

# THE ANDREW CLARK TRUST NEWSLETTER

1<sup>st</sup> January 2005

## THE VERA THOMSON ENGLISH SCHOOL

In November John Gleave from Scotland, came to teach English at the Vera Thomson School for 1 month. John put enormous effort into teaching both children and adults, and the students made a great deal of progress. Amongst many things which John brought were jigsaw puzzles which the children had never seen before, and they had great fun in solving them. John would not take any payment for teaching, and has sponsored two children. Our very grateful thanks to John.



The children and adults are so keen for another teacher to come, but as yet we have not got anyone, therefore I have started to teach the children as best as I can, for one lesson a day.

The monsoon, which was the worst for over 100 years, left the school roof very damaged, and it was necessary to renew the roof which should last for about 5 years. Electricity has now been installed so that the children can do their homework in the evenings, as they have no electricity in their homes.

## SPORTS EVENT

A sports event was held on 31<sup>st</sup> December on the beach. The children participated in running, wheelbarrow, three legged, sack, and relay races, which they had never before experienced, and had so much fun. There was even an adult race, and a great deal of fun was had by all.

## THE ANDREW CLARK FRIENDSHIP LIBRARY

Over 4,000 books were shipped to Lintha Village, Myanmar in 2004, and the Andrew Trust Friendship Library will be opened in January 2005, and will be run by volunteers from the village. Electricity has been installed, so that the older students can study in the evenings. Our thanks to one and all for donating the books.



## **HEALTHCARE**

**Unfortunately Ko Pyo, the trishaw driver who had had an operation on his foot in November 2003, was in acute pain when we arrived in October, and was found to have bone cancer in his foot and leg. We therefore had to arrange for him to fly to the city of Yangon, (as he would not have been able to stand going by bus which takes approximately 17 hours). He had his leg amputated just below the knee, which is now healed, and we will look for a secondhand leg which can be fitted in a few months. At present he has no work, and his wife is sick, so we are trying to find him some work he can do with his hands.**



**We met a retired German orthopaedic surgeon and his wife, who came to Myanmar twice in 2004, bringing with them a shipment of medical supplies, and offering free consultations each day. They have left 1000 US dollars for some patients to have operations, and have asked us to co-ordinate this, which we are only too pleased to do. Healthcare is a major problem, as so many people just cannot afford to see a doctor.**

**Scabies is still a real problem in the village, and we are offering antiseptic scabies lotion, together with educating the mothers in hygiene, and have one hotel giving used soap, which we distribute.**

**A friend has offered to save the British Medical Journals for us, which will be valuable for doctors and surgeons.**

**A lot of second-hand clothes were distributed to the children and villagers, which they were very pleased with.**

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

**We are looking for English teachers to make a difference to the lives of children and adults. TEFL trained if possible.**

**Any medical books, and in particular on thoracic (chest) surgery.**

**Our next project is to get a television, video and DVD for the Vera Thomson school, to aid teaching. Also to replace the bamboo walls of the school with wood.**

**MAY WE WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR IN 2005, AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**