

From The Chairman

The last year has been another successful one for fundraising - income was over £270,000. However this sum includes some corporate and individual donations to support CRP's work with victims of the Rana Plaza disaster. So, as memories of that disaster recede, our annual income may well reduce in future to pre 2013 levels.

At this year's well attended Annual Supporters Meeting in London, Wendy Best stood down as a Trustee. For many years she was the Administrator of the Friends of CRP and then, in 2007, became a founder Trustee of VTT. Her dedication, experience and commitment will be missed – thank you Wendy. At the same meeting we welcomed Janet Ivin and Karen Gipps as Trustees. Both have been volunteers at CRP and thus have first hand knowledge of the range of treatments provided to patients.

The variety of fundraising activities undertaken in the UK never ceases to amaze, and it is encouraging that there is a constant flow of volunteers to CRP. Thank you to everyone whose contribution helps to give a better future to the disabled in Bangladesh.

Please do make a note of our 2016 Annual Supporters Meeting in London on 14th May. We expect Valerie to be with us again – and it is an excellent opportunity to meet up with old friends.

Bertie Woolnough CBE

From our Treasurer, Stuart Jeffreys

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

Total income (net of expenses) in the first half year was £145,798. However, it would be surprising if this rate carried on throughout the 2nd half of the year. This high level included the following amounts: £56,256 from Primark;

£16,228 from International Inspiration (Comic Relief TBC);

£14,303 from Gueldenpfennig (Aldi Supplier).

In addition to these corporate donations where VTT has been the conduit for getting the money to CRP, a further £39,464 has been raised.

£46,000 has been sent to CRP with a further £130,000 to follow. Annual accounts for 2014/15 have been finalised following the independent examination. VTT has improved the internal controls for Restricted Funds, although information from CRP is sometimes patchy. It remains VTT policy that funds raised by VTT are primarily intended to assist patients with Spinal Cord Injuries and future donations should be regarded as unrestricted.

At the Annual Supporters Meeting this year, Valerie introduced a book entitled '**Journeys - Meet Inspiring People with Spinal Cord Injury**', which had 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. We now have a stock of books 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.

Fundraising Snippets

- ** A Curry Evening in Marden on June 12 was very successful and a total of **£658.00** was raised.
- ** Charlotte Balaam organized a Spring Ball at Harlton, Cambridge on 25th April, which raised a magnificent £1820.00.
- ** **£580.00** was raised by Bryan Whitty and Elizabeth Arthur through an event at St. John's Church, Renfield, Glasgow.
- ** Manik Huda held a Tea Party in Leicester, raising £250.00.
- ** Karen Heaslip, raised **£500.00**, for a project to fund an Occupational Therapist in Mental Health.
- ** Jean Ward raised over **£645.00** through an event she organized in Manningtree, Essex

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to our former Trustee, David Newell on his recent marriage in Germany. Also to Lana Northey (nee. Fisher) from Leeds and any of our other supporters who have "tied the knot"

Our sincere condolences are extended to the family of Marjorie McVicar, a long standing supporter who passed away earlier this year.

HISTORY OF CRP

Liz Timms has begun a project to produce a book under the above title that will be based on the recollections of anyone who has had an involvement with CRP, however serious or trivial, sad or significant from whatever period of CRP's or indeed Val's life.

Photos, drawings, cartoons, poems, etc. are very welcome - including the impact CRP had on the Contributor.

It must be pointed out that submissions 1) may not be used and 2) may be edited, due to space available.

Please forward any of the above to Liz by email to:

elizabethtimms2@gmail.com

OUR NEW TRUSTEES

KAREN GIPPS

Karen lives in Marden, Kent and is a Social Worker with considerable experience in statutory Child Protection and Child and Adolescent Mental Health settings. She has also been involved in a range of voluntary organisations both as a volunteer and as a paid staff member. Karen first visited CRP in 2001 and so was delighted to make a return trip in February 2015 to see at firsthand how CRP had developed. It was inspiring to see that the growth both in the scale, and professionalism, of the organisation had not detracted from the very special spirit and atmosphere that she remembered and that kept her supporting CRP via VTT over the years. The commitment to providing the poorest members of society with a service, challenging discrimination, and empowering individuals to reach their full potential in all areas of their life is clear to see at CRP. Karen says she is honoured have been asked to become a trustee of VTT to support the continuation of their work.

JANET IVIN

Janet lives in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and has been a long time supporter of CRP/VTT, making many visits to Bangladesh as a volunteer and adviser. Together with a friend, John Carter, she has been instrumental in devising and introducing Alternative Paper Therapy to CRP. The result has been a valuable therapeutic activity which has produced many aids to improving the treatment and lives of patients. Many of the articles produced are sold in CRP shops.

The co-option of Karen and Janet as Trustees will bring a new perspective to VTT.

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 or you could download one from our website – www.valerietaylortrust.org.

2015 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, who was to spend an extended period in the UK. He thanked Wendy Best, who was standing down as a Trustee, for her service to VTT, and also Michael Woodley, who was standing down as Treasurer after being in post since VTT was formed. He also thanked Area Co-ordinators for their help, and St.Paul's Church Centre for their assistance.

The Chairman stressed that funds raised by VTT were primarily for use with patients with Spinal Cord Injuries but also praised the help given by the Social Welfare Fund to patients.

The Treasurer pointed out that income in the past year totalled £270,000, but some concern had been raised by the increase in Restricted Funds which reduce CRP's flexibility in how they are used.

Three Trustees stood down and were re-elected: Ben Clackson, Philomena Commons and Mokhtar Hussain. At the subsequent meeting of the Management Committee Bertie Woolnough was re-elected as Chairman, and Janet Ivin and Karen Gipps were appointed co-opted members.

Roger and Jan Varney described their work at CRP involving creating a garden for the new Orthotic and Prosthetic School, and of the work with pressure sores, the use of Granulated sugar to help heal wounds and of the involvement with a pregnant patient, Lipi, who had to have a caesarean section. Karen Gipps then spoke about her visit to CRP with her partner, Chris, and the fundraising for the provision of OT equipment that they took with them. As a Social Worker, Karen was also interested in the adoption of Lipi's baby, whilst Chris became interested in the electronics workshop and raised funds to supply tool kits for the patients.

In her address, Valerie thanked all supporters and pointed out that Poppy, one of her adopted daughter, was also visiting with her in order to give a presentation to Canadian students at Hurstmonceux Castle Study Centre. She expressed thanks for the help with her previous tour and for all involved in the Essential Gift Scheme, and to Carol Bennett for her support of students leaving the School to make a living. She explained the problems faced when 'hartals – strikes' were held, which disrupted outpatients' treatment and often resulted in violence. Valerie mentioned that a CRP team had been sent to help following the earthquake in Nepal.

Invitation to the Annual Supporters' Meeting

You are all invited to the 2016 Annual Supporters' Meeting which will, once again, be held on **Saturday 14th May, 2016** 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.