



THE NEEM TREE TRUST NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2016

Thank you very much for the support you have given us in raising funds for the Boys' Home in Tirunelveli and St Luke's Leprosy Hospital, Peikulam. During our Financial Year April 2015 - March 2016 The Neem Tree Trust was represented at the following events:

Charity sale in Bradford on Avon
John Kendall's stalls at Rowdeforde School Fete and
The Mead Nursery, Brokerswood
Mike & Alison's Coffee Morning, Winsley
Lyn and Fraser's Christmas Fayre, Chapmanslade
John Kendall's Christmas stall, Seend

The above events generated just over £5,500.



The Boys at the home sporting their Neem Tree Trust caps donated by ABR Co Ltd, Trowbridge

Donations in memory of loved ones are very special gifts and are deeply appreciated by our charity. It is a wonderful way to celebrate someone's life and we were very grateful to the family of John Hall, a Rotarian at Somer Valley Rotary Club, who asked for contributions in John's memory to be donated to The Neem Tree Trust. John and the members of the Somer Valley Rotary Club in Radstock have supported our charity for many years.

TWO LOCAL ROTARY CLUBS SUPPORT THE NEEM TREE TRUST



India was long considered the most difficult place to end polio due to its population density, high migration rates, poor sanitation, high birth rates, and low rates of routine immunisation. Thanks largely to **Rotary International** and the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, India reported its last case of polio in 2011. The eradication of polio in India is heralded as one of the biggest achievements in global health efforts.

Last summer Laurence Kettle, then Chairman of the International Committee of **Somer Valley Rotary Club**, presented a donation of £500 to Kathy Miller for The Neem Tree Trust. We were extremely fortunate to also receive a further donation of £500 from the **Bradford-on-Avon Rotary Club**. Both Rotary Clubs have been supporters of our charity for a number of years and we would like to thank them very much for their continuing interest and encouragement. These donations made a significant contribution towards two projects at the boys' home, which enabled us to purchase a new mini-bus to take the boys to and from their schools which are located 15 kms away, and to install solar panels for heating water.

SCHT BOYS HOME

During our Financial Year 2015/2016 the Trust provided a grant of £20,304 to the SCHT Boys' Home to pay for:

- Assistance with welfare and rehabilitation when the boys return to their villages after leaving the home.
- Assistance for boys who are studying further education at college.
- Improvements to the buildings and facilities on the campus, including the bathroom and toilet facilities
- Improvements to the Senior Warden's accommodation.



Kathy Miller visited the SCHT Boys' Home in January 2016 and stayed with the children for one month. Over 50 boys, who had been affected by polio and had lived at the home for most of their childhood, came and enjoyed what is proving to be an annual reunion. Many came with their wives and children and some brought along trophies they had won in local "paralympics", organised in the nearby town of Tirunelveli. All of them expressed their gratitude to Dr Karuna Chelliah, who founded the home and who had inspired them to **"Look up at the stars and not down at your feet"**. As you can see from the pictures above, their inspiration also came from the London Paralympics and the Neem Tree Trust supporters who, in 2012, sent them the DVD of the event, the Paralympic flag and mascots.

IN THE PINK

REFURBISHMENTS OF THE BATHROOM AND TOILET FACILITIES AND SENIOR WARDEN'S ACCOMMODATION AT THE BOYS' HOME



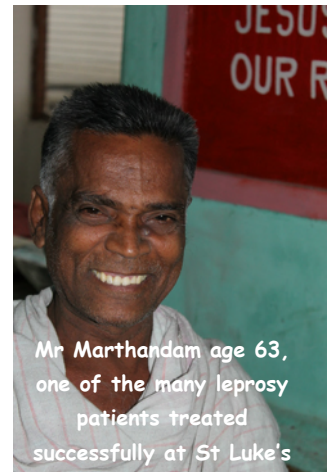
During Kathy's visit to the home in January she suggested to Mrs Princess and her Board Members that The Neem Tree Trust could fund the cost of overhauling the toilet and bathroom facilities at the home, as well as renovating the senior warden's accommodation. We are very happy to report that this work is now completed and the boys now have much improved bathroom and toilet facilities and Senior Warden, Mr Dhina, his wife Glory and two small daughters, Gladys and Sally, are delighted with their renovated home.

Everyone at the SCHAT Boys' Home are extremely grateful to the supporters of The Neem Tree Trust for raising sufficient funds to complete this very necessary work on the campus.

ST LUKE'S LEPROSY HOSPITAL

Leprosy is an infectious disease caused by the bacillus *Mycobacterium lepra* and is spread as a droplet infection. Like many other infections, leprosy can be treated with antibiotics. Treatment can take from six months to a year, sometimes longer. Most people will never develop the disease even if they are exposed to the bacteria. Approximately 95% of the world population has a natural immunity to leprosy. Nonetheless, leprosy can affect people of any age or sex, including infants, and leprosy affliction among men and women is in the ratio of 2:1. Leprosy usually starts as a patch on the skin, but it can also attack the nerves and damage them. If leprosy is left untreated this nerve damage can lead to problems in the face, hands and feet - but if treated early most of the permanent damage can be prevented. Many of the social problems associated with leprosy could also be avoided by treating cases early.

The medical world declared that leprosy had been eradicated. This means that the prevalence of leprosy is less than 1 in 10,000 population, and specialist centres in India were closed down. Leprosy now is being addressed in health centres but new cases are being diagnosed and treated and old cases need follow up. Rehabilitation and occupational therapy are still part of the after care system of treating leprosy. The struggle is ongoing and there is still a lot to be done.



Mr Marthandam age 63, one of the many leprosy patients treated successfully at St Luke's



Mrs Iyyammal age 70, treated at St Luke's and sponsored by The Neem Tree Trust

Funding for leprosy is on the decline, because someone somewhere is using the word, "eradicated". This is the major handicap in organising projects for leprosy patients and in treating and rehabilitating them because it is falsely understood that leprosy has been wiped out.

The most disastrous effect of leprosy is neglect and rejection due to ignorance and superstition, fueled by unawareness or unavailability of medical treatment.

Through The Neem Tree Trust, supporters of St Luke's have

made donations towards the feeding programme set up at the hospital for the benefit of the in-patients and their children as well as sponsoring individual children. During our Financial Year 2015/2016 the Trust provided a grant of £12,000 to St Luke's Leprosy Hospital and we are proud to be one of the hospital's major donors.



Patients outside the Women's Ward with Staff Nurse Mrs Freeda Salomi

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES



A very dapper looking John Kendall, manning his stall at Rowdeford School Summer Fete. John continues to work tirelessly for The Neem Tree Trust and constantly finds treasures which he can sell on behalf of our charity. During our Financial Year 2015/2016 John raised an amazing £2,175.

If you missed John's stall this year, look out for him at Rowdeford on 14th May next year!

For their annual Christmas Fayre at their home Lyn & Fraser Mills of Black Dog Farm, Chapmanslade, kindly selected The Neem Tree Trust as their chosen charity. A very happy, friendly day culminated in them raising £336.50 for the children we support in India.



Kathy gave talks on the work of The Neem Tree Trust to the following groups:

Keynsham Baptist League
PACE Group, Frome
Chippenham Tangent Club
CAMEO Ladies Group, Trowbridge

A total of £512 was generously donated by these groups.

The following organisations generously made donations to The Neem Tree Trust amounting to £2,956.

St Laurence School, Bradford on Avon
Inner Wheel, Shepton Mallet
Rotary Club, Bradford on Avon
Rotary Club of Somer Valley
United Church, Trowbridge

Arts and Social Science Library, Bristol
Ashton Mill, Valuers and Property Clearance
St Andrew's Church, Colyton, Exeter
Zion Chapel, Isle of Wight

We claimed Gift Aid of £3,298 from the Inland Revenue on donations from UK taxpayers. In August 2015 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 £22,247.

The Neem Tree Trust deposits funds as they are raised into a CAF Gold account. In our Financial Year 2015/2016 bank interest amounted to £39.00.



The pupils in Westfield House at St Laurence School, Bradford on Avon, raised £668.47 for our charity in the past year and as part of their fundraising they participated in a charity walk last summer. The Neem Tree Trust is very proud to be the



nominated charity for Westfield House and the students wore their yellow T-shirts, sporting The Neem Tree Trust logo, with pride. They also ran a stall at their school's street party and donated through their VIVO, which is an online reward system at the school.

MIKE & ALISON'S COFFEE MORNING

Last October Mike & Alison's Coffee Morning raised an amazing £1,613 and this year we will be proudly celebrating the **Coffee Morning's 10th Anniversary!** Over the past ten years Mike & Alison and their friends have raised over **£10,000** for The Neem Tree Trust by opening their home and serving delicious cakes and Fairtrade coffee and tea. This year the Coffee Morning will be held on Thursday 20th October at their home, 22 Late Broads, Winsley, between 10.00am and 12 noon. Everyone is welcome - so do come along and help us celebrate.



John Symonds with his
tombola prizes



Della D'Souza, winner of the Fairtrade hamper, donated by the Co-op Store, Winsley Road, Bradford on Avon



Alison in the centre with the all important workers behind the scenes - Lorna & Andy Begg, Irene Elder and Marian Nuttall

Many thanks to our supporters.

You have made a difference to all these young people's lives.

Any other fundraising ideas? If so, we would love to hear from you.