

CHCT Newsletter

FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE CATRIONA HARGREAVES CHARITABLE TRUST

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LIFE CYCLES

Leprosy fight becomes a chain reaction

CHCT'S trial of mountain bikes to spread health care among deprived villagers has worked so well a huge new fleet of 45 machines is now taking over.

The first model, pioneered by volunteer Eulalio Rodriguez, survived seven bruising years and countless punctures on the rugged back roads of Nicaragua.

It's now well past its prime and has been retired to make way for the impressive array provided by a £2,000 grant from the charity.

The area comprising 14 villages around Somotillo and Santa Tomas is endemic for leprosy and other severe infectious diseases.

Approximately 1,657 families will benefit from the provision of



RING out those bells . . . volunteers (above) celebrate the arrival of their new bike fleet; how we reported the first trial in 2004; and village mothers at a nutrition seminar (below left)

these bikes to speed the 75 trained health promoters on their rounds

In collaboration with the local aid agency ADP it was possible to obtain the machines for a fraction of the High Street cost. Repair kits are also covered by the grant.

Dr Pedro Torres of the Fontilles leprosy centre said: "Quite long distances are involved and the bicycles will allow a wider area to be covered than was possible on foot." Nicaragua is the second poorest country in Central America, and the government's limited health budget is mostly

concentrated in the cities. Lack of information is a major problem in rural areas and CHCT has also sent £3,000 to fund a health education project in local schools.

Not only will the children grow up knowing how to protect themselves from disease, they will be quick to spread what they have learned around their families.

The programme includes food seminars for mothers who are being shown how to get the best out of nutritious ingredients such as soya and fresh vegetables, grown from seed provided by CHCT. Another £3,000 was sent to Nicaragua last May.



ARE YOU ON EMAIL?

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Dr RAMASWAMY GANAPATI

WORLDWIDE tributes have been paid to Dr R Ganapati, charismatic founder of the Bombay Leprosy Project, after his sudden death in November.

His work among the sick and deprived of Asia's biggest slums has long embodied CHCT's ideals of giving help where disease and poverty meet.

A colleague wrote on the website Leprosy Mailing List:

☛ The leprosy world lost an eminent son and I have lost another good friend in the death of Dr Ganapati, who tirelessly worked for the well-being of the leprosy-afflicted, all his life and almost till his last breath. Just three weeks ago, in a mail to me, he said he "tries to work as much as his heart allows him to". Even his heart, large as it was, could not, I suppose, cope with the workload and had to call it a day at last.

Dr Ganapati's name was synonymous with urban leprosy control and whenever Bombay (now Mumbai) was mentioned in connection with leprosy, it often referred to him and his work.

In setting up and running the project he showed that good quality leprosy work could be done successfully in the urban metro-



Support . . . Dr Ganapati gets a cheque from our patron Sir Nick Fenn

politian milieu and how that could be done. That was not an easy task as anybody with experience in field work would avow. Before him it was thought an almost impossible task, and lo, there was Dr Ganapati and the impossible was shown to be successfully possible, giving a fillip to setting up other urban leprosy control projects.

Unlike many others in the field, his interest was not confined just to making the leprosy patients safe for the community by rendering them non-contagious, he was interested in their total welfare and

in that I feel he served as a model leprosy worker. His work in Dharavi, reputed to be the largest slum of Asia located in Bombay, is a glorious chapter in the annals of leprosy work in India.

He was a personal friend and I will always remember his endearing smile.☛

Dr Ganapati frequently expressed his gratitude to CHCT supporters for their donations which form a major source of the project's funding. Its work will continue under the energetic direction of his successor Dr VV Pai.



Banger night won't give up

THE charity's popular sausage stall at Yalding Christmas fair made a miraculous reappearance this winter thanks to trustee Chris Allen and a team rounded up at short notice (left).

After missing the previous year it was understood that CHCT's pitch had been allocated to another stall, but Chris received a last-minute call to go ahead and £505 was raised.



LIFE'S BRIGHTER, MUM

REMEMBER Theresa, the daughter, pictured. She was young bride whose life was treated by a health program supported by CHCT and run by our sister charity Target TB. Her mother-in-law in Timor Leste? That's her a year on, cured of TB and with a baby son to join her over unmade roads to reach her.

It's all old, all new!

Fresh look for antiques quiz

AN all-time favourite among CHCT supporters, the mystery antiques quiz, is coming back with a new set of ancestral relics to challenge everyone's wits.

Collector Mrs Sue Hamilton-Miller will be passing around her baffling treasures at Goudhurst Village Hall on Friday March 16, starting at 7 for 7.30pm.

