



THE NEEM TREE TRUST NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2013

This is the 10th Anniversary of the foundation of The Neem Tree Trust and we would like to say a big **THANK YOU** for helping us over the years to raise funds for the Boys' Home in Tirunelveli and St Luke's Leprosy Hospital in Peikulam.

The following groups invited us to speak at their meetings during the year April 2012 - March 2013. These talks raised £3498 in donations and sales of goods. It was a pleasure to meet you all and we would like to thank you for your interest and support.

Chilcompton Wives
Sutton Benger Knitters
Freshford Women's Institute
Bath Inner Wheel
Tuesday Club Bishops Cannings
Wesley Road Trowbridge Methodist Church
Bradford on Avon Rotary Club
Ivy Bank House Residential Home, Bath
Lovemead Ladies Group, Trowbridge
Bath City Townswomen's Guild
Seend Church
Sunny Gardens Day Centre, Frome
Royal British Legion Women's Section, Bristol
St Lawrence Day Centre, Tuesday Group, Wells
St James' Church Trowbridge Mothers' Union
Beaufort Townswomen's Guild Bath
Henton & District Women's Institute
Box Methodist Wesley Guild
Bath Fosseway Townswomen's Guild
Timsbury Wives



Men's Social Group United Church, B on Avon
Paulton K.I.T. Club
Midsomer Norton Inner Wheel
Pewsham Women's Institute
Farmborough Women's Institute.
Ladies Guild Wick
Little Somerford Women's Institute
Woodside Women's Institute
Southwick Seniors, Trowbridge
Wellsway Townswomen's Guild
St Lawrence Day Centre Wednesday Club, Wells
Bath University, Pharmacy & Pharmacology Dept
Ladies Who Lunch, The Bear Hotel, Devizes
Rotary Club Taunton
Rotary Club of Somer Valley, Radstock
Larkhall Ladies Afternoon Circle
Kingswood Methodist Church Wesley Guild
St James Wives Group
Pandy Village People, Abergavenny



During the year The Neem Tree Trust was represented at the following events:

Heather's Coffee Morning, Pewsham
Keynsham Homemakers Cheese and Wine evening
Keynsham Homemakers Coffee morning
Keynsham Homemakers Cream Tea
Mead Nursery Open Day
Mike & Alison's Coffee Morning, Winsley

Nick Gale's 50th Birthday Celebration, Bath
Rotary 1200 District Conference Bath
Rowdeford School Fete
Seend Church Fete
WI Federation International Day India, Melksham

The above events generated £3452 and £320 came from other miscellaneous sales.

The following organisations generously made donations to The Neem Tree Trust amounting to £3,725.

Bradford on Avon Rotary Club
Inner Wheel Bath
Merchiston Castle School,
Edinburgh
Oakley Holidays, Rugby
Projects Abroad, Goring, Sussex



Westfield House, St Laurence School, B on Avon
St Nicholas Church, Winsley
Stephen Clark Trust, Bath
Taunton Rotary Club
Wiltshire Friendly Society



We claimed Gift Aid of £3095 from the Inland Revenue on donations from UK taxpayers.

In August 2012 we sent out our annual newsletter to supporters giving them an update on the children's progress and inviting them to make a donation to The Neem Tree Trust for the benefit of the children at the Boys' Home and the patients and children at the Leprosy Hospital. Donations from individuals and organisations for both the Boys' Home and St Luke's, including regular standing orders, amounted to £29,382. This includes the £3725 mentioned above.

SCHT BOYS' HOME

During the financial year 2012/2013 the Trust provided a grant of £21,400 to the SCHT Boys' Home, which paid for:

- Assistance with welfare and preparation for employment when the boys return to their villages after leaving the home.
- Renovation of the Study Hall, now renamed the Dr Karuna Chelliah Memorial Hall.
- Improvements to the buildings and facilities on the campus.
- Educational trips for the children.

Kathy visited the SCHT Boys' Home in October 2012 and again in February 2013. Each time she stayed for four weeks and during that time was delighted to see both the improvements at the home and the development of the boys. Kathy had consultations with Mrs Princess Karuna Chelliah and her Board of Directors regarding future needs at the home.



Siva Perumal lives at the Boys' Home and is studying 4th Std

Last year Kathy wrote in her letter to supporters that Dr Karuna Chelliah, founder of the SCHT Disabled Boys' Home, had died suddenly and that she would like to establish a garden at the Boys' Home in memory of Dr Chelliah. In the event she was advised by his widow, Mrs Princess, that the area is heavily dependent on monsoon rains, and is prone to droughts when the monsoons fail, which has happened frequently in recent years. It was therefore decided that donations given for a memorial garden should be put towards the renovation of the Study Hall, which has now been renamed the Dr Karuna Chelliah Memorial Hall. Not only do the children now have a much improved area in which to study but it is also a fitting memorial to the compassionate doctor who dedicated his life to enriching their lives.



Compassion growing in our garden at Avoncliff

This is a very practical memorial but we wanted to cherish the memory of Dr Karuna Chelliah in a more intimate and personal way so we have planted a rose in our garden at Avoncliff. The name of the rose is Compassion, which is the meaning in Sanskrit of Karuna, and is a fragrant and vigorous climbing rose, which will climb to three metres. Already it is flourishing and it will be a constant reminder to us of this very special man.

When we give talks about The Neem Tree Trust in and around Wiltshire we often meet ladies who are keen knitters and very happy to knit hand puppets for the children in India. The children treasure these "little friends" and they keep them in their tin box along with their other few belongings. If there are other ladies out there who would like to help us in this way please get in touch with Kathy.



Children showing off their puppets



Working in the vegetable garden

When the rainy season does occur in Tirunelveli the garden at the home is a profusion of wonderful vegetables which the boys help to plant, harvest and eventually eat.

ST LUKE'S LEPROSY HOSPITAL

Kathy visited St Luke's Leprosy Hospital in February 2013 and met with the patients and the dedicated workers. She toured both the male and female wards and saw for herself the beds that are sponsored by the donors, and the ongoing work being carried out to care for the patients. At the time of her visit there were 40 female and 110 male inpatients. She also met Dr John Immanuel, the new dentist, who is available to treat in-patients as well as people living in the nearby villages.

One of the main needs of St Luke's is money for feeding up to 170 inpatients, children and staff. Feeding 170 lives, 3 times a day, 365 days a year is a constant and challenging task and many supporters donate funds to feed all the patients and staff on a particular day, often in memory or in honour of a loved one. The names of the donors are listed in the main Dining Hall.

Running a 100 bedded hospital with patients, most of them requiring daily dressing and even assistance to carry out simple tasks like eating or going to the bathroom, is mainly done by the medical staff and assistants. They have dedicated their life's work to St Luke's - some of them for well over 25 years and they work for a meagre salary.



Dr John Immanuel, Dentist



Mrs Freeda Salomi, Staff Nurse at St Luke's



Mrs Shehupath, a long term patient at St Luke's

You can support the work of St Luke's in a variety of ways either through the feeding programme, or by bed, child or staff sponsorship. To find out more visit their new website at www.leprosarium.org. Donations can be made through the Neem Tree Trust.

It is believed by many that leprosy has been eradicated, but sadly this is not the case and the struggle is on going. There is still a lot to be done and in fact numbers are rising. St Luke's detected 45 new cases in their outpatients department in 2012, compared to 25 the previous year and Dr Haebus, the Medical Superintendent, has recently informed me that 50 cases have been detected in the first six months of this year.



Some of the patients outside the women's ward at St Luke's

Globally, funding for leprosy is on the decline but we are happy to report that during the financial year 2012/2013 The Neem Tree Trust provided a grant of £11,625 to St Luke's Leprosy Hospital. Future projects at St Luke's are the construction of a study hall for students and a biogas plant for the kitchen.

NEEM TREE - WHAT'S IN A NAME?

How did we choose the name for our charity? Neem has been labelled the wonder tree of the humid tropics and in India there are said to be more than 20 million Neem trees. Every part of the Neem tree has been used in traditional medicine in India. Neem oil, as well as leaf and bark extracts, have anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antioxidant and antifungal properties. Since her first visit Kathy has admired the beautiful Neem trees growing at the Boys' Home and at St Luke's Leprosy Hospital, hence in 2003 when we were searching for a name for our embryonic charity, The Neem Tree Trust seemed a perfect fit.



Our friend, Theresa Hewat, a graphic designer, created our logo when we became a UK Registered Charity in 2003. Theresa's design was inspired by a drawing by Krishnamoorthy, one of the boys at the home in Tirunelveli. Kathy had asked each boy to draw a picture of the beautiful Neem trees that surround the campus and she brought the drawings back home with her and gave them to Theresa. Theresa selected Krishnamoorthy's drawing because of its simple charm and the fact that it could be easily adapted to form the logo for The Neem Tree Trust.

NEEM TREE TRUST WRAPPING PAPER @ TILLIONS

Tillions is a family run business in Bradford-on-Avon with a stunning collection of fine china, crystal, cutlery and cookware. For some time now Caroline has stocked our Neem Tree Trust "Birds of Peace" wrapping paper based on designs drawn by the children in India and we are very grateful to Tillions for their support. For a really personal shopping experience, including a gift wrapping service, do visit the shop in The Shambles or contact Caroline via their website at www.tillions.co.uk.



Caroline with our Neem Tree Trust wrapping paper



Rob with one of the bottle covers he sells in his shop

RUBY RED WINE CELLARS

Ruby Red is an independent wine merchant in Bradford-on-Avon owned and run by Rob Hunt.

Rob supports us by selling our wine bottle gift bags made by the boys at the home. He sells over 90 local ales, cider from the barrel, as well as stocking over 50 different whiskies. If you buy a case of wine from Ruby Red he offers free delivery within about a 10-mile radius. Visit his welcoming wine store at 4 Silver Street and see what he has to offer.

NICK'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

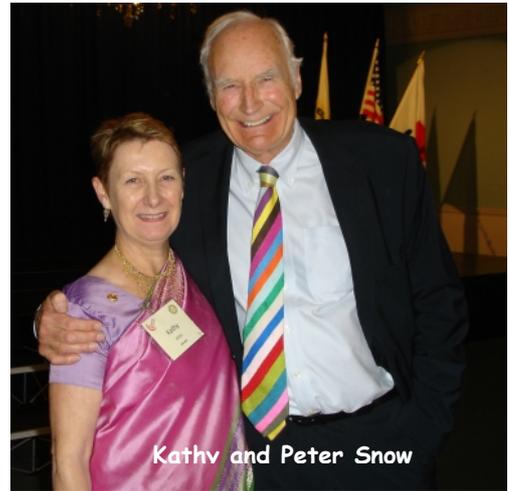


We first met Nick Gale at a Bath Rotary Club meeting in 2010 and since then he has been a great supporter of our charity. "Carry On Up The Khyber" was the theme of Nick's fancy dress party held in Bath on 26th January to celebrate his 50th Birthday and instead of presents Nick asked his guests to make a donation to The Neem Tree Trust and Kathy brought some of the outfits back from India especially for the event. Everyone had a really fantastic evening and the occasion raised over £500. Many thanks Nick and Carry On Partyng!!



ROTARY CONFERENCE BATH

In October Peter Noble, then District Governor of Rotary District 1200, invited Kathy to give a presentation about the Boys' Home to the Rotary Conference at the Bath Assembly Rooms. Peter's theme for the Conference was "Challenge" and Kathy was able to talk to the delegates about the challenges facing the boys in overcoming the effects of polio, as well as the challenges she faced when she first went to India in 1999. We would like to thank Peter Noble for giving us this opportunity to talk about how The Neem Tree Trust operates and to thank the delegates for their very warm and encouraging welcome. After the Conference several Rotary Clubs in District 1200 invited us to visit their clubs and have made generous donations. Kathy would also like to thank Rotary for giving her the opportunity of sharing a platform with Peter Snow who told some hilarious stories about the challenges of live television broadcasting including stories about his famous Election Night Swingometer!



