

The Andrew Clark Trust

NEWSLETTER January 2006

The Vera Thomson English School



Since May we have not had any volunteer teachers, and at present I (Sue) am teaching. In mid January we will have two volunteer teachers arriving, one of whom came with her husband to Myanmar on holiday in January 2005, and came to see what we were doing in Lintha. Since then they have taken great interest and now the lady is coming with her daughter to teach English and German. Then on 1st February we have a gap year student who is coming for three months to teach both English and music, and has sent over many recorders and will be bringing her guitar with her. John Gleave is also returning to teach again in March. We are looking for volunteer teachers in March, April, May, October, November and December.

A small washroom has been built, so that the children can wash their hands. Toothbrushes and toothpaste have been provided, so that they can clean their teeth twice a day. The children are very eager to brush their teeth as they had never done so before. They are so excited that it is as if they have been given a wonderful toy.



Every evening an English video is shown to aid teaching, and this is proving very popular even with adults.

Sarah Gleave introduced swimming lessons which are continuing, and another sports day was organised by Sarah and John, to include more events, and a great time was had by all.

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Healthcare

Nearly all the children do not eat any fruit apart from bananas, and very little vegetables. Therefore they are lacking in vitamins if not protein. We are therefore going to start providing vitamins.

We have been arranging for all children with eye problems to visit an eye specialist who comes to the nearby town once a month. As well as providing glasses for ones that need them, two girls were found to have a genetic eye disease, and one was beginning to go blind. The Andrew Clark Trust was able to send them to Yangon, where they were given treatment, thus saving their eyesight. We are in the process of sending a baby who has water on the brain and is blind, to a hospital in Yangon for assessment and possible operation.

Whilst cycling in the area, Sarah and John came across a girl with a very large lump on her neck, and they took her to the town hospital, where she was diagnosed with TB. She is now being treated. Her brothers were found to have worm infestation, which has been treated.

We are providing special medication for a boy of 4 who has cystic fibrosis, and getting a special chair made, as he cannot sit unaided.

These are just a few of the cases which we have been able to help, as nearly all parents cannot afford to take their children to the doctor.

Medical Journals from the UK were given to Yangon General Hospital in May, as these are greatly needed by the doctors and surgeons.

The Andrew Clark Friendship Library

The demand for the library has been amazing. We now have a full time librarian, and the library is open from 8am until 5pm 7 days a week.

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Aim in 2006

To continue to ensure that as many children as possible have access to education.

To continue to teach English free of charge and increase the number of volunteer teachers.

To have an equipped playground adjacent to the Vera Thomson English School, and also to include a small area where we can teach the children how to grow vegetables and fruit.

To not only continue to provide healthcare, but help improve the quality of children's health and provide vitamins for all children.

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, AND WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Please inform us if you have an email address, as this can save on our mailing costs.