



AUTUMN 2023

Message from Mokhtar Hussain (Khokon), VTT Chairman

Dear supporters,

As this is my first report as your new chairman, I would like to thank each and every one of you for welcoming me on board and appointing me as chair of VTT.

A special thanks to Ben and Brian as well as all the trustees who have been amazing support. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our members, donors, fellow trustees and volunteers. Without you and your continued hard work, contribution and commitment the work we do would not be possible.

As chair I wish to continue my journey with the aims and objectives to support Valerie's work in Bangladesh with CRP, but this can only be accomplished with your ongoing dedication and backing to our cause.

In December 2022, I visited Bangladesh for a period of four months and stayed in CRP Savar for a couple of weeks. While in Savar, I took the opportunity to meet many of the heads of departments there, as well as the centre managers. I was very pleased and honoured to have also met many of our disabled employees at CRP. It was fantastic to see how so many people's lives have been positively impacted by our organisation which makes me feel proud to be a part of. In addition to Savar CRP I visited Gonokbari - Manikganj, Kulaura and Moulvibazar centres. I am pleased to inform you that Moulvibazar centre has completed the second phase. We hope to provide you with updates as work continues.

Annual General Meeting

This year we were delighted to have the founder of CRP Sister Valerie present with us at our annual general meeting in May 2023. To have Valerie in the UK and attend our event is such a blessing. Her presence truly creates a beautiful atmosphere and lights up the room which made a huge difference to the event. Over the spring and summer of 2023 we held a few successful fundraising events and continued our campaign to raise awareness for our project. We had our very first fundraising event in North Wales. It was an amazing event full of energy and excitement with beautiful entertainment. Over the last 12 months VTT raised a fair amount of donations towards wheelchairs which was one of many of our fundraising and awareness projects. A full report of the AGM can be read further down.

As Chair of VTT I humbly request and appeal to you to firstly, keep VTT and CRP in your thoughts and prayers.

Secondly, please share and spread the word of our cause. Encourage family and friends (especially the younger generation who are the future) to join, contribute and/or visit CRP. It is important we continue the awareness and drive among the younger generation so that they can continue our work. I personally, would like to see our future generation get more active and involved and be members of VTT. One day becoming trustees of the organisation.

Thirdly, to my British Bangladeshi Community - please take the opportunity to visit CRP on your next visit to Bangladesh.

Lastly, I would like to welcome volunteers to join us at CRP. If anyone is interested please contact the Administrator for VTT Volunteers Trustee Support or feel free to contact me. I will be more than happy to put you in touch with our volunteer coordinator at CRP Savar.

As your Chair you can contact me for help and support and organising fundraising/awareness events.

My contact details are:

Mokhtar Hussain (Khokon) Email:- mokhtar_h@hotmail.co.uk

With best wishes for the festive season and a Happy 2024 from all at VTT.

Khokon

CONGRATULATIONS TO VALERIE ON AN AWARD IN LOS ANGELES, ON 29th JULY, 2023, FOR HER HUMANITARIAN WORK AT CRP, BY THE BANGLADESH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA, AND ALSO ON RECEIVING A BRITISH BANGLADESHI WHO'S WHO AWARD IN LONDON ON TUESDAY 14th NOVEMBER, 2023. KHOKON AND HIS WIFE AYSHA WERE PRESENT AT THE LATTER EVENT.

Treasurer's Report by Sayadul Khaled, FMAAT

This is a summary of the Accounts for 2022-2023. Rounding the figures to thousands (k), the Total Income of £198k comprised Donations and Subscriptions of £10k to Restricted Funds this include £4k from various donors related to Moulvibazar Centre, £5k in relation to Zakat Funds.

£91k to the Unrestricted Fund. This includes £4k from MAITS, £6k from Mr Albert Mehr, £3k from Mrs Sylvia Stops and £5k from Jancis Page. Gift Aid arising from donations added a further £13k. Sales of donated items (mostly sales of Journey 2 Book) raised and fundraising event from various location raised £2k. The rest of the Income came from three Corporate Donations. Three of them, totalling £82k, were for Restricted Funds: £68k from Primark, and £6k from Tesco. The last Corporate Donation of £3k from Robert Scott Bader company was to the Unrestricted Fund. Expenditure was £31k only 15.46% of Income. The "Fundraising" figure of £1171 comprised payments to Just Giving, CAF and PayPal. VTT Awareness project costs are £18k. Bank charge and Forex exchange costs are £8k. IT and meeting costs are £3k. The "Other" figure of £350 was the payment for the Independent Examination of the Accounts.

Invitation to Annual Supporters' Meeting

You are all cordially invited to the
2024 Annual Supporters' Meeting at
St. Paul's Community Centre, 5, Rossmore Road, London, NW1 6NJ
on **Saturday 11th May, 2024 at 2.00pm.**

A light lunch will be available from 1.00pm.

Please note this date in your diaries NOW, and we look forward to seeing you.

Report on the 2022 Annual Meeting by Brian Woodgate, VTT Administrator.



The Annual Meeting was, once again, held in London at St. Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone on 13th May. There was a 48 members and supporters were in attendance, despite the rail strike and, once again, it was good to see some new faces along with some long-standing members. The usual excellent curry lunch was taken before proceedings started, which gave everyone a chance to get to know each other.

Chair's Report

After last year's Annual meeting, Trustees decided to embark on a second phase of the Awareness Raising Project, running from June last year to June this year. The Chair (Ben Clackson) referred to the Draft Annual Report which mentioned some of the events that have been held with Farhan Masud's help, and many of these events had helped raise the profile of VTT as well as encouraging donations.

Draft Accounts suggested that our income, net of expenses, had risen by 19% this financial year, and this project was probably the main reason for that increase. The Chair thanked Farhan for all the drive and persistence he had put into the project, for his work following up on pledged donations and his patience with the time it has often taken us as a Trust to make decisions. The success of the project had been achieved in what had been a very challenging year for fundraising because of the effect of higher energy prices on household incomes and business incomes.

He thanked all the Trustees who had helped to make the project a success, particularly Khokon, Margaret Hakim, and Zahir for helping to manage the project. As always VTT was greatly indebted to Brian Woodgate for the calm efficiency of his Administration work and to Helen Mortimer for the Spring Newsletter and maintaining Facebook.

It had been a great privilege to serve as Chair of the Trustees for the last 5 years, but the time had come to step down as Chair. He was delighted to announce that Trustees have elected Mokhtar Hussain, (Khokon), as the new Chair. Khokon was one of the founder members of this Trust in 2007, and has been a Trustee ever since. He has a very wide circle of contacts, which is a big advantage for the Chair of a fundraising organisation. He has played a major part in initiating and managing the awareness-raising project with Farhan. And this year he has visited several CRP Centres in Bangladesh, so he is in a very good position to act as the Trust's link with CRP management. The outgoing Chair asked all of the supporters to welcome Khokon as the new Chair of VTT.

Election of Trustees

There were currently 10 elected Trustees, and VTT's Constitution required that one third of these, that is three Trustees, stand down at the Annual Meeting. Mohammed Rashid had decided to retire as a Trustee and the Chair had written to thank him for all that he and his wife had done for the Trust since he was first elected in 2016. Margaret Hakim and Ben Clackson were both standing down but were willing to stand for re-election. A valid nomination had been received for Aysha Lucky Akther proposed by Mokhtar Hussain, seconded by Ben Clackson. No other valid nominations had been received, so Ben, Margaret and Aysha were duly elected. Aysha organised two meetings in London last year with Valerie and others.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer (Sayadul Khaled) provided a summary of the financial review. Total income was £195k which consisted of donations and subscriptions of £110k. Donations were sourced from a range of small and large donors and includes receipt of Gift Aid (of £9k including £4k from Just giving) which is the tax reclaimable from donors who have confirmed they are UK taxpayers and have been treated as unrestricted. 43% of income is made up of restricted funds as these were collected for specific CRP centres and projects. Sales also includes cards, calendars, books and DVDs.

Corporate donations included £68k from Primark and a further £6k from Tesco and other "Restricted" funds of £4k in relation to Moulvibazaar Centre and £5k in relation to Zakat funds. Unrestricted funds included £4k from MAITS, £3k from Mrs Sylvia Stops, £5k from Jancis Page and £6k from Mr Albert Mehr. Expenditure has increased in the period from 8.2% of total income to 11.8% for the year ending 31 March 2023 principally due to the costs of the ongoing awareness programme and related consultancy fees.

The Treasurer passed on his deepest gratitude for the help and support received from Trustees as well as friends of CRP in neighbouring European countries and around the World. The auditor (independent examiner) who was appointed in April 2022 continues to be in place with an annual remuneration of £350.

Guest speakers: Supporters - Janet Ivin and John Carter

Janet described the initial experience of being a volunteer for 6 months in 2000 - working as a Children's occupational therapist helping to develop the Occupational Therapy (OT) work for the newly established mother and child unit. Janet returned recently in 2023 and was pleased to see the developments of APT (Appropriate Paper based Technology) which was now incorporated into the special seating unit which employs 4 people (2 with disabilities including Shathi who also attended the special needs school at CRP). The therapy equipment and toys that they make are sold to outside NGO's and to other CRP centres and patients.

John went to CRP in 2002 with the specific task of making therapy equipment. The 2023 visit was focused around delivery of a training course at the Vocational Training Institute now based at Manikganj. The 18 trainees were keen to learn APT as an additional income-generating project focusing on smaller items due to their disabilities. They received vocational training in electronics, mobile phone repairs, and needlework.

Overall they felt welcome by the people at CRP and felt great satisfaction from the staff including Fahmida who described John and Janet as great "encouragers".

Chief Guest speaker: Valerie Taylor

She welcomed everyone and thanked all those who had joined the Annual meeting especially knowing that the rail strikes had caused difficulties for many.

She firstly wanted to convey the warm thanks and gratitude of each inpatient, outpatient, staff member, student, volunteer and Trustee of CRP for the crucial role of supporters to enable CRP to run smoothly. This assistance is given in 3 main areas: the support of the prayers of supporters; voluntary service in the UK and in Bangladesh; and the supply of financial help particularly at a time when costs of food and fuel have risen in seemingly all countries of the world.

The general public in Bangladesh continue to be most generous in their giving and CRP has never needed to purchase a plot of land as consistently these have been donated by their owners, resulting in the creation of 11 small sub-centres across the country. There is now a need to approach individuals and corporate bodies in an effort to finance the construction of each new treatment centre on the donated plot of land, as follows:

1. Khulna – land donated by the Akij group
2. Sylhet – CRP presently rents a property in the city
3. Gobindapur (Kulaura) – expansion/modernisation of 4 bungalows on the site
4. Chattogram – AK Khan Foundation
5. Mymensingh – Bangladesh Agricultural University
6. Manikganj – land donated by Raihana Ahmad
7. Moulvibazar – Afsarul and Aktarul Haque Centre
8. Pabna – also requires funds for further floors to be added
9. Barisal – Dr Maksudur Rahman has donated several floors
10. Rajshahi:
 - a. Small plot in the Court area was donated
 - b. Recently 5 acres of prime land given by mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation for Regional Centre

A new phenomenon was now experienced where members of the audience spontaneously committed funds for the new Centre amounting to Tk 1 crore (10 million). Receiving this amazing sum makes CRP feel very heartened for the future.

A new idea has come from a demand by parents of young people with disabilities, that their offspring need safe accommodation where their children can be looked after when their parents are no longer alive. Plans are afoot to build a 6-storied building, with two persons with disabilities on each floor, in the CRP-Savar compound. Donations from different ministries of the Government of Bangladesh have supported CRP in the past along with the very generous Embassy of Japan, enabling new construction.

She thanked all of the Trustees and Supporters of the Valerie Taylor Trust including:

- Ben Clackson, retiring in his role of Chair - sincere appreciation for all that Ben has done for the Trust and in turn for CRP and his contribution as chair will be sorely missed.
- Brian Woodgate for all his help as the Administrator
- Sayadul Khaled for all his help as Treasurer
- Helen Mortimer for editing the Spring Newsletter
- Margaret Hakim for supporting many fundraising meetings throughout the year
- Mokhtar Hussain (Khokon) for all his work and also transporting Valerie around the UK
- Janet Ivin and John Carter for their APT contribution at CRP
- Glen McGhee, both as a Trustee and with the Prosthetics and Orthotics Department at CRP
- Jill Fisher, the senior physiotherapist teaching Bobath courses
- Elizabeth Timms for her new book Journeys 4 about the Rana Plaza survivors

There have been some notable examples of financial help:

- WaterAid have helped CRP to harvest rainwater
- The legacy from Carol Eggen, a Canadian physiotherapist, will enable CRP among other things to fund an awareness-raising film on Cerebral Palsy for television in Bangladesh. Elspeth Waldie is presently writing the script for translation into Bengali.

She emphasised that no matter how big or how small the donation, this was instrumental to the continued work of CRP and makes a massive difference to people's lives. For instance In Sheffield there is a donor who gives £12 per month through VTT to support education costs for the daughter of an ex-patient of CRP. She also referred to another special donation who is paraplegic wheelchair user who has a piece of land that he farms and recently he came to CRP with his wife to donate 15kg of home-grown garlic, which is the third time the individual has made such a donation to CRP.

Special thanks to those who prepared the delicious meal, under the guidance of Anowar. And to Roger and Jan Varney, who like Janet Ivin and John Carter have made countless visits to CRP to assist CRP's nursing staff. She again extended deepest gratitude to all the supporters of VTT.

LOOKING TO BUY A PRESENT FOR SOMEONE?

WHY NOT CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING BOOKS EDITED BY LIZ TIMMS, A VTT MEMBER.

REACHING HIGHER

JOURNEYS - JOURNEYS 2 - JOURNEYS 3 and the latest book, JOURNEYS 4, The real-life experiences of Rana Plaza survivors.

For further information regarding obtaining copies of the above books, please contact the VTT Administrator, Tel:- 01622 743011 or email:- admin@valerietaylortrust.org

FUNDRAISING TIT-BITS

KENT Once more, supporters were pleased to welcome Valerie to Kent, when she stayed with the VTT Administrator for a few days in June, and VTT/CRP was the charity of the month for Marden Parish Church. The annual fundraising meal was again held in the Taj of Kent Restaurant, Marden on 14th June and was attended by 48 supporters. Brian and Valerie addressed the gathering. On Friday 16th June, 24 supporters attended a Ploughman's Lunch in the Vestry Hall and a total for the month of **£1074.00** was raised. In between, on Thursday 15th June, the neighbouring parish of Boughton Monchelsea, with a number of long-standing supporters, held a Coffee Morning raising a magnificent **£550.00**.



Valerie speaking at Taj of Kent, Marden



Some of our Marden guests

CORWEN, NORTH WALES Monday 17th July saw Khokon (Chairman) and Valerie travel from Leicester and Daventry to attend the first ever fundraising event in North Wales, at Abul's Spice, in Corwen. Brian, VTT Administrator and his wife also attended as they were on holiday in the area. A buffet meal supplied by Chef Abul was thoroughly enjoyed by the 50 people who attended. Valerie and Brian spoke to the supporters about the work of VTT and CRP, and entertainment was provided by a DJ and dancers from Birmingham. **£763.00** was raised in total.



Khokon, Brian and Chef Abul.



Valerie with the dancers at Corwen

PRINCES RISBOROUGH Thanks to Sheila Hazell and Mr. Miah, owner of Radhuni Restaurant in Princes Risborough, for organizing a very enjoyable meal for about 40 supporters on Tuesday 22nd August. Khokon, Valerie and Brian all travelled to attend and addressed the gathering. Alan Dye, Area Co-Ordinator was also present. After expenses, £420.00 was raised.



Valerie chatting to friends at Radhuni.

££££

FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

££££

FINALLY, ALONG WITH THE TRUSTEES AND AREA CO-ORDINATORS, PLEASE PUT YOUR THINKING CAPS ON TO RAISE FUNDS AND PROMOTE AN AWARENESS OF VTT SUPPORTING THE WORK OF VALERIE AND CRP.

THE CHALLENGE IS TO ARRANGE A SERIES OF FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR CRP ON THE SAME DATE IN 2024. FOR EXAMPLE, ENGAGE YOUR LOCAL BANGLADESHI RESTAURANT AND INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO SUPPORT A MEAL, OR ARRANGE A COFFEE MORNING IN A GARDEN, HALL OR CAFÉ/RESTAURANT

FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS A DATE IS AGREED,

.....

Can you help?

We are short of Area-Coordinators to circulate information and newsletters, by email or post in the following areas. a) West Country, b) Northern Ireland, c) Wiltshire/Dorset. Members or supporters, who are interested in helping, should contact the VTT Administrator (details below).

For further information, or to change any of the data we hold on your behalf, please contact:- VTT Administrator, whose details are below.

IF YOU CHANGE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL OR TELEPHONE NUMBER, PLEASE ADVISE THE ADMINISTRATOR SO THAT WE ARE ABLE TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE WITH INFORMATION, NEWSLETTERS ETC AND MAINTAIN ACCURATE RECORDS.

VTT Administrator, 4, Wilberforce Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, ME17 4HA.

Tel:- 01622 743011, Email:- admin@valerietaylortrust.org