Kathy and Peter Snow

PARALYMPICS

On the Official Website of the Paralympic Movement it says: "The Paralympic Games is about ability, not disability - and are about what people can do, not what they can't do" We were all moved and inspired by the Paralympic Games last summer, just as Kathy is each year when she visits the Boys' Home in India. Kathy's brother, Dave, his partner José and their family, who have been supporters of our charity since the very beginning, were lucky enough to get tickets for one of the events and bought the Paralympic flag, bunting and mascot for the boys in India. The flag travelled over 5,000 miles with Kathy the following October and as you can see the boys were delighted and inspired with their souvenirs.



José with the Paralympic Flag



Michelle, José and Dave outside the Olympic Stadium



Trevor, Michelle, Dave, José, Sonya and George



The boys showing off the Paralympic mascot, flag and bunting

INDIAN BUS TICKETS

Why is a Morris Dancer featured in our newsletter?!! John Helsdon first wrote to Kathy in 1999 when he read in the Bath Chronicle that she was going to India for three months as a volunteer. He told her that as well as dancing with the Bathampton Morris Men, he had another unusual hobby and that was collecting bus and train tickets from all over the world. Kathy was more than happy to help him to increase his collection and although rather bemused at first, the boys at the home have, over the years, enthusiastically collected bus tickets (some in better condition than others!) for Kathy to take back to England for "Mr John", who has generously made a donation each year to enable Kathy to give a treat to the boys, so a tradition which started 14 years ago continues to this day. We are sure that John would be delighted to receive other tickets from far-flung places around the world and if you have any spare Kathy would be happy to pass them on to him.



John as
"The Fool"

MIKE AND ALISON'S COFFEE MORNING



Pippa Tate was one of the lucky winners of the tombola held at Mike & Alison's Coffee Morning last November. She won a Fairtrade hamper donated by the Co-op Store on the Winsley Road, Bradford-on-Avon. The Coffee Morning, which is now a firm fixture in the Neem Tree Trust diary, was once again a great success raising almost £1,000. This year's Coffee Morning will be held on 3rd October at 22 Late Broads, Winsley between 10.00am - 12 noon and everyone is welcome.

KEYNSHAM SUPPORTERS

The Neem Tree Trust was the chosen charity last year of the Keynsham Homemakers, a ladies' group who meet every month at the Baptist Church in Keynsham High Street. We have given a number of talks to this group over recent years and we are very grateful to all the ladies for supporting us so enthusiastically. During the year their fundraising included a coffee morning, cheese and wine evening and a cream tea afternoon all of which raised over £500. One of the members of the group who has recently retired approached her ex-employer on behalf of our charity and they donated a further £1,000.

Another Keynsham group, the Queen's Road Ladies, sent us a cheque for £500, to be split equally between the Boys' Home and St Luke's Leprosy Hospital. We feel very privileged when we are selected as a group's charity for the year and are always amazed at the amount of money that is raised by small enthusiastic groups of people.



HILARY MODELLING A SARI
AT THE AFTERNOON TEA

SCHOOL SUPPORT

In 2009 the students of Westfield House at St Laurence School, Bradford-on-Avon, voted for The Neem Tree Trust to be their chosen charity and we are delighted that four years later the students are continuing to raise funds for the children we support in India through non-uniform days and other events.

Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh is an independent boys' boarding school which has generously supported The Neem Tree Trust since one of their ex-pupils visited St Luke's Leprosy Hospital some years ago.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYBODY FOR THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE GIVEN US OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS. YOU HAVE HELPED US ENRICH THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN IN INDIA AND ENCOURAGED THEM TO MAKE THEIR OWN WAY IN THE WORLD.