

Autumn  
2012

# Valerie Taylor Trust

Supporting the work of Valerie Taylor in Bangladesh

## Hello Again

A big thanks to all who helped to make Valerie's recent fundraising tour such a great success – raising over £30,000 was a magnificent effort. It was also encouraging to see so many of you at the annual Supporters meeting in London and hear first hand from Valerie and Major General (retd) Shafiqul Islam. Do make a note of 18<sup>th</sup> May for next year's meeting, again with Curry Lunch!. On the financial side VTT has recently passed the £0.5M mark for money sent to the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed(CRP) since 2008 – a great achievement.

I hope you have visited the re-vamped web site. We need your newsworthy items - please send them to Theresa Keefe email keefetm@hotmail.com

Finally, VTT has now been running for over five years and the time has come when long serving Office holders such as our Secretary and Treasurer and other Trustees would like to hand over to 'new blood'. If you feel able to take on any of these key tasks, or would like to offer yourself for election as a Trustee, please do get in touch.

Bertie Woolnough CBE, Chairman

## From our Treasurer, Michael Woodley

\*\* The wording of the Gift Aid Declaration form has recently changed - the new wording will be used in our VTT literature and other forms as and when they are reprinted and revised. However current declarations remain valid for those who already use the Gift Aid scheme.

\*\* Are you reviewing your standing order donations or updating your Will? If so please consider if you can increase your giving to VTT .

## Recent Fundraising

\* VTT/CRP is the 'Charity of the Month' in June at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Marden, Kent, and £500 was raised through a meal at a local restaurant. The neighbouring parish of Boughton Monchelsea raised over £300 at a meal in the local school.

\* 2 further donations of £1000 were received in June and August from the United Reformed Church, Daventry as a result of their regular Tuesday morning sales.

\* On the 15th September, 2012 Helen Mortimer organised a Monopoly Run – Olympic Edition' in London and has to date raised nearly £800 through her JustGiving page.

\* Roger and Jan Varney have raised £7,500 through various events and donations in order to replace 100 mattresses at CRP to reduce the occurrence of pressure sores.

\* A terrific total of £5814 was raised at a Curry Supper that Valerie attended in Coombe Bissett whilst our Scottish supporters raised a magnificent £4855. In excess of £1000 were raised at events in Leicester, Ilminster, Northern Ireland and Bedford.

\* At a Coffee Morning at St. John's Renfield Church, Glasgow, Bryan and Margaret Whitty, Glen McGhee and Ross Gallagher manned a VTT stall selling cakes etc that Margaret had baked. They raised £250 for VTT and also made a donation to the church's kitchen fund.

\* Charles Woolnough took part in The Deloitte Cycle Ride from Land's End to John O'Groats and has raised over £800 so far through his JustGiving page.



## 2012 Annual Supporters Meeting – Brian Woodgate, our Administrator, reports:

Almost eighty Trustees, members and supporters were present at our annual meeting – now designed to be a supporters event with formal AGM business being kept to a minimum. After an excellent 'light' curry lunch, provided by Mokhtar Hussain, Daphne Woolnough and helpers, we had the pleasure of welcoming Valerie Taylor and Major General (retd) Shafiqul Islam, CRP Executive Director, who gave us updates and plans for the future of CRP. Peter Donnelly, a former volunteer at CRP, also spoke to the meeting about his experiences of CRP and his subsequent overland journey home the UK in his wheelchair, raising funds for the new treatment centre at Moulvi Bazar.

The Chairman reported that 'It is satisfying that in 2011/2012 VTT provided 7% of CRP's annual income whilst VTT expenses remained low, at about 3% of income'. He pointed out that whilst RESTRICTED funds were fine, our priority continued to be for UNRESTRICTED funds so that CRP had flexibility to determine the best use for that money. This year our total income was £106,000. This was slightly down on last year but, considering the recession, was an excellent effort

Thanks were expressed to those who produced the Spring and Autumn Newsletters, to Chris Hall, Ben Clackson and Theresa Keefe for improving and maintaining the website and to Bryan Whitty who had organized Valerie's UK Tour.

Three Trustees, Dr Philomena Commons, Mokhtar Hossein and Ben Clackson were re-elected for a further three year term. Subsequently Brig. Bertie Woolnough was re-elected as Chairman and Wendy Best and Helen Mortimer were co-opted as Trustees,

## Some News from Valerie

\*\* In early October the Mayor of Chittagong officially opened the AKKhan-CRP Centre in Chittagong. This has rooms for Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Prosthetics and Orthotics .

\*\* Work continues at Savar to renovate the main building. This work will provide more patient accommodation on the ground floor and improved offices and conference facilities on the first floor.

