

The Andrew Clark Trust

The ANDREW CLARK TRUST Newsletter June 2005

CHILDREN

The Andrew Clark Trust has 95 poor children now being sponsored, giving them the opportunity of education and healthcare. A bus was hired to take them to the local town to get 2 pairs of school uniform, 2 pairs of shoes, a bag and umbrella, ready for their new school year starting on 1st June. The children were incredibly good considering that it took about 5 hours to purchase everything.

TEACHERS

During this year we have had three people come to teach English. Firstly Joris van de Graaf from the Netherlands taught for one month during his gap year, after that Kerry Quin (who was a close friend of Andrew Clark's), and Georgianna Vaughan (taking a gap year), both taught at the same time for one month. This proved very beneficial as it was during the children and students summer holidays, and we were able to split the classes. All the teachers had paid for their own air fares and worked voluntarily.



Our thanks go to them all for their time and effort. We have taught English when we have not had any teachers, which has been both challenging and rewarding, and we can see very good progress with some of the children.

MAY EXAMINATION

During May the children sat for a test, one being for English beginners class and the other for the intermediate class. The top three in the beginners class were all sponsored children and the top two in the intermediate class were also sponsored, all coming from extremely poor backgrounds and doing very well at English.

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THE VERA THOMSON ENGLISH SCHOOL

The Vera Thomson English School has now been refurbished, and all the walls, shutters and doors have been changed from bamboo to wood. We have also been able to purchase a television and DVD player to aid teaching. This has proved a great success and caused great excitement with the children.



THE ANDREW CLARK TRUST LIBRARY

The Andrew Clark Library is proving popular with the community and is open from Monday to Friday inclusive, and is being run voluntarily by a retired village elder. You can see children before and after school reading and looking at the pictures in the library, as the children are not allowed to take the books out.

HEALTHCARE

During this year the Andrew Clark Trust has been able to provide healthcare for the poor children of Lintha, including a baby who had to be hospitalized with his mother because he had pneumonia. The baby would have died if medical care was not provided.



Two sponsored children stopped going to school as the older brother of 9 years had to look after his 2 year old sister who could not walk due to malnutrition. The younger brother did not go because the family live a long way from the school and so was not allowed to go alone. The Andrew Trust paid for vitamins and minerals and the little girl can now walk, and the boys will start school again in June.

In April a grandmother came to the Vera Thomson English School with her 4 year old

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grandson, who had been born with a club foot and a deformed hand, to see if we could help in any way. At the same time a friend told us of another boy of 10 born with a club foot living in the village who does not go to school. A few weeks later we heard that there was an orthopaedic surgeon coming to the local hospital, so I took the two boys. After a wait of nearly 5 hours we saw the Myanmar surgeon, who spoke impeccable English, and he told us that the two boys could be operated on free of charge, and that they would be able to walk normally afterwards. Total Oil have donated money to the Orthopaedic Hospital for poor children under the age of 12 to be operated free of charge. The boy of 10 has gone to the city (Yangon) which is 14 hours by bus for the operation. The Andrew Clark Trust will pay for transport, medical expenses (x-rays, plaster, anaesthetic etc.) plus food.

These are just some of the children the Andrew Clark Trust has been able to help, as their parents are unable to afford medical care.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT WHICH REALLY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO ALL THE CHILDREN.