As before, specialist knowledge is not required—just a vivid imagination to picture what part these little bits of history played in the lives of our grandparents.

One thing the items prove is that folk were just as mad about gimmicks then as we are today.

Sue's previous collection included a beautifully crafted piece of metal with a polished ebony handle that fooled everyone and turned out to be a smoothing iron for top hats!

There is a licensed bar and guests are invited to bring a picnic supper. The quiz works best with tables of eight, so supporters can either reserve one at £10 a head or pay individually and form a team on the night.

To book ring 01580 212249 or email CHCTrust@gmail.com.



Lids up . . .

THIS LOOKS LIKE AN OPEN AND SHUT CASE, WATSON

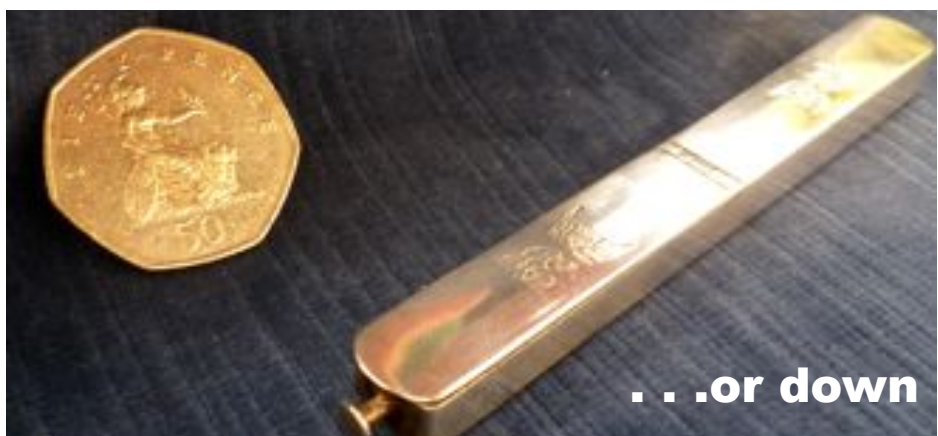
CERTAINLY what it is, Holmes, but there's nothing in it, so how do we work out what it's for? Is the coin a clue, or something that cunning fiend Moriarty has left there to put us off the scent?

Plainly a forgery, Watson. Look at the thing—they couldn't even get it circular, and the head

doesn't look remotely like Queen Victoria. A drop of acid will soon prove it isn't even silver.

I'm not sure that's allowed in village halls, old man, and you'll be in terrible trouble if you splash it on the artifact.

Hmm. Maybe it's a two-pipe problem after all . . .



. . .or down

Raising the roof on Helen's House

THE CATRIONA HARGREAVES CHARITABLE TRUST Registered number 1064838

If you wish to help the charity's work for remote and forgotten people in places where disease and poverty meet please send a cheque, payable to CHCT, to: Mill House, Claygate, Kent TN12 9PE
Taxpayers can help us reclaim extra cash from the Treasury if they kindly fill in and enclose this form.

I am a UK taxpayer and want the Catriona Hargreaves Charitable Trust to reclaim tax on all my donations.

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every month/ quarter/year (delete as applicable)

starting on (date).....until further notice

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WE'VE heard from our friend Dr Ernestina Mensah-Quainoo that after a delay of two months work has re-started on the new Helen's House clinic in Ghana.

It was completed up to lintel level in August and the project still has £2,162.50 in the bank, which will put the roof on the building. Dr

Mensah-Quainoo, who has visited CHCT supporters in Collier Street and gave them a fascinating account of her work in the area, has now been promoted to local health director and keeps in touch with the charity.

She knows that a further instalment of our long-term commitment to Helen's House will be on its way as soon as the trustees have a report on how the £2,162.50 has been used.

The unit will allow children infected with crippling Buruli ulcer, which is endemic in the area around Nsawam, to receive treatment near their homes.

Its location near a bus terminal and a big regional market permits their mothers to continue working while caring for the youngsters. Previously it was a major problem for hard-up families who had to choose between loss of income and their children's need for medical attention. The clinic will also provide treatment for other injuries and accidents.

Cynthia Stanford

BRIC-A-BRAC

Good quality curios and household items on sale with all proceeds going to local charities

Come in and have a browse or bring along those unwanted gifts

(no used clothing please.)

OPEN 10am to 1pm ON FARMERS' MARKET DAY (THIRD SATURDAY EACH MONTH)

AT THE COACH HOUSE BARN IN
YALDING HIGH STