



The Tulsi Trust

Indian jungle health
and education project



Newsletter 08/09

registered charity no.1075298

www.tulstrust.org.uk

Shree Vinod Vihari Memorial Hospital

The villagers have been greatly helped by the donation from festival medical services of a brand new tata ambulance; before we had a broken down old maruti van that had been our makeshift ambulance for a few years. Thank you so much Chris Howe and Dave parry and your associates!

Our 24/7 on call ambulance is the only free service in the whole area; our ambulance driver Amal lives on site. Many journeys are 100 km to save usually unconscious cerebral malaria victims to the nearest 'indoor' hospital. Cerebral malaria has increased significantly to on average 26 child deaths & 20 adult deaths per year from five villages. That's from approximately 5,000 villagers.

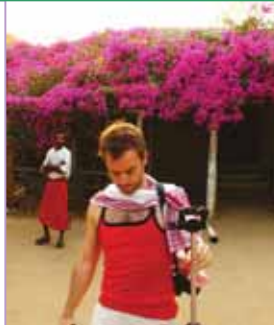


FMS Dr. Chris Howes, Vijay & Nurse Tracy West. All will be at Glastonbury Festival Marquee A & E Hospitals June 2009



The ambulance is blessed with a Puja.

Bendigo Binns is editing a Tulsi Trust film that he shot in January and February '09 about the whole project. It will be available by the end of May. There will be an 8 minute and a 20 minute resume of up to date activities of the project. Thank you Bendigo & Shambo his main assistant.



Topsoil is needed for the newly levelled playing field and school playground.

The Tulsi Shishu Mandir School

Excellent news, building work has begun this month April 20th '09 for two new first floor classrooms and further roofing for three more classrooms {to make one long roof} to be ready for the new School session in June. Many thanks to the Ashwini Trust who have very kindly given the donation to make this possible. Thank you to Nurse Sally and daughter Kat, who met up with the Ashwini Trust in February. Vishnu Das our School Manager is delighted and very grateful to our donators. New Benches and Desks will be made too for the new classrooms.

Essential new uniforms were purchased last September for all the school staff and students. There was a vote for the choice of colours; navy and white were chosen with pink saris for the lady teachers, white shirts and Navy trousers for the male teachers.

Latest exam results for class 5 and 8, all the children passed. The teachers and parents and children are very pleased. There are now 50 Addivaashi tribal students at the school. A new Bamboo bridge was built across the river last spring to enable the tribal children to cross the river and arrive at assembly without being wet, some up to their armpits. Alas, for the first time the River Barda has stopped its abundant flow and is almost stagnant and the children can walk across the river bed now.





Thank you everybody for the donations to establish the laboratory with equipment and fridge. Our aim is to educate the villagers, so that they get blood tests, before their child/relative becomes dangerously ill. The whole area has endemic malaria to a very troublesome degree; many villagers get malaria 4 or 5 times a year; the usual drugs do not work anymore and the villagers get weaker and weaker bodies, which makes them more susceptible to other diseases; they then get chronically sick; our Homeopathic Doctor can help the chronic cases; Many villagers develop dark black skin from the effect of taking the usual quinine based drugs too many times also the old drugs do not work any more. Our aim is to stop this malaria cycle of ill health or death; we have the best quality drugs available that do work, patients can come too late for help with the medicines and they need hospitalisation; at the moment we have to drive them



Jeevan our full time laboratory assistant and compounder {chemist}

100 kms for over night medical care.

Until we have our M.B.B.S. level one Doctor, we cannot open our 24/7 wards and become an indoor hospital. Interviews for student doctors were conducted by sally and Vijay in Kolkata last October. Various adverts for an M.B.B.S doctor were placed over the

last one and a half years. We are determined to find our new Doctor; Do you know of a Doctor who could suit this position? Must be at least Hindi or /and Bengali and English speaking.

Vijay, Tira and Dr Zargar advertised in 3 Raipur newspapers and conducted interviews in February 09. Since then there have been 2 more interviews; one of the interviewed Doctors might be starting soon; Dr. Zargar is just checking his credentials; if employed, he will have a contract for 1 year to begin with.

Dr Zargar our medical administrator {also an expert on malaria} has pledged to work for us in the jungle once we have employed an MBBS doctor. Dr. Zargar will reside three days a week at our hospital; especially to tackle the very severe cerebral malaria problem, also to establish an 'indoor' hospital. We have 11 rooms at the hospital and will need an operating theatre and an X ray machine, preferably a mobile unit. Dr Zargar has compiled a list of furniture and equipment for once we fully open. We will commence building the Doctors residence once we've got our Doctor employed. Meanwhile our BAMS Dr Adikari and our homeopath run clinics six days a week and there is a steady stream of patients all day-varying from 40 to 60 people a day on

average; some seasons up to 100 patients a day. Dr Adikari looks forward to our new doctor starting and wants to support the MBBS doctor and learn from him. Dr. Adikari is an expert on snake bite antidotes he has saved 450 lives in the last 4 years. He uses allopathic antidotes stored in our new fridge and ayurvedic snake remedies, drops that are mainly put in the eyes.



Dr. Adikari, Dr. Vinnai with Sally Dalton and the rest of the hospital staff oct '08

Many thanks to FMS's for the extra donation given to us in February; it enables us to open wards, buy more medicine; paint the hospital; build a two bedroom doctors residence and landscape the gardens. The donation also helped towards another years running costs for the clinics and wages. With rising costs, we need extra monies per month at the same time we employ our MBBS doctor and 2 nurses & open the wards.



Our volunteer nurse Sally visited the jungle project last October;

Sally, Vijay and Haridas went the 1,500 kms to Kolkata to investigate the purchase and fitting of a prosthetic leg for 19 yr old Dipankar, who lost his leg through developing gangrene after a snake bite when 10 years old; we were able to save his life by taking him to Dalle Hospital. He has been resident at the ashram ever since, where he has been educated and cared for. Over the years Dr. Zargar has fitted several prosthetic legs for him previously at MMI Hospital where he used to work. We would like to thank the two donators and Sally for this opportunity for Dipanka {now that he's fully grown,} to get a good quality limb that should last for many years. TTT raised more monies for his journey and for a helper to stay in Kolkata for at least two weeks. We are pleased to finally able to send him in May '09.

Haridas, Tira, Dr.Zargar, Dadaji and Vijay.



Many thanks to Jeffery Gale who designed the Doctors residence. He also made a short film whilst visiting the project for two days in March '09 {also thanks to Rachel Cornish for editing it}



Our Tulsi Trustees Robert Weil and Susan Crowley have been busy raising funds for the Tulsi Trust through the physiotherapy and consultancy sessions that they continue to provide from their home. No overheads mean that all monies raised through this work can go to Tulsi, and those otherwise unable to afford treatment can pay by voluntary donation. Our Trustee Peter Thornhill is a principal organizer of Rotary District 1170 Conference to be held on 9th - 11th October 2009 at The Guildhall in Plymouth. Robert Weil has personally donated a double table at the conference to the Tulsi Trust to showcase its mission, and Peter has made it possible for Chairperson Tira Brine to deliver a 20 minute talk on the needs of the Tulsi Trust to a packed house full of assembled Rotarians. Susan Crowley {3rd left} became our latest trustee in January 2008 she has attended our meetings for the last four years. She lives in Devon; has an osteopathic/therapy practice in Norwich, Norfolk, and also Newton abbot, Devon. She is interested in being a trustee because its hands on, more personal, more heart.

Katherine Jordan, Robert Weil, Susan Crowley, Tira Brine, Sally Dalton, Peter Thornhill. L to R



Our School was delighted to be presented with 50 Rotary 'Dictionaries 4 life' Thanks to Roberts & Peters proceeds from last years Christmas CD.

She likes to help a charity where she knows where the monies are going. She also likes the feedback with the rewarding stories. She likes to think that the children are being given an opportunity. Susan is a mother of three children, grandchildren and step-grandchildren. Her partner is another Tulsi Trustee Robert Weil.

Ricky Romain, Sitarist and Jon Sterckx, Tablar, every year put on a benefit Indian Classical concert with a curry supper in Axminster Church, Devon, in aid of TTT arranged by Sally Dalton; Many thanks



Thanks to Linda Williams and her continued donations every year mainly from a sponsored boxing day swim in the sea in Malta; also she makes collections in TTT cans.



A Big thank you to everyone who have made donations to us and to all that give their time. Apologies for not being able to name you all.

Report from Vijay and Vishnu: Project managers march 2009

Due to wage increases throughout India; we've had to increase the wages of our project workers.

Tulsi Education and Kalyan Samiti, Chhattisgarh

SCHOOL – TULSI SHISHU MANDIR

MONTHLY SALARY 2009 – 2010

From April new session

NAME	POST	PRESENT BASIC SALARY (Rs)	INCREMENT (% Rupees)	NEW NET SALARY
HEAD MASTER Thakur Mahlder	U.D.T	2680	25% 670	3350
ASST.HEAD TEACHER Pubali Biswas	U.D.T	2474	25% 618.5	3092.5
Sanjeet Saha *	U.D.T	2100	25% 525	2625
Moni Roy	U.D.T	2118	25% 529.5	2647.5
Hema Banerjee	U.D.T	2147	25% 536.75	2683.75
Thakur Biswas *	U.D.T	2100	25% 525	2625
Subhas Sarder	U.D.T	2226	25% 556.5	2782.5
Namdev	U.D.T	2200	25% 550	2750
Kundu *	U.D.T	2100	25% 525	2625
Shefali	L.D.T	1160	20% 232	1392
Chowan *	L.D.T	1800	20% 360	2160
Pankaj	L.D.T	600	20% 120	720
Somnat Biswas	L.D.T	1800	20% 360	2160
		25505	6108.25	31613.25

To appoint a new teacher costs 1500Rs.

Final school wages total = 33113.25Rs

- * These 4 teachers have completed a probation year at L.D.T. wages and will start the new session as U.D.T. teachers.
- U.D.T. staff will receive 25% pay increase and L.D.T. staff an increase of 20%

New salary cost = 33113.25 Rs

- Old salary cost = 22855 Rs

Extra money needed = 10258.25 Rs

With the current exchange rate of 70 Rs/pound, extra wages of £146.55 are needed per month

HOSPITAL – SHREE VINOD VIHARI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

MONTHLY SALARY 2009 2010 From April new session

NAME	POST	BASIC SALARY	INCREMENT	NET SALARY
Promotha Adikary	Asst. Doctor	10000	-	10000
Binoy Adikary	Asst. Doctor	2500	500	3000
Jibah Biswas	Compounder	1800	200	2000
Amal Das	Driver	2200	300	2500
Dunlab Mandal	Watchman	1000	-	1000
Sabita Madhu	Sweeper	1000	500	1500
Pankaj	Foreman	1000	-	1000
Tarak Mother		600	200	800
Sommat*	Secretarial		400	400
		20500	2100	22200

- OLD SALARY = 20100 Rs

EXTRA MONEY = 2100 Rs

= £30.00

School extra wages = £147.00

Hospital extra wages = £30

TOTAL = £ 177.00 extra is needed per month in standing orders to pay for the current wages for the school and Hospital

When M.B.B.S. Doctor is appointed, monthly salary = 35000 Rs

This is a further £500.00 + £177.00{wage increases}

= £677.00

extra needed per month for the Project's running costs

THANKYOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS & WELL WISHERS

*We have come a long way to establishing our Hospital and School. The Education & Kalyan Samiti {registered charity managed by our volunteers,} local villagers, volunteers and paid workers run the Project in India;

*The Ashram Managers have managed the whole project for 4 years now, they are doing a very good job of it and there is real teamwork amongst all involved including all the Staff and sub committees and village committees. All Committees are keen to work towards no profit no loss for the Hospital and School; However 95% of all villagers are below the poverty line and have no means at all.

*We finance and subsidise the HOSPITAL: Doctors consultations, medicines, first aid, blood tests, clinic costs maternity care, primary healthcare, Ambulance Journeys to other Hospitals, operations and referrals, accidents & emergencies, wages & admin costs etc, we also host health camps. When the new Doctor is resident, we will need two nurses wages and general running costs; minimum an extra 150.00 per month.

*We finance and subsidise the SCHOOL: the bus, bus fares and maintenance, School uniforms, text books, School Fees, petrol, School outings, sports activities, music lessons, plus admin and maintenance costs, wages, celebrations etc. There are two new teachers this year and another 30 students are entering the school which makes approximately 260 students.

Festival Medical Services donated the monies for a brand new Ambulance in October 2008. They also kindly pay for the yearly maintenance for our Ambulance, which is a big blessing looking at how much it is used on mainly pitted roads! They also gave us another generous donation Jan '09. It will enable us to equip and furnish two wards and to landscape the gardens, with fruit and nut trees and flowers; also build a two bedroom Doctors Residence in the Hospital Grounds after, we have employed the new MBBS Doctor. Meanwhile a hospital room will house the Doctor: it also included funds for the next three years towards Doctors wages.

*Many thanks to Maire Douglas and helpers for the beautiful mural that brightens up our hospital. The Hospital boundary wall is finished and Tira saw the large Iron gates installed in February '09, thanks for all the donations.

*A generous donation for two first storey classrooms and extra roofing for a further three class rooms has just been donated by The Ashwini Trust; {see front page}.New Bamboo corridor classrooms were made in 2008 as temporary classrooms, which half a class can just fit in, so not adequate for a normal class lesson.

*Much needed new uniforms for the School students and staff; a vote was taken and Navy Blue and White was chosen and pink saris for the teachers. A new School Staffroom was built in 2008 and just needs the finishing touches.

*Every year some self funding volunteers visit the jungle project from the U.K. which helps so much with sharing all the news and photos. THANKS TO THE PRIVATE SPONSORS, Vijay will be visiting the U.K. for six weeks from June '09.

*A big thank you to Katherine Jordan for being our very efficient treasurer: also for making our business plan. Also thanks for the grant from

*The Glastonbury Trust which enabled Katherine to take the time to accomplish this. The accounts are completed; thanks also to Viv Andrea for preparing our accounts.

*Many thanks to all our kind fundraisers who help support our project: Elahn & Radha at Shekin Ashram, see enclosed postcard; Terry, Priya & Juke at Dilliways; Peggy at St. Nicholas's Church Abbotsbury, where we are charity of the year, look out for a talk on TTT. Lucy Taylor & family & all at Home Education at Chard for their India Day & lovely Jungle Book production in aid of TTT. Sally & her Blues evening at Kilmington with the band Chris Gradwell Band also Dr. Peter Fung and his packed talk and meal 'Fort Field Terrace in Sidmouth'. Gopal Hari & Ambika & family with their Goma concerts where TTT have their Chai & Cake stall; Maureen Gardiner and all others who have helped with all our successful heart operations. Everyplace that has one of our purple collecting cans; Please forgive us for not mentioning everyone, you are all appreciated.

APPEAL FOR MORE STANDING ORDERS & FUNDS

- Thanks to our monthly standing order income; the running costs for the whole project have been sent for the past ten years.
- However the current total we receive is 580.84 per month plus a grant from FMS towards the running costs of 400.00 per month.
- That totals 980.84: We have been sending 1,100.00 every month for the last financial year; this coming year sees a large increase in monthly expenditure. As explained bottom left of this page.

Please tell your friends and family about us, that we need help and support for our Jungle projects continued success; It can make all the difference.

Article for Tulsi Trust – A journey to Chhattisgarh – Saffron Rarity

I left England in September 2008; I travelled into the northern states with their wonderful



Himalayan ranges, and to southern states of Goa, Karnataka and Kerala. During these 5 months I encountered

an untold number and variety of people throughout this extremely diverse country. I had stayed in Dadaji's ashram in Vrindavan twice before, so with the promise of a wonderful kirtan, beautiful Bengali people, and a chance to see what the Tulsi Trust was all about, I made the 3 day journey from Alleppey in Kerala to the project in the middle of the Chhattisgarh jungle, the heart of India. I was instantly struck by the beauty of everything: vibrant flowers trailing over the roof, people happily greeting each other and the smell of brewing chai. We all settled in very quickly and were soon getting used to the somewhat idyllic life of sipping chai and enjoying the sanctuary of the ashram. For myself and my two travelling buddies, Finn and Veryan, the peace, quiet {and lack of madness} we had not found in the rest of India was wonderful. It was like a holiday from our holiday! We were so well looked after by Vijay, Dadaji and Vishnu; the Brahmacharis are always happy - showing us around and helping us with everything, the food was absolutely delicious and there were always the children and animals from the ashram to have fun with. There are gardens at the ashram full of vegetables, herbs and flowers, and there are many Tulsi trees along with other trees all around giving shade to the cows. The Temple is also lovely, more Tulsi trees around the edge, ornate thakurji's and the fire pit where we had a fire ceremony later on during our stay. In the 2 weeks leading up to the kirtan, the area in front of the temple became more and more decorated. It started with just the skeleton of the small stage and by the end there was a huge canopy of bright orange fabric over the area which cast us all into a sea of happy orangeness, a market out behind the temple where we could go for chai, delicious snacks and to meet the Shiva babas under their tree. Further out, next to Vijay's house, is where all the food for the kirtan visitors was made and eaten. There was a long fire pit with massive vats of rice dhal and subjee being stirred with long ladles by cheerful villagers. I found out this is their annual holiday, free from the difficult poverty stricken lives they lead and is the season with hardly any mosquitoes, so not so much worry about malaria for them at this time of year, which is their winter.. Each day, the food was cooked by a different village for approximately 6000 people – I found this very impressive. The food itself was supplied by the ashram, and the Kirtan was organised by

Vijay, and he did it brilliantly. The performers stayed in the Tulsi Shishu School during the kirtan, and the children enjoyed themselves with us at the kirtan; they had a week's holiday. The performers themselves played and sang gorgeous Bengali kirtan and were so colourful, dressed all in orange and yellow for the traditional kirtan attire. Westerners arrived, some had never been to the kirtan before, and enjoyed it thoroughly; they formed an all western kirtan party to play for an hour before the rest of the people from the ashram went on stage for aarti. The group was Vijay Krishna, Saraswati, Govinda, Finn, Arjun, Shambo and Bendigo. They had so much fun and the locals seemed to love them! We visited the school on many occasions during our stay in the jungle. I loved going there because the children were always so happy to see us, happy in their learning environment and had such great attitudes towards life and their education. On one occasion, I went with Tira and Bendigo to do some filming of the schoolchildren, Bendigo was making for The Tulsi Trust. We did some interviews with the children; a little girl said her favourite subject was moral studies, the oldest boy in the school said he wanted to be a doctor and his favourite subject was biology. Also we spoke to a girl who, through The Tulsi Trust, had a major heart operation when she was a very young child. Now she is one of the best pupils at the school and



she is so hard working, enthusiastic and is wonderful! We met the headmaster and the deputy-head, Pubali. she was so lovely, and was very keen for us to see everything that was going on in the school - to meet the teachers and children, and to show us what more needed to be done at the school; in terms of building new classrooms, fitting them out with desks and benches, and building a shaded area outside for the children to sit during assemblies and to eat under. The night before Saraswati day we all went over to the school to help with the making of puris, to be eaten as Prasad the next day. Saraswati day



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was great – the children all dressed up in their best clothes and us in our lovely saris. We all gathered around the small temple at the school and did puja for the goddess of learning and music; the new children, three year olds were given slates and shown how to write their names in Sanskrit. Then we all ate Prasad in the school classrooms with Dadaji and the rest ... it was such a nice occasion. The hospital was very interesting for me also, because it is still a work in progress and as soon as I got there I started having ideas about how to help the trust for when it opens its' wards and needs to be further equipped. Tira and Vijay managed to get Dr Zargar to come down again to discuss the next step for the hospital. He has now said he will help the trust and support the hospital with his skills as a medical professional and administrator. Tira also brought presents over from England for those already at the hospital – Haridas I assistant manager, Amal, ambulance driver, and the two doctors Dr. Vinnai and Dr. Adikari, Didi general assistant, Jeevan Lab technician and Bishu the caretaker. Didi, she said she loves her work. They now have blue and white uniforms. We all helped Maire with painting the beautiful banana leaf mural she designed. Finn and I also painted The Tulsi Trust logo on an exterior wall.



I feel the Tulsi Trust has done so much to help the Bengali refugees as well as the tribe's people. The time and effort Tira, Rupert, Sally, Kalindi, Robert, Susie and Vijay, Haridas, Vishnu and everyone involved is truly commendable in my eyes. I am happy to have been there and will definitely be involved with the project from now on.

TTT recently started a separate heart op fund. Previously successfully treating 12 heart op patients. We stopped in '08, priority being to open the wards and employ a Doctor. However we feel to give donators the opportunity to help those in need, {Please mark donation as Heart Fund} The **oung man on the left** wanted to say thank you, he leads a normal life now, he had key hole surgery 3 years ago at Aims Hospital. **The 15 r old bo middle right**, needs open heart surgery, he's had a hole in the heart since birth, he has sought help all over India; we would like to help this bright young teenager:

