



Income generating skills: electronics repairs



A Bangladeshi staff member works with a UK volunteer physiotherapist at CRP



Income generating skills: dress-making

Valerie Taylor Trust

Supporting poor paralysed people in Bangladesh

You are warmly invited to hear Valerie
tell us about her work at:

Bristol on Thursday
17 May at 3.30pm

at the home of Liz Timms
1 Arundel Court
Berkeley Road, Bishopston
Bristol BS7 8HE
0117 944 4662
elizabethtimms@btinternet.com

or Ilminster on Friday
18 May 2.30pm

at the home of Wendy Best
Monksmead
27 East Street
Ilminster TA19 0AN
01460 52347
wendy@wendybest.co.uk



Valerie Taylor
with her adopted
daughters, Joyti
and Poppy

We hope you will be able to join us on either Thursday 17th May in Bristol at 3.30pm or Friday 18th May at 2.30 in Ilminster.

We expect to show a short DVD about CRP and Bangladesh, and then to listen to Valerie. Weather permitting we will use gardens, but while Valerie is talking, space indoors will be at a premium so do let us know if you are coming! There will be refreshments and plenty of chances to ask questions.

For those of you who don't know the history ...

In 1969, Valerie Taylor went to Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) as a VSO volunteer. She was appalled at the plight of the paralysed who were often left to beg or to die. She decided she must do something. It took 10 years to raise the necessary funds. Eventually the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) was established with just 4 patients in a cement store.



The first home of CRP – cement store houses in the grounds of Dhaka Hospital



The main entrance to CRP today

Now, 32 years later, CRP has:

- A 100-bed hospital,
- Treats more than 40,000 out-patients per year
- A disabled women's hostel and a half-way house
- A series of employment training facilities

- The Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI) which trains specialist Nurses, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Speech & Language Therapists

There is much more to tell. Valerie is a most interesting and inspiring speaker.

Liz Timms was running a training school in the Sher-e-Bangla Hospital in Dhaka where she met Valerie in 1973.

Wendy Best's involvement arose from a decision to stock *Traidcraft* goods in her antique shop in North Street, Ilminster in 1986. This led to a *Traidcraft* Study Tour of Bangladesh to see some of the goods being produced. She stayed on to volunteer at CRP which she had heard about in England. Wendy says,

“I was immediately struck by Valerie's warmth and dedication and I have now been supporting her work for poor disabled people for almost 25 years.

Many other Ilminster folk have joined in. For instance, in 1990, children at Swanmead School raised money to buy CRP a cow so that patients could learn how to milk and care for the animal from a wheelchair. Valerie came here and gave a talk which inspired an Ilminster girl to go to CRP to help to teach English to physiotherapy students. It was Valerie who persuaded Elspeth Waldie to write a film script which has led to the creation of a remarkable new charity - but that is another story. “

The charity in England that raises funds for CRP is the **Valerie Taylor Trust** and its primary aim is to help support the most vulnerable i.e. the paralysed and very poor patients and their families.

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Please reply to the addresses on the front of this invitation.