

# The Andrew Clark Trust

NEWSLETTER January 2007

## Monsoon



The monsoon saw much hardship. Some shacks collapsed in the heavy storms, and with little or no work during the four months of the rainy season, some families were left with no money to buy food. The majority of children do not eat a well balanced diet throughout the year, but as time goes by during the monsoon, in quite a number of cases one can see them become lethargic and tired.

## Help

The Andrew Clark Trust was able to help those in need by providing food, materials and labour to rebuild shacks which were in disrepair. Some sponsors of children have given money

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to buy a piglet for the child's family, which is a way of giving them a chance of saving some money for times when there is no work. In three to four months the family can sell the pig for approximately £30.00 which they would never be able to save otherwise. Waste household food is given as pig food by the better off families in the village. We are going to try and introduce a scheme whereby the families can obtain waste food from some nearby hotels.

## Lighting

Roger Sadler (Trustee) took great lengths into looking at rechargeable lights as there is no electricity in most of the shacks which the children live in. Candles are expensive for families, and in most cases they only burn one candle at a time, and use one or two a night, or as and when they can afford it. Roger sent 9 lights for trial which have proved very useful. Whilst not bright enough to read by, it helps the family with expenditure, and provides a brighter light than one candle as it lasts for days.

## The Vera Thomson English School

Our thanks to Melanie Holwas from Germany, who came to teach during the month of October/November.

Saya John, Sarah and family arrived again with more swimsuits, footballs, more English DVD's and an array of goodies. They organised many activities, which included a bus trip for 60 children, who enjoyed a picnic, played games, swam and had a great time.

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They also took some of our brightest children as a treat, to the nearby 5 star hotel, where they had swimming lessons in the hotel pool. Afterwards they were served with pizza, ice-cream and drinks. It was a surprise, as they didn't know where they were going, and one which they will surely never forget. You can imagine how they must have felt and sat there quietly in awe. Of course we told them that if they study hard and can speak English they too will be able to work at such places.



Saya John was also Father Christmas to over 250 poor children. The excitement of all the kids brought tears to our eyes. Each child was given an orange, a cake and a toy. You would have thought they had been given the earth.

## Healthcare

- We continue to provide drugs for a girl of 14 who has had HIV since she was 9 years old, owing to having been injected with an infected needle. She is top in her class.
- ACT have paid for a little girl of 10 to have an operation, as she had a tumour on her voice box. This treatment will be ongoing.
- A woman was 9 months pregnant and did not have any money for a doctor, so her neighbour tried to deliver the baby which unfortunately died inside her. Four days later the woman was near to death, and once we heard of the case, were able to get her hospitalized, and her life was saved.

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□ A boy of 8 has had an operation for a badly burnt arm, and now has full use of it.



*Before the operation*



*After the operation*

These are just a few of the many healthcare issues we are dealing with.

## Library

Some of the books in the library now need replacing because of the high humidity, so this year we aim to replace and expand our range. The library is still proving very popular.

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*MAY WE WISH YOU A VERY PEACEFUL, HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR, AND THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH ON BEHALF OF ALL THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN LINTHA, FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT, WITHOUT WHOM NONE OF THIS COULD HAPPEN.*

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## Essay

Please find an essay written by one of our children, Su Wai Phyo who is 13 years old.

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What I would like to be when I grow up

Different people have different aims. As for me I would like to be a doctor. It is because our country needs good doctors in developing for health. Only when I become a doctor, I will be able to rescue the patients of our people. So, I'm trying hard to become a good doctor.

I need to learn a lot first, I have to work hard to pass the examinations every year. Then, I will join the university. When I become a graduate, I will apply for a post of doctor. I have also learnt a lot about medical, from my teachers. They are educators in my life. If there were no doctors, it would be impossible for to help. It is the doctors who make their patients good. I want to rescue everybody. I want to look after everybody. with my

That is why I want like to be a good doctor. How noble a doctor's life.

I'm sure my dreams will come true one day.

Written by Su Wai Phyo, aged 13 – December 2006