

From Our Chairman

Most of you will have already received the very sad news that our Chairman, Bertie Woolnough died suddenly on 21 March this year, having been our Chairman for 10 years and a supporter of CRP for much longer. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read more fully about what was said and done at the Annual Supporters Meeting in recognition of his contribution to VTT. Here I will only add that I think everyone who was there was moved by the courage of Daphne, Bertie's widow, in coming to the Meeting; and since then she has organised a full programme of visits and events around Coombe Bissett as part of Valerie's fund-raising tour.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, VTT's income excluding Corporate donations rose last year by 20%. We are also proud of the role played by UK volunteers at CRP, and I'm delighted that in July, Janet Ivin and John Carter were in a group of only six volunteers who received awards from the Prime Minister in recognition of their outstanding support for people with disabilities across the world (see below). We are also grateful to Janet for finding the time to be Secretary of VTT.

Please make a note of our 2019 Annual Supporters Meeting in London on 4th May. This is rather earlier in the year than usual (and falls within the first May Bank Holiday) because Trustees felt it would be best to have it before Ramadan, which will begin next year on 6th May.

Ben Clackson
Chairman, Valerie Taylor Trust

From our Treasurer, Stuart Jeffreys

Total income (net of expenses) in the first 5 months of the year was £45,519. This is behind last year (which included sizeable corporate and international donations raised by CRP but channelled through VTT) but ahead of the previous year. £70,000 will be sent to CRP shortly.

Annual accounts for 2017/18 have been finalised following the independent examination. Two years ago, 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 where possible.

Reaching Higher by Liz Timms

Looking to buy someone a present?

Liz Timms, a long-standing supporter of CRP and VTT, has compiled another book about CRP based on the anecdotes, experiences and stories of those who have worked there or been a volunteer. The book gives an excellent overview of the work of CRP through the eyes of these supporters. 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

VTT MEMBERS RECEIVE 'POINTS OF LIGHT' AWARD



The Prime Minister's daily Points of Light award recognises outstanding individual volunteers - people who are making positive changes in their communities and around the world, with recognition of these individuals being based on how their "actions have changed lives and how their stories can inspire thousands more to get involved or start their own initiatives."

Janet Ivin and John Carter received the award for their dedication and voluntary work training therapists to make low-cost, therapy and rehabilitation equipment, and supportive chairs for children with disabilities out of paper and cardboard. This pioneering 'Appropriate Paper-Based Technology' (APT) is environmentally friendly and allows equipment to be made to people's individual specifications from everyday household items.



PROFILE OF ROKHSANA PERVIN

Rokhsana Pervin is head of the Publication and Communication Department at CRP, working under the close supervision of Dr Valerie Taylor. She has been working in CRP for the past 3 years. Her role in the production/editing of the latest 2016/17 Annual Report has shown us some of her qualities in the role. There is a continuous demand on her skills in the communication and publication requirements of CRP, both in the printed word produced from the Printing Workshop at Ganakbari and electronic format regarding the Website and other similar formats.

As well as updating the website with the latest news and information of events associated with CRP there is also the important task of preparing and circulating success stories from patients and communities. This also includes feedback from visiting volunteers. The stigma surrounding Physical disability is addressed through promoting Educative Events through the selected media and public activities with the Press and Television sometimes involving Mukta, a polio employee, who films selected Video Productions. Regular productions include:- The Annual Report, Pakkhaaghat Barta/Paralysis News (Quarterly), Leaflets, E-Newsletter (Monthly), Press releases, Brochures and Documentaries.

This is a challenging and responsible position headed by Rokhsana which gives an insight into the role of the staff at CRP and a platform for issues/concerns of patients with spinal injury.

Roger Varney



Daphne Woolnough at the Annual Meeting after the presentation, by Ben Clackson, of a painting by Al-Amin, a mouth painter who was a CRP patient.

VOLUNTEERS' EXPERIENCES AT CRP

KAREN HEASLIP

Karen, an Occupational Therapist working in Mental Health, has been visiting CRP since 2010. It was in 2013 that she discovered, and was appalled, that the occupational therapists were not really interested in mental health, but since then interest has started to grow, and the aim was made to have a day centre where patients could go.

In March this year she returned to help establish a mental Health Clinic at CRP as, in December 2017, a grant was obtained from the Kadoorie Charitable Foundation to open up a Day Centre for three years, and this has now been established at Gonokhbari. She reported that the Centre is flourishing and the patients made a poster for World Mental Health Day, about giving hope to patients. Karen also mentioned how good the new accommodation for volunteers at Savar now is.

GLEN MCGHEE

Glen has been working in the field of Orthotics and Prosthetics for more than 40 years. Glen first went to Bangladesh in 1985 with the Director of ARTHAG to the Farmgate site for two weeks to look to see if it was possible to set up a small training course in appropriate Orthotics and Prosthetics.

He returned to Bangladesh in 1987 to set up a course through CRP (as there was insufficient space in the Farmgate site to set up training). This course was for one year for eight people from seven organisations throughout Bangladesh. This course was completed in 1989. Glen visited the CRP site in Savar at the end of 1990.

Glen did not manage to get out to CRP again until 2009/2010 when he visited and worked for five months with the Orthotic and Prosthetic department, which at that time was very small. Four trained people had just returned from being trained in India, and there were also three technicians in the department. During his visit in 2009 he found that Prosthetics and Orthotics had started developing, but he explained to us that it is a huge step anywhere to start a course due to the shortage of qualified international teachers.

Further visits were made in 2012 and 2014 to support and help with the development of the P&O department.

Following the Rana Plaza disaster in 2013 Primark has been funding a course at CRP and bringing in overseas teachers. The first three-year diploma course started in 2014 with ten students; these students qualified in January 2018, and are now employed as staff at CRP, either in Savar, Mirpur or Chittagong. In the next two years 20 more trained graduates will have completed the course.

2018 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, his family and friends and other helpers.

The Chairman welcomed all present and, in particular, Valerie Taylor. He also welcomed our speakers, all of whom had travelled some distance to be present, and St. Paul's Church Centre for their assistance. The Chairman said that there had been two very sad deaths this year; Firstly in February Nick Lack (a former Secretary) died after a long illness. Secondly, in March our Chairman, Bertie Woolnough died very suddenly. Several people attended the funerals for Nick and Bertie.

TRIBUTE TO BERTIE WOOLNOUGH

Bertie's untimely death was a huge shock to all at VTT, particularly to the Trustees, whose meetings Bertie has chaired since VTT began. A short time of silence then took place for people to remember Bertie, and for them to give thanks.

The Chairman acknowledged the huge input of both Bertie and his wife, Daphne to fundraising for VTT in their village of Coombe Bissett, providing the perfect platform for Valerie's talks and presentations on her fund-raising tours. Bertie's experience of Fundraising led him to make production of an attractive Spring Newsletter a major priority. Bertie chaired the AGM and Trustee's meetings for ten years, and was always on time and well prepared, and was committed to the best interests of CRP and the people it served.

At this point in the meeting a specially commissioned painting was presented to Daphne in recognition of Bertie's long-term commitment to VTT and CRP. Additionally, the picture is a mark of our sadness at Bertie's death, and our sympathy with Daphne and her family for their loss. The artist was a mouth painter, Al-Amin, a former patient at CRP. See Picture opposite.

The Treasurer's Report is produced elsewhere in this newsletter.

Volunteers - A summary of the presentations by Karen Heaslip and Glen McGhee is produced in the box opposite.

Chairman pointed out the importance of the newsletters and said that Bertie had arranged for the printing of the Spring edition shortly before his death. Helen Mortimer, although now in New York, was still the editor. Bertie had guided the Trustees through 2 intricate administrative matters in recent months – Safeguarding and the General Data Protection Regulations for which the Administrator had prepared all the documentation. He concluded by thanking everyone for their support stating that regular giving was the foundation for everything that we do.

Certificates were presented to Liz Timms for her work on the 2 books, and to the United Reformed Church, Daventry for their magnificent fundraising by sales.

In the absence of the Treasurer, chairman presented the Finance Report, and reminded everyone about the importance of making 'Unrestricted Donations' so that CRP could use the money in the most efficient way. He concluded by thanking Stuart for his time as Treasurer as he had expressed a wish to stand down. Supporters were asked to consider a replacement for Stuart.

Trustees Philomena Commons and Mokhtar Hussain were re-elected as Trustees and Janet Ivin and Jahangir Alam were elected as Trustees having been co-opted previously. Janet is now VTT Secretary.

JAN AND ROGER VARNEY

Jan and Roger have been visiting CRP for many years; Jan is a trained nurse and Roger has a background in running day centres for people with learning difficulties. They reported on their 2018 visit to CRP, the purpose of which was primarily to supervise the laying of poly-flooring in the Operating Theatres. The flooring had been laid by a Bangladeshi company and Jan and Roger were suitably impressed by the quality of the work. It was partly paid for by a NATO grant.

They are now applying for a Global Rotary grant to replace four pieces of equipment, so together with the Neuro-surgeon at CRP an audit was carried out to determine the most essential equipment currently needed. This was decided to be an operating light specific to spinal surgery, an anaesthetic machine including a ventilator, vaporiser and patient monitor, an operating table with spinal and orthopaedic attachments and an autoclave.

A full account of the presentation can be found in the AGM minutes

CRP STAFF ATTEND INTERNATIONAL SPINAL CORD SOCIETY MEETING IN SYDNEY

Md. Yeasir Arafat Alve, PhD Student, Department of Occupational Therapy, CRP, currently on Study Leave at the Graduate School of Human Health Sciences, Tokyo Metropolitan University attended ISCoS Annual Scientific Meeting in Sydney, along with 7 other members of staff from CRP between 13-15 September, 2018.

He writes:-

"It was wonderful opportunity for the family of CRP to represent our works in an international platform. Moreover, this is the first time ever that eight staff members of CRP represented Bangladeshi spinal cord injuries. After all, it has captured international attention. I think that it's our proud to be a part of CRP."

Alve received the 2018 Spinal Research Institute Early Career Researchers' Travel Collaboration Fellowship on behalf of Bangladesh, and Mr. Mosayed Russel and Mrs. Arifa Ema were nominated for best scientific poster awards.

He hopes that they will contribute effectively in the transition of the organization in the near future.



Invitation to Annual Supporters' Meeting

You are all cordially invited to the 2019 Annual Supporters' Meeting which will, once again, be held at St. Paul's Community Centre, Rossmore Road, London on Saturday 4th May, 2019 at 2.00pm.

A light lunch will be available from 1.00pm.

Please note this date in your diaries NOW.

Further details will be sent out nearer the time.

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 came into effect in May 2018.**

ESSENTIAL GIFT SCHEME

A few years ago we thought of trying this new Scheme and to our surprise it really took off and has been very worthwhile over the past few years. Most people who have used the Scheme use it at Christmas time but, of course, it can be used all year round for various celebrations for all those we know who have "everything", and we rack our brains wondering what to give. **EGS may be the answer !!**

Easter time, Eid and Diwali are other times for special gifts.

We do hope you will "try" the Scheme with the knowledge that it helps so much in the wonderful work being carried out in the Valerie Taylor Trust and CRP.

Elizabeth Arthur, the scheme administrator, would be very pleased to hear from you on:-

0141 339 4273, or

email at elizabeth350arthur@btinternet.com, or

write to her at 51 Burlington Avenue, Glasgow, G12 0LJ

Fundraising News

****** On 17 March, **Marilyn and William Hamilton along with Gill Brunt** organised a coffee morning at their church in Sutton in Ashfield, and would like to say a huge thank you to all the people who supported their coffee morning to raise money for the Valerie Taylor Trust. A grand total of **£162.20** was raised, which is a staggering amount considering the snow and hail which fell that day. They would like to thank all the people who helped on the stalls and donated cakes or prizes for the tombola. Marilyn and William have known Valerie since 1971, after she, and other volunteers with NGOs, was repatriated following the outbreak of the civil war which resulted in the creation of Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan).

**** Ben Clackson, Margaret Hakim and Toni Thornton** held a very successful Curry Evening at the **New Bombay Restaurant, Bedford** on 6th June. It was well attended and a terrific **£1100.00** was raised.

**** The Taj of Kent Restaurant in Marden, Kent** was the venue for another successful Curry Evening held on 21 June and organised by **Brian Woodgate**. Once again, Valerie was present and updated supporters on the current situation at CRP. As a result, with a good attendance and 3 unique draws, the event raised over **£900.00**.

**** Patience Holt** celebrated her 90th birthday over 14/15 July and invited many friends and supporters of CRP, including Valerie Taylor to join her at her home in Draperstown, N.Ireland. Many donations to VTT were received, totaling nearly **£1000.00**.

**** The United Reformed Church in Daventry** regularly holds sales of a large variety of donated items every Tuesday morning to raise funds in support of CRP. Organised by Treasurer, Pam Smith and other church members, they have donated, since November 2007, a staggering **£45.000 plus** . The pictures below show the sale and also Pam and friends with a certificate of appreciation from VTT to mark their achievements.



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

For further information, or to change any of the data we hold on your behalf, please contact:-

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