

NEEM TREE TRUST 2005/2006

Many local organisations and businesses as well as individuals generously donated gifts for the disabled boys' home which I took out with me when I visited in January this year. Fitzmaurice Primary School, Bradford on Avon and Lloyds Bank TSB donated colourful t-shirts and school bags, Early Learning Centre, Trowbridge; Tridias of Bath and Quire in Bradford on Avon gave various gifts including polystyrene aeroplanes, card games and pencil cases.



Many of the younger boys at the home have mild cerebral palsy and some have learning difficulties. Because of the vulnerability of these children, Dr Karuna Chelliah and his Board of Directors decided that the some of the money donated by the Neem Tree Trust to the boys' home last year, should be used to commission the building of a security wall around the campus to keep

the children safe from trespassers. During my visit in January this year the foundations of the wall were being dug out and by the time I visit again in November the wall be will be finished. Apart from paying for this major expense, Dr Karuna Chelliah has also used Neem Tree Trust donations to extend the cow sheds in the dairy farm, pay for an educational trip for the boys to Mumbai, as well as assist the boys when it is time for them to leave the home and return to their villages.



FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

We have had another successful fundraising year. Our annual letter sent out in June 2005 inviting supporters to join the lottery club and/or to make a donation to the boys' home amounted to donations of over £4,000.

It is the aim of The Neem Tree Trust to involve the boys as much as possible in raising money for themselves and we are therefore delighted to report that £2,612 was raised from the sale of goods made by the boys as well as the sale of Neem products.

We received donations from the following businesses and organisations:

Coco Appeal Trust
Currie Kirk
Mitre Construction
Teaching & Projects Abroad



The Neem Tree Trust helps support children of leprosy patients at St Luke's Hospital in Peikulam, Tamil Nadu and also sponsors a bed in the women's ward at the hospital. Pictured on the right is Mrs Panjavarnam who occupied the bed when I visited St Luke's in January. She has a young son and contracted leprosy when she was pregnant. Thanks to the treatment she is receiving at St Luke's she will soon be completely cured.



On the left are some of the children from St Luke's pictured with Jesu Raj, Mr Mohammed Yoosuf, a mat maker and his wife, Seyad Ali Fathima. He is an ex-patient at St Luke's who has been cured of leprosy. He lives in the village of Paththamadai, which is famous throughout India for mat weaving. He and the children are displaying a beautiful wall hanging which he has hand woven especially for The Neem Tree Trust.



St Luke's have a number of supporters in Scotland, the Isle of Wight and elsewhere, who have visited the hospital at Peikulam and, like myself, have been very moved and impressed by the work Dr Jeyabalan and his team do in curing patients who are suffering from this disease and teaching them how disability can be prevented through self-care. They made donations specifically for the Leprosy Hospital through The Neem Tree Trust which amounted to over £7,000.

The Neem Tree Trust were at the following local events during the year:

- Health & Wellbeing, BonAvon
- W.I. Market, Bradford on Avon
- Winsley School Fayre
- Dorothy House, Winsley
- Bath University
- Halloween Fayre, Bath
- Monkton Farleigh School Fayre
- Winsley Village Project
- Winsley Project Book Sale
- Bath Christmas Market
- Woolley Festival, BonA
- Gathering in the Garden, BonAvon
- One World Supper, BonAvon
- St Laurence Street Party, BonAvon

A number of our supporters also held fundraising events:

- Gastard Ladies Group organised a Skittles Evening
- Sue Pearson held an Indian Evening at her home in Trowbridge
- Janet Jones held an Indian Evening at her home in Bratton

Total income from all fundraising events during the year was £1,987.



Kathy gave talks to the following groups:

- St Luke's Prime Time Lunch Club, Bath
- Trowbridge Townwomen's Guild
- Melksham Wives
- Steve Biddle Alms Houses, Salisbury
- Longmeadow School, Trowbridge
- Little Somerford WI
- Corsham CSRF
- Weston Townwomen's Guild
- Fitzmaurice Place, BonAvon
- Salvation Army, Bath
- Calne National Women's Register
- Bath Baptist Women's Fellowship
- Corsham Mothers' Union
- Melksham Mothers' Union
- Oldfield Park Methodist Church

We have found that this is an excellent way of spreading the word about the boys' home and the children at St Luke's Hospital and the talks raised £1383 this year.