



AUTUMN 2025

Message from Mokhtar Hussain (Khokon), VTT Chairman

Dear supporters, members and well-wishers of VTT/CRP.

I hope you have all had a great summer and enjoyed the lovely weather we were lucky to have this year. I cannot believe how quickly the year has flown by.

Once again we were honoured to have our sister Valerie attend the Annual AGM. Unfortunately, Poppy could not come from Bangladesh - she was greatly missed.

This year Val was recognised for her philanthropic work in the Kings Birthday Honours List . She was awarded with a C.B.E. An amazing achievement that we should all be so proud of.

Thank you to each and every one of you, and not forgetting others around the world, for the support given to VTT/CRP. It is this support that ensures Valerie's work in Bangladesh continues.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Kind regards,

Khokon (VTT - Chairman)

Treasurer's Report by Sayadul Khaled, FMAAT

This is a summary of the Accounts for 2024-2025. Rounding the figures to thousands, the Total Income of £247,000 comprised Donations and Subscriptions of £2,000 to Restricted Funds. This includes various donations related to July Quota Injured and wheelchair funds. £83,000 to the Unrestricted Fund. This includes £4,000 from MAITS, £5,000 from Dr B Whitty, Ex-Trustee of VTT (Legacy Payments). Gift Aid arising from donations added a further £8,000. Sales of donated items (mostly sales of Journey 2 Book) and fundraising event from various locations raised £2,000. Bank interest received was £1,000. The rest of the Income came from two Corporate Donations. Two of them, totalling £149,000, were: £145,000 for Restricted Funds from Primark, and £4,000 from Robert Scott Bader company was to the Unrestricted Fund.

Expenditure was £17,000; only 6.94% of Income. The "Fundraising" figure of £442 comprised payments to Just Giving, CAF and PayPal. VTT Iftar event organising costs were £10,000. IT and meeting costs are £3,000. The "Other" figure of £350 was the payment for the Independent Examination of the Accounts.

Sayadul Khaled, FMAAT

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our sincere congratulations to Valerie who was awarded a CBE, Commander of the Order of the British Empire, in this year's King's Birthday Honours List, for services to Disadvantaged People in Bangladesh.

She had previously, in 1995, been awarded the OBE.

Also, our sincere congratulations are extended to 2 other long-standing supporters and volunteers at CRP. Jan Varney and her husband, Roger, from St. Austell, Cornwall, were each awarded MBEs in the Honours List for their voluntary work at CRP, and with Harbour Housing UK for services to Disabled and Disadvantaged People.

VERY WELL DESERVED!!

Report on the 2025 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 10th May. There were 48 members and supporters were in attendance and, once again, it was good to see some new faces, including former BHPI students, along with some long-standing members. An excellent curry lunch was again provided 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 to the meeting. He thanked all members, supporters, well-wishers and Trustees who were present as well as supporters around the world.

He requested everyone to become regular donors and try to generate more donations and donors in view of the economic climate which affected CRP as well. He expressed his appreciation of all the hard work done by members and supporters. He mentioned that, with everyone's support, CRP now had 12 centres running smoothly across Bangladesh.

Accounts and Annual Report

Our Treasurer, Sayadul Khaled, presented the financial report and expressed his appreciation for the support given to VTT and CRP by members, supporters and Trustees. He stated that, in the year 2023/24 VTT's net income was £230,000. Since the formation of VTT, income has exceeded £3 million.

The Annual Report, which is required by the Charity Commission, was presented to the Meeting and approved.

Election of Trustees

At the meeting, 3 Trustees, including himself, had indicated their wish to stand to be re-elected to the Board of Trustees. There were no other nominations and the Chairman proposed that Sayadul Khaled, Glen McGhee and himself were elected unopposed. This was agreed by all present.

Speakers

Hanneke Cusell from The Netherlands, a long-time friend and volunteer at CRP, spoke about her visit and her involvement with patients who were taking part in wheelchair dancing and puppetry. Her report is printed below.

Alauddin, a therapist who studied and trained at BHPI in Savar spoke about how he is working in the NHS in the UK. He mentioned how CRP trained therapists are helping patients in this country and worldwide and said that there were 85 therapists, who were trained at CRP, currently working in the NHS.

