



## AUTUMN 2024

### Message from Mokhtar Hussain (Khokon), VTT Chairman

Dear supporters,

I am pleased to write this foreword to the Autumn Newsletter during this, my second year as your Chairman. Once again, it was great to have Valerie with us at this year's AGM and, more so, as she had brought Poppy with her.

With regards to fundraising, you will be aware of the situations around the world, resulting in most of the charities having a tough time raising funds. As a small charity, we are a lot better placed than most, only because of you, our members and supporters. I should like to thank you all on behalf of the Trustees and patients and staff of CRP.

Without your support, we (VTT and CRP) will not be able to provide the help and support to the people who deserve the help of CRP in Bangladesh. This support is particularly important as CRP is also providing help for the students mentioned in the article below.

As we are approaching winter, and will soon be celebrating Christmas and the New Year, may I take the opportunity to wish you all, on behalf of the VTT Board of Trustees, a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

### Treasurer's Report by Sayadul Khaled, FMAAT

This is a summary of the Accounts for 2023-2024. Rounding the figures to thousands (k), the Total Income of £99k comprised Donations and Subscriptions of £6k to Restricted, which included £3k from various donors related to memory of Mr B Whitty, £2k in relation to JF course Funds and £1k in relation to wheelchairs. £73k was donated to the Unrestricted Fund. This included £2k from MAITS, £6k from Louis Antonio and £7k from Tamara Enbom. Gift Aid arising from donations added a further £9k. Sales of donated items (mostly sales of Journey 2 Book) and fundraising events from various locations raised £2k. Bank interest received £1k. The rest of the Income came from two Corporate Donations. Two of them, totalling £6k, were for Restricted Funds: £3k from Tesco. The last Corporate Donation of £3k from Robert Scott Bader company was to the Unrestricted Fund. Please Note no funds were received from Primark during our accounting year but we have received £70k post year end, and Expenditure was £3k, only 3.11% of Income. The "Fundraising" figure of £851 comprised payments to Just Giving, CAF and PayPal. VTT Awareness project costs are £3k. Bank charge and Forex exchange costs are £7k in credit due to refund of prior year Forex exchange charge. IT and meeting costs are £4k. The "Other" figure of £350 was the payment for the Independent Examination of the Accounts and £450 was the payment for Sister's various event travel costs.

### Invitation to Annual Supporters' Meeting

You are all cordially invited to the

**2025 Annual Supporters' Meeting** at

**St. Paul's Community Centre, 5, Rossmore Road, London, NW1 6NJ**

**on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 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 2024 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Welcome and Chair's Report

The Chairman, Mokhtar Hussain (Khokon), welcomed all the Trustees, members and supporters who had attended and he opened the meeting. He noted that fundraising had been particularly challenging this year due to the current financial difficulties and the impact of the pandemic. He mentioned that VTT had not engaged anyone for fundraising since the last contract with Farhan Masud Khan, whom he thanked for his assistance in raising funds to acquire 45 custom-designed wheelchairs manufactured in CRP's workshop. These had been distributed to very poor and needy individuals.

The Chairman highlighted that, since VTT's foundation in 2007, it has raised and transferred over £3 million to CRP. He expressed gratitude to Anowar Hussain and his team for providing the delicious Indian food and also thanked Ben and Aysha for preparing the Annual Report for the AGM. Special thanks were also given to Helen and Ben for their work on the Spring Newsletter. He concluded by thanking all old and new Trustees for their attendance and contributions, which made the AGM a great success.

### Accounts and Annual Report

Our Treasurer, Sayadul Khaled, presented the financial report. He stated that the total income for the period was £98,231. This included £80,009 from donations and subscriptions, £7,583 from reclaimed tax as Gift Aid, £1,936 from other activities and £7,831 from companies. A total of £85,000 was transferred to support CRP, leaving a cash fund balance of £7,938.

### Election of Trustees

At the meeting, 3 Trustees stood down. While one was willing to stand to be re-elected, Zahirul Haque and Dr. Mohammed Sakel chose not to continue, resulting in 2 vacancies on the Board of Trustees. The Chairman proposed that Mohammed Shahinoor Islam and Karim Miah, both of whom had been co-opted previously, should fill these positions. Ben Blackson seconded the proposal and both Mr. Islam and Mr. Miah were duly elected to the Board of Trustees.

As Zahirul Haque had stepped down as Secretary, the Chairman proposed that Mohammed Shahinoor Islam be appointed as Secretary. Ben Clackson seconded this proposal and Mr. Islam was appointed as Secretary by the Board of Trustees.

### Speakers

**Glen McGhee**, an orthotist and our Scottish Trustee, recently returned from Bangladesh, where he had spent 6 weeks working at CRP Savar. Glen shared his work and experiences in Bangladesh through an excellent PowerPoint presentation. Representing VTT, he attended Valerie Taylor's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and presented her with a small gift and card.

**Fatema Tuj Johra (Iris)** was the second speaker and she shared her journey. Fatema was a student at BHPI and, after graduating, she became an occupational therapist. She served at CRP for a long time before coming to England for further education.

**Valerie Taylor** was the final speaker and provided an update on CRP's activities, programs and future plans. She explained how the organisation assists in the treatment, care and rehabilitation of disabled individuals in Bangladesh and she shared her vision to reduce poverty in the country.

Following the meeting, everyone enjoyed a surprise belated celebration of Valerie's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Valerie and her younger daughter, Poppy, cut the cake provided by Aysha Hussain.

## SUMMARY OF PRESS RELEASE BY CRP ON 24 AUGUST 2024

### TREATMENT OF INJURED STUDENTS OF THE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION MOVEMENT

Students injured across Bangladesh during the anti-discrimination movement will receive free rehabilitation services from CRP. Other people injured will be served via a subsidy according to their financial position and “BanglaAid” will help CRP by providing registration and appointment of injured persons through an Android app.

The announcement arose from a meeting held at CRP, chaired by Dr. Md. Sohrab Hossain, CRP’s Executive Director, with representatives from the Medical Team of Jahangirnagar University Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, Center for Zakat Management, BanglaAid and senior CRP staff members. Dr. Hossain opened the meeting by announcing free necessary health care, therapy and rehabilitation services for the students and other persons through subsidy after an assessment of their financial status.

The Center for Zakat Management (CZM) has already assured financial support to CRP in serving injured people across the country, and the Head of Operations of CZM sought the co-operation of students to make the process smooth and transparent. A student representative thanked CRP for assuring free services for students and said that a list of the injured, killed and missing persons is being compiled on a website called “Red July”.

One of the founders of “BanglaAid” said that the registration of injured people had already started on their app, and, through downloading the app from Google Play Store and providing the required information, they can get an appointment at the nearest CRP centre. The Head of Education and Principal of the BHPI, Prof Omar Ali Sarkar, said that CRP would take the initiative to communicate with the Health Advisor of the Interim Government, Medical College at Divisional Level and District Civil Surgeon and wherever else it was necessary to disseminate this service.

#### A MESSAGE FROM VTT TRUSTEES

PLEASE be aware that the above commitment by CRP, together with the changing political and financial situation in Bangladesh, will place additional pressure on CRP’s services and, particularly, their own financial stability. Although some funding is indicated above, the VTT Trustees would ask if you could consider making a special donation to help to meet the additional costs of this commitment by CRP. It is hoped that this appeal will not extend beyond the end of 2024.

#### IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DONATE TOWARDS THIS CAUSE, THE FOLLOWING METHODS SHOULD USED:-

1. Send a cheque for the appropriate amount, made payable to “Valerie Taylor Trust” and marked with the code “RF 0724 “ on the reverse to the VTT Administrator.
2. Pay the appropriate amount via a Bank Transfer to the VTT account as follows:- HSBC, Acc. Name:- Valerie Taylor Trust; Sort Code:- 40-28-29; Acc. No. 31225227. Quote Reference: RF 0724
3. Via the Valerie Taylor Website – Please use any of the methods of payment available online, eg. PayPal, JustGiving, Stripe and quote ref:- “RF 0724 “.

THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR KIND DONATION

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

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

### VALERIETAYLORTRUST.ORG - WARNING

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE DOMAIN NAME IS THE ONLY ONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE VALERIE TAYLOR TRUST AND OUR AIMS. ANY OTHER WEBSITES YOU MAY COME ACROSS WITH DIFFERENT SUFFIXES, eg .com; .co.uk; .net etc HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH THIS TRUST AND SHOULD BE IGNORED.

## MY TIME AT CRP AS A RESEARCHER

My name is **Babet Roeling**, I am a nurse from the Netherlands and, in March 2023, I was invited to come to CRP as part of my study. During my time at CRP, I worked on a mixed methods research project on the knowledge of nursing students on the prevention of pressure ulcers. My classmate and I set up a questionnaire and held in-depth interviews with the students. We analysed the data and made recommendations to the nursing school the students attended.

During the time I stayed at CRP (14 March – 14 June) my classmate and I were able to observe some of the departments at CRP. We observed a few shifts with the nursing station, the operating theatre, occupational therapy, and physiotherapy. It was very interesting to see that all the departments worked closely together. If a patient needed surgery there was a surgeon and an operating theatre available. This is a great way to make the recovery much more efficient seeing as the patient doesn't need to be transferred or wait on a waiting list to get their surgery. After surgery, all the departments will play a valuable role in the recovery of the patient.

The student nurses were also very positive about their education at the nursing college at CRP. The students start working in the nursing wards very quickly after starting their education, which means they get a lot of first-hand experience as nurses very quickly.

During our time at CRP my classmate and I also got to join a practice of the wheelchair basketball training provided at CRP. This was a personal highlight of mine seeing as I have never done anything like this before. I think it is very inspirational that CRP encourages their patients to join in on adapted sports. There is a cricket team, wheelchair basketball, and soccer for amputees. Sports, exercise, and social interaction are important factors in rehabilitation and CRP puts in the effort to provide this for their patients.

I feel very fortunate that I was able to have this experience and I look forward to coming back in the future.



**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**

**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](mailto:admin@valerietaylortrust.org)

## OT students from Japan visit CRP

In September 2023, faculty members of Tokyo Metropolitan University (TMU) visited CRP/BHPI and renewed the MOU between CRP/BHPI and the Faculty of Health Sciences/Graduate School of Human Health Sciences, TMU. In February 2024, a faculty member and three undergraduate occupational therapy (OT) students (Yuka Nagai, Naoko Yamada, Hiroaki Ikeuchi) visited under the agreement for nine days and observed WMTS, SRU, Hand Therapy, SCI, Home Visit, Paediatric and Mental Health. Lecturers from TMU gave lecturers OT students in BHPI. It was a very valuable experience.

### ○What we have experienced and learned

**Nagai** I had thought that occupational therapy differs from country to country because OT was greatly influenced by culture and environment, but when visiting CRP, I found that the fundamental idea of improving patients' health through occupation was the same. It was impressive that we were able to connect by using these common concepts, even though the cultures and languages are different.

**Yamada** I learned about the process of self-help devices created in Bangladesh and health services along with patients' needs, and the efforts to improve the social conditions surrounding them. I felt that Bangladeshi OT was very creative. That is based on the theory that occupational therapy encourages patients' participation through occupations that are important to patients. I learned the theory was common all over the world.

**Ikeuchi** I learned a lot of the same parts (training methods, etc.) and different parts (wheelchairs, kitchens, meals, etc.) between Bangladesh and Japan. I would like to appreciate sharing the time with local students, staffs in CRP, and clients, and I was able to touch the local culture and think about the significance of the OT.

### ○What we see in the future from the experience

**Nagai** I would like to contribute to patients and communities as an OT by making use of the experience gained in CRP. I hope to come back to CRP again in the future, with my clinical experience as an OT in Japan.

**Yamada** I want to find my specialty after starting my career as an OT in Japan. Through my stay at CRP, I learned that there were many things that OTs could do. It expanded my horizons.

**Ikeuchi** I felt like I wanted to provide an OT considering the patient's lifestyle more, and I wanted to think about a career with an overseas perspective.

We all have had wonderful experiences as OT students that cannot be expressed in any words. Those will have a big impact on our future. Also, we were not able to get such precious experience without much support from supervisors and the heads of each unit, students, patients, volunteers and all the people who helped our stay. They provided us with the importance of human beings as well as skills as an occupational therapist. We would like to especially thank Md. Tauhidul Islam, the head of OT department, CRP and Sk. Moniruzzaman, the head of OT department, BHPI. We look forward to seeing you again and returning the favours.



## FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

In response to a Challenge for Trustees and Area Co-ordinators to raise funds for VTT, and ultimately CRP, on or near to 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2024, the following events were held.



**Helen Mortimer, Trustee**, was first to respond and appealed to the hearts and stomachs of her NHS colleagues, raising **£460** with a cake sale at her work place. Staff gave generous donations in return for some home made baking and also showed a lot of interest in the charity and the work of CRP.



**Brian Woodgate, VTT Administrator**, arranged a Curry Evening at the Taj of Kent Restaurant in Marden, Kent on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, which was attended by 34 supporters and friends who, once again, enjoyed a great meal, which included a raffle. Valerie, who was unable to attend this year, sent a message and update on CRP which Brian was pleased to read out. The event also coincided with VTT/CRP being his church's Charity of the Month, so a Ploughman's Lunch was also held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Proceeds for the month amounted to **£1024**.

**Corinna Thomas, Area Co-ordinator for the North of England**, held a Curry Evening for family and friends in her garden at Bedale, North Yorkshire. The 30 people who attended enjoyed the evening and a total of **£600** was raised.



**Mohammed Islam, Trustee, and Mosarrof Hossain** organised a successful Curry Meal at the Chutney Ivy Restaurant, Leicester which the Chairman, Khokon attended. The evening included a couple of speeches, and excellent musical performances from some of the attendees. As a result, **£340** was raised with a further **£200** pledged.

**Gill Lambert**, a long-time friend and supporter of Valerie and CRP, arranged a collection amongst members of her WISH group to coincide with her birthday and an excellent **£430** was donated.

**Margaret Hakim, Trustee**, arranged a coach trip from Bedford to Norfolk, and the party that she led visited Holkham Hall and Wells-next-the-Sea. It was an enjoyable time and she was pleased to receive **£355** in donations.

**Mokhtar Hussain (Khokon), our Chairman**, arranged for a Charity Evening to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at the Chef and Spice Restaurant in Leicester, at which Valerie and Poppy were present. **Aysha Akther, Trustee**, and some friends from London also attended. The evening was a great success and **£1750** was raised.

### Can you help?

**COULD YOU BECOME AN Area Co-ordinator to circulate information and newsletters, by email or post in the following areas:-**

**a) West Country, b) Northern Ireland, c) Wiltshire/Dorset.**

**If you are interested in helping, please contact the VTT Administrator (details 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](mailto:admin@valerietaylortrust.org)**