\*\* A small photo voltaic system has been installed, free of charge, to test the viability of generating electricity through solar energy and so reduce CRP's energy costs.

# Valerie's Tour

Valerie's tour from May to early July took in most parts of the UK and also included time to visit friends and supporters in Germany and France. For part of her tour she was joined by Major general (ret'd) Shafiqul Islam, CRP's Executive Director so that he was able to meet many supporters of CRP. During a hectic schedule, Valerie spoke at a wide range of fundraising events such as meals at Bangladeshi Restaurants, Garden Parties, concerts and tea parties. In her unique way, she inspired all who heard her speak and this was reflected in a magnificent total of over £31,000 (excluding any Gift Aid) being raised. Included in that total were two very generous donations of £5,000 each from a long-standing supporter in Northants and a Kent resident. Valerie is extremely grateful for all the support given to her and CRP, and for the warmth of the welcome she received wherever she went. The Chairman and Trustees of VTT are also very grateful to everyone who helped in many ways to make the tour so successful. Particular thanks to Bryan Whitty for co-ordinating all the arrangements. .

## Bangladeshi Children with Cerebral Palsy given Chance of a Better Future

The following edited extract from a recent article in The Guardian and was sent by Valerie.



'When Sardia was just over a year old, her mother Hasina noticed she was having difficulties picking things up and was walking in a different way to her twin sister. Sardia was taken to the local clinic and was referred to a bigger district hospital. The doctor diagnosed cerebral palsy saying nothing could be done.

However two months on, mother and daughter started a two-week residential therapy course at the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), the only facility in Bangladesh offering any kind of specialised services for children with cerebral palsy and which admits 80 children and their mothers every month. Cerebral palsy cannot be cured or even treated, but it can be managed and the Centre offers a mix of group sessions, physiotherapy, play and music therapy and education classes for parents; it admits children from three months to 12 years old.

"The earlier the children get here, the more we can do for them," says Hosneara Perveen, who heads CRP's paediatric unit. Mothers of disabled children still face huge stigma as many are blamed if their child starts showing signs of disability, such as loss of control of their hands and legs or sudden spasms. This often stops them from seeking help, because they feel ashamed. Educating the mothers and parents by sitting them down and explaining what cerebral palsy is, how and why it happens, and what can be done to manage it. With therapy, children can show a marked improvement. Sardia will leave CRP with a physiotherapy programme to try to improve her co-ordination and balance. The challenge now is to find a way to provide the same kind of education and physical therapy services to the millions of other children with cerebral palsy across the country.

Expanding 'outreach' services is next on CRP's list especially in those areas where mothers have reported their children being excluded from school. CRP has also launched its own "inclusive" school, where children with cerebral palsy and other disabilities study alongside children with no disabilities. "We're trying to expand as fast as we can and the idea is that if we can prove these services work, then we can try to present it to the government as a model that can and must be replicated." says Mohamed Quadin, a research associate who has been helping to design programmes at the Centre.

### Biography of Valerie Taylor and the History of CRP

The working group are still gathering stories about Val and CRP. If you have a story to contribute please contact Margaret Hakim on 01234 825459 or email: margaret.hakim@aol.com

### Invitation to the Annual Supporters' Meeting

You are all invited to the 2013 Annual Supporters' Meeting which will be held on **Saturday 18th May, 2013** at **St. Paul's Community Centre, Rossmore Road, London, NW16 6NJ** at **2.30 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.

We want to maintain contact with you using email whenever possible. So please do let me have your up-to-date contact details. If you do not wish to receive newsletters or other information, let me know as soon as possible.

Our regional co-ordinators/local contacts are:

**Bedfordshire..... Ben Clackson & Margaret Hakim,**  
**Chipping Norton..... Sonia Norgrove,**  
**Daventry..... Keith Bishop,**  
**East Anglia..... Charlotte Balaam,**  
**Ireland..... Heather Gott,**  
**Leicestershire and West Midlands... Mokhtar Hussain,**  
**London..... Elizabeth Marden,**  
**North of England..... Corinna Klaentschi,**  
**Oxford..... David Newell,**  
**Scotland..... Bryan Whitty,**  
**Wales and Kent/Sussex..... Brian Woodgate,**  
**West Country..... Wendy Best,**  
**Wiltshire and Dorset..... Bertie Woolnough.**

I am also overseeing Surrey/Middlesex and Hampshire in the absence of Co-ordinators, Please contact me if you can help in these areas

**Brian Woodgate, VTT Administrator**

## Helping the Disabled Poor and their Families

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