

THE ANDREW CLARK TRUST NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2004

Last Visit (April-May 2004)

On our last visit to Lintha Village, Rakhine State, Myanmar, we were able to meet the English teacher Dermot Devine, and his girlfriend Julie, both teaching English. The students were thoroughly enjoying their classes, and they had both introduced music and singing into their classes, which is something that is not done in schools in Myanmar. This proved a great success, and in fact all the villagers, and many residents in the nearby town of Thandwe, have really appreciated them, as they have become part of the community.

New English Teacher

We now have a new teacher to replace Dermot and Julia, Jenny Lockett. She had a handing over period, and is now teaching there until the end of August. She is from Devon, and is TEFL trained, and it is her first teaching job. It is very important that there is continuity in the teaching programme.

Our good friend Daw Khin Mar Thein, who is a High School teacher, and speaks very good English, has been helping Dermot and Julia with translation, as it was during her school holidays, but is now taking three months unpaid leave, so that she can help Jenny.

We took 46 children to get their school uniform and had to hire a bus to take us to town. They will start at the State School in June, which is the start of their school year. You can imagine that there was great excitement.



Starting school for the first time...

UNICEF

I was able to contact UNICEF, regarding the problem of scabies in the village, and they were very prompt in answering, saying they had contacted the local Medical Officer, and that he would bring medication to the villagers, and also

teach them in hygiene. So far he has not been to the village, so I will follow this up when I next go. It was also suggested that we could ask the local hotels for their used soap, and this I will do.

The Trishaw Driver

The trishaw driver's foot has improved, although he had to go to hospital again, as he was unconscious. He still needs medication and we are still providing some eggs and chicken, thus giving him the protein he needs for the foot to heal. His wife is working. The couple who handle the money, and pay the school fees, (Chaw Su Khaing and Kyaw Swe Oo), paid for his hospital bill, as they had no money left from our funds. We



The trishaw man and his family

have now reimbursed them. They will not accept any payment for all the work that they do for the Andrew Clark Trust, and only thank us for helping the village.

It is very apparent that funds are badly needed for giving people access to medical facilities. When we were there, a mother came with her son, and sat outside the school, hoping to see us. He had severe stomach pain, and was diagnosed with worms. His mother did not have the money to pay the doctor, let alone the bus fare.

The Library

The library should be renovated and ready by the end of June. Because we had so many books donated, an internal wall will have to be demolished to have enough space. The new village headman, who everyone tells us is a very good man, has said he will donate bamboo sheets for the ceiling. There will be electric light, so that it can be used in the evenings, not only to read books, but for the older students to use it to study, as they do not have electricity in their homes. Over 4000 books have been sent, and we now have approximately one more cubic metre of books to be shipped, as Pearson Publishers donated 12 boxes of new books for school children.

Medical Journals

We have had a response from the Royal College of Surgeons in Glasgow (RCSG), saying they can give some old medical journals which are greatly needed. We saw our friend Dr. Aung San Phyo, who is a surgeon in Yangon, and talked about how we could help. They have virtually no medical journals to follow. RCSG wrote to us about a medical website which is available to Myanmar, however our friend does not have access to this. We will ask the internet service provider in Myanmar, if they could help with this.



Vera Thomson English School

THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED TO THE ANDREW CLARK TRUST SO FAR THIS YEAR.

ALSO THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE GIVEN BOOKS INCLUDING:-

English Martyrs R.C. School, Rugby, Warks (and for their continued support throughout last year and this)

Masonic School, Rickmansworth, Herts

Christchurch School, Chorleywood, Herts

Little Chalfont Combined School, Little Chalfont, Bucks

Heatherton House School, Amersham, Bucks

St. Aiden's Church, Little Chalfont, Bucks

Our Lady's R.C. Church, Chesham Bois, Bucks

St. Michael's Church, Amersham, Bucks

St. Augustine's C. Church, Tunbridge Wells

Pearson Education Book Publishers

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

English Martyrs School's Non-Uniform Day on June 17th. £1 per child or per family. Children and staff to come dressed in red and white in support of England Football Team.

Guilbert Office Depot Charity Day, Andover 2nd July

Charity Cricket Match, Andover Tuesday 17th August

Swimathon organised by Helen Clark – date to be agreed

Pub game evening – organised by Daniel Archer-Cox

CAN YOU HELP?

If you can help in anyway, have any ideas about how to raise funds, or know of anyone who could be capable and willing to go to Lintha to teach English, please contact us on 01494 764210. e-mail address is info@myanmar-aid.org

Our website is www.myanmar-aid.org

Please let us know if you have e-mail, so that we can reduce printing and postage costs of the newsletter.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT – PLEASE REMEMBER EVERY PENNY GOES DIRECTLY FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE, AND NOTHING IS TAKEN OUT FOR ADMINISTRATION.

Sue Ozturk