fund three International Consultants for an extra 3 years for the School of Orthotics and Prosthetics

Another surprise has been a gift of £100,000 from a lady in Bangladesh to pay for an extra floor to be built on top of the new Rotary International building for Rehabilitation following a stroke. There was also an unexpected gift of £25,000 from a company in Bangladesh which will be used to pay for a retaining wall on the pond at Savar to prevent it from bringing down the nearby boundary wall.

## INTRODUCTION OF A CRP NEWSLETTER

The Media and Fundraising Departments at CRP have produced a Newsletter which will be available for circulation by them at regular intervals. Events at CRP, notable visits, patient profiles, etc. will feature in the Newsletter. A sample of the story of a staff member called Aziz is shown below. A copy of the full Newsletter has been sent to Area Co-ordinators, who will be pleased to email a copy if you wish to receive it. Please contact your Area Co-ordinator in the first instance or, alternatively, the VTT Administrator, email:- [admin@valerietaylortrust.org](mailto:admin@valerietaylortrust.org); Tele: 01622 743011



### Aziz's success

Aziz has been working in the Prosthetics and Orthotics department at CRP as a technician for the last 4 years. He lives in Savar with his newly wedded wife and mother. Recently he received a scholarship to attend an 18 months Diploma course in Orthopaedic Shoe Technology in Vietnam which will commence in September, 2017.

Twenty years ago, his life was completely different. He was a 10 years old boy living with his family in Natore, Rajshahi. One sunny day in 1997 he was going to the market by bicycle. Suddenly, his cycle collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction and the truck ran over his legs. He was immediately taken to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, where he was left untreated with only a few bandages to cover his wounds. His condition deteriorated as infection spread to his bones. He went to a missionary hospital in order to receive better treatment. There, the doctors suggested amputating both his legs to avoid the risk of cancer in future.

Two years after his accident, he received prosthetic legs from an NGO and which lasted for five years. He then had aluminum prosthetic legs made at the missionary hospital. Unfortunately, these only lasted for one and a half year. During this period, he passed his secondary and higher secondary school exams. At the same time, his father left the family and remarried, which made Aziz's life more miserable. He joined Action on Disability & Development (ADD) as a volunteer and was later appointed as a Field Officer. He worked with ADD for nine years at Natore. When looking for more sustainable options for artificial limbs, he found that one NGO, the Centre for Disability Development (CDD), provides different assistive devices for the disabled.

He was just about to buy his third pair of prosthetic legs from CDD when he received an invitation to a conference on Prosthetics and Orthotics at CRP. That was the day he came to know about CRP and its services. He joined CRP as a vocational trainee on the computer application course and ordered his artificial legs from the P&O department in 2013. Following the course, he was appointed as a P&O Technician at CRP. Aziz said that CRP produces the best and most sustainable artificial limbs at a reasonable price.

Three staff from CRP have previously attended this course in Vietnam. Aziz will be the first disabled (bilateral amputee) attendee. He will rejoin CRP after finishing the course.