Valerie Taylor was the final speaker and provided an update on CRP's activities, programs and future plans. She once again explained how the organisation assists in the treatment, care and rehabilitation of disabled individuals in Bangladesh and she thanked VTT's Trustees and supporters for their on-going help and support to CRP.

Please note this date and CHANGE OF VENUE in your diaries NOW,

Invitation to Annual Supporters' Meeting

You are all cordially invited to the

2026 Annual Supporters' Meeting at

St. Cyprian's Church, Clarence Gate, Glentworth St, London NW1 6AX

on **Saturday 9th May, 2025 at 2.00pm.**

A light lunch will be available from 1.00pm.

and we look forward to seeing you.

NB. This location is off Park Road at the junction with Ivor Place, a short distance from the opposite end of Rossmore Road to St. Pauls.

Wheelchair dancing and puppetry at CRP – Hanneke Cusell

Last March I had some wonderful weeks at CRP and I was given the opportunity to delve into wheelchair dancing and puppetry - two different, but certainly not unknown, activities at CRP. On various occasions, in the past, some staff members performed with wheelchair dancing. Puppet shows have also been held in the past, but not on a regular basis.

Both activities could use some attention. For wheelchair dancing, this was because the class for in-patients, which had been started in 2023, was meeting some problems. Also Minu, the group leader, and some other group members had expressed a wish to perform as a group more frequently and at a higher level. The aim for the puppetry was to revive it, as this activity had declined in recent years for various reasons. Also Mukta, the group leader, and some other puppeteers, had a desire to start a regular puppet group that would perform on specific occasions.

Benefits of wheelchair dancing and puppetry

Wheelchair dancing helps you, for example, to feel good physically; it helps you to stay fit and to improve your balance, but it also helps you to feel good mentally. It can also encourage other people with a disability to do something.

Puppets can help to raise awareness about topics like road safety or pressure sore prevention, whilst also providing fun and entertainment. In therapeutic settings puppets can help to improve language skills, creativity, social skills, listening skills, finger movements, eye contact, and more.

Discussions and proposals

First the problems and possible solutions were discussed in meetings with staff members involved. These were followed by discussions with the relevant staff members in charge. The puppet group received much inspiration during a visit to Dr. Rashid Haroon, director of the Jahangirnagar University Puppet Group, in his puppet making studio.

Based on these discussions proposals were written to improve these activities. Some proposals for the wheelchair dancing are allowing group members regular time to practice; organizing a training camp twice a year for four or five days; and investigating the costs of a stage with a smooth surface. The total budget is approximately BDT 300.000 (£2,130) excluding the costs of repairing the present stage or building a new one.

Proposals for the puppet group include: establishing a regular group; allowing Mukta and Parveen to attend a five-day puppet-making workshop; allowing members two hours per week to practice; and giving members time to perform when needed. The total estimated budget is about BDT 77.000 (£ 550).

From plans to implementation

CRP has reviewed both proposals and assessed their feasibility for implementation at CRP. It was decided that CRP should have a central cultural committee, on which both the wheelchair dancing group and the puppet group will perform. Once all the plans are finalized, these activities can hopefully begin soon. However, their actual implementation will also depend largely on the availability of funding.



GLASGOW FUNDRAISER EVENT



On mid-summer day 2025, myself, Glen McGhee and Valerie Taylor, were invited by the Bangladesh Association Glasgow chair, Mr Sarwar Hassan, pictured above, to see a wonderful play being held in Glasgow on the tall ship, The Glenlee. The ship was built, with three masts, on the Clyde river in Greenock, in the late part of the 19th century. It is now berthed next to the Glasgow transport museum.

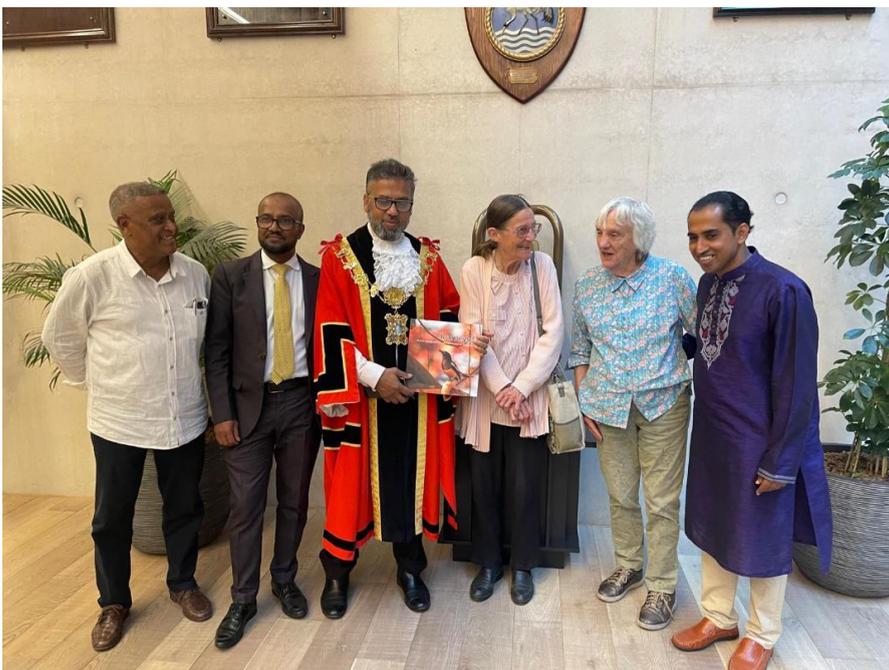
The play is a forgotten part of our history about the South Asian Mariners who worked below deck in the ships carrying raw material from the Indian continent to Great Britain in the 19th and early 20th century.

The play called 'Lascars' is a great insight into the South Asian men who worked in this hard life. The play was well received and with its performance on the lower decks of the ship, it had a wonderful authentic feel.

After the play we were treated to an amazing Bangladeshi meal, at the end of which there was an auction of posters of the play, which raised £700 for VTT.

Glen McGhee, VTT Trustee

RECEPTION AT TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL



On 6th August, 2025, Valerie Taylor was invited to attend a civil reception at the Speaker's Office of Tower Hamlets Council in London. Valerie presented the Speaker with a copy of Journeys 4 – The Experiences of real-life Rana Plaza survivors.

Mokhtar Hussain, VTT Chairman and Sayadul Khaled, Treasurer, also attended along with Susan Wates, a long-standing supporter of Valerie and CRP.

FUNDRAISING OCCASIONS

Once again, this year, Trustees have been involved in the organisation of Fundraising Events, a Summary of which are below.



Brian Woodgate, VTT Administrator, once again, arranged a Curry Evening at the Taj of Kent Restaurant in Marden, Kent on Wednesday 11th June, which was attended by 34 supporters and friends who enjoyed a great meal. A raffle was held.

We were pleased to welcome Valerie, who was unable to attend last year, and she thanked everyone for their continued support before giving an update on the activities and news from CRP. Proceeds for the event amounted to **£690.00**.

Our chairman, **Mokhtar Hussain (Khokon) and Md Shahinoor Islam** (Secretary) arranged a very successful Curry Evening at the Chutney Ivy Restaurant in Leicester, in conjunction with the owner and supporter, Shaf Islam, to celebrate the award of a CBE to Valerie. 60 guests including Valerie and VTT Administrator, Brian Woodgate, attended and were served a plentiful meal which was much appreciated. The guests were addressed by Brian, Valerie, Khokon, Shaf and others before Shaf hosted a very successful raffle, with many prizes donated by local businesses etc. Proceeds of the evening included some generous donations and amounted to **over £2400**.

Sayadul Khaled, our Treasurer, along with Trustees Jahangir Alam, Aysha Akther and Karim Miah, organized another Special Charity Dinner, in honour of Valerie, at the Eva Restaurant, Goodmayes, Essex on 27th July. This was another well attended, successful event with a number of pledges made for donations.

ALSO

On Saturday 2nd August, alumni of the Bangladesh Health Professions Institute at CRP Savar, who are now employed in the UK, arranged a get-together in London. Also invited to attend the gathering were Valerie Taylor, Mokhtar Hussain, VTT Chairman and Sayadul Khaled, VTT Treasurer. There are about 84 former students now employed in the UK and it is hoped that more of them will become members/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

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

CRP SIGNS MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

CRP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Generous Company Limited (GCL) of Japan to enhance rehabilitation services in Bangladesh. After a feasibility study, both parties agreed to collaborate in three key areas: **Training, Conference, and Education.**

CRP's Founder, Valerie Taylor; Executive Director Dr. Mohammad Sohrab Hossain; and GCL's Physiotherapy Consultant, Akira Ito, signed the MoU, while GCL's CEO, Miki Koyama, joined the event virtually.

Through this partnership, CRP and GCL will facilitate the exchange of rehabilitation experts, staff, and important information. They aim to advance rehabilitation sciences and apply research findings not only in Bangladesh and Japan but also globally.



The following article describes a further signing of an MoU by CRP with The Europe Bangladesh Federation of Commerce and Industry.

Europe Bangladesh Federation partners with CRP to support disadvantaged communities

Daily Sun Report, Dhaka

The Europe Bangladesh Federation of Commerce and Industry (EBFCI) and the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together for better healthcare and rehabilitation of disadvantaged communities in Bangladesh.

EBFCI Country Director Mohammad Ali and CRP Executive Director Prof Dr Mohammad Sohrab Hossain signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organisations in the capital on Monday.

CRP Founder Valerie Ann Taylor; EBFCI President Dr Wali Tasar Uddin; EBFCI Managing Director (UK) Salim Sharif; and EBFCI Director Md Salauddin Chowdhury, were present among others on the occasion.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Dr Wali said the partnership marks a milestone in fostering international cooperation for the betterment of Bangladesh's healthcare and rehabilitation sectors.

"Both parties will jointly plan and

deliver health projects through project management and consultancy support. The collaboration will also facilitate professional and student exchange programmes within Bangladesh and abroad," he said.

He added that these initiatives will promote knowledge sharing, best-practice exchange and skill development across various health and rehabilitation disciplines.

"Since founding CRP in 1979, our mission has been to serve people affected by traumatic injuries and disabilities. Today, nearly one lakh people receive services from CRP each year through 13 centers across Bangladesh," said Valerie.

CRP currently employs around 1,200 professionals, including doctors, nurses, and rehabilitation specialists, across centers in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chattogram, Barishal, Manikganj, and Pabna.

"We aim to expand our reach nationwide to ensure better treatment and rehabilitation for all disadvantaged communities in Bangladesh," Valerie added.



Members of the EBFCI during their visit to CRP

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another. "Erma Bombeck"

ERROL DOOBAY

In the year 2004, Allan Doobay and his friend Jean Waller came as volunteers at CRP. Allan as an IT system analyst, decided to teach the kids about computing. So he decided to look what facilities CRP had and then he then made a list on how to start the IT room. Allan made a plan to come back to CRP in 2006 on his birthday. Unfortunately, Allan died and his father Mr. Errol Doobay knew nothing about CRP or Allan's plan until he met Jean Waller. Jean Waller sat with Mr. Errol Doobay and explained that they two had worked together. So Allan's dad decided then to come to Bangladesh to visit CRP to assess the situation. On arrival at CRP, Errol was shocked to find that CRP has 3 dialup modems for its whole establishment.

Errol then decided to have a look around to see if there was any paper work related to IT department of CRP. He found that Allan had made a list of tasks to be done. Errol then decided to make phone calls around the list which was left by Allan. But nobody was answering since it was Friday, and Friday is a holiday in Bangladesh. After a while, he managed to talk to a representative from dhakacom. After speaking to dhakacom, they informed Errol that they knew CRP and they gave an estimate of just below £600. After some negotiation with dhakacom, Errol got them to agree £300. Then they provided the installation. Dhakacom came as promised and installed the fiber, and Errol travelled from London to meet Mr. Deepu from dhakacom to start the first installation of PCs and the IT equipment that he brought from London.

The first priority was the computer school, which he had supplied with some PCs and one 24 Netgear switch. By this time he enlisted the help of his life time college friend, Mr. Tim McCombie at Twickenham, London. This was a valuable audio visible link between the IT room at CRP and the IT room. The system was setup in such a way that, at anytime, they at Twickenham could look at the CRP system and carry out any repair and update they needed. In the year of 2011 Errol and Ceasar talked with dhakacom to expand the fiber network to all important departments. We hope this expansion will make life easy for the important people at CRP and also supply wireless connection for all volunteers. CRP is very lucky to have a good IT officer in Ceasar and he has an excellent relationship with Tim to whom he has spoken several times, Garry Doobay who is a specialist of Antivirus, and also Dipu from dhakacom. Ceasar knows that these guys are only a phone call away and can resolve problems that he can't solve. The future of the IT department looks very good because at November we (Errol and his team) are starting to build a new IT department, and, hopefully, it will be able to provide good support to all sites for CRP's information technology. Things for 2012 are to make sure the vocational studies function 100% by supplying from London several pieces of test equipment which will be beyond CRP financial control. He is still working to develop CRP IT infrastucture. He provided printers at several departments. He brought some good quality Multimeter and tools for the Electronics Training room. He developed wheelchair accessible garden. He is working to develop a Hydrotherapy pool for CRP.

Would you be willing to spare the occasional hour or so to help us?

VTT needs a few Area Co-ordinators to circulate information and newsletters (2 per year), 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).

Please help us to keep our costs down and save time. Each year, we get a number of newsletters and pieces of correspondence returned because contact details have changed.

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 AS REQUIRED BY LAW. Thank you.

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

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

A membership form is attached, which not only enables you to become a member, but also enables you make a donation, create a Standing Order for regular payments through your bank and to authorize us to reclaim tax against your donations at no cost to you, eg. We would get 25p refunded by the Government for every £1 donated.



HELPING THE DISABLED POOR AND THEIR FAMILIES

- I enclose a cheque for £ ... payable to Valerie Taylor Trust.
I would like to join the Valerie Taylor Trust. (Please tick as appropriate)

In order to become a member, at least £25 per Year or £2 per Month must be given as a donation. You do not need to be a member to donate to the Valerie Taylor Trust, but being a member entitles you to regular updates on news and information and voting rights at the Annual General Meeting.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr ...)
Address
Postcode
Contact Telephone Number
Email

STANDING ORDER DETAILS

#Your bank Bank / Building Society
#Address of bank Postcode
#Account name (usually your own name)
#Account No. Bank Sort Code Full details required

To the Manager: Please pay to HSBC, Guildford, Surrey for the credit of Valerie Taylor Trust,
Account Number 3122 5227, Sort Code 40-28-29,
IBAN (International Banking Account Number) GB96HBUK40282931225227
the sum of £ starting on ^ / / (date) and on the same date each *month/year
after that until asked to stop. ^ Starting date to be at least 4 weeks after date form signed.

Please tick if paying by cheque :-
monthly
or annually

Signature Date^

[BANK - PLEASE QUOTE] *DELETE AS APPROPRIATE

GIFT AID DECLARATION

- I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify
I wish all future donations to VTT to be under the Gift Aid Scheme
I do not pay tax or sufficient tax to enable it to be reclaimed

PLEASE TICK AND SIGN RELEVANT SECTIONS

Signature Date

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

DATA PROTECTION - Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998, which were superceded by the EU General Data Protection Regulations 2018 on 25th May, 2018, Valerie Taylor Trust is required to ensure that any Personal Data obtained in connection with membership, making financial donations or giving support to the Trust is held securely, is accurate, is relevant and used only for the purposes for which it was given. By providing your Personal Data to VTT, this is accepted as consent for VTT to use the data for the relevant purposes. Consent for any of these purposes may be withdrawn by writing to the Administrator at the address shown. The full Privacy Statement may be viewed on the VTT website - www.valerietaylortrust.org

Please send all of this form to:

The Administrator, Valerie Taylor Trust, 4 Wilberforce Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 4HA

Tel: 01622 743011 E-mail: admin@valerietaylortrust.org Web: www.valerietaylortrust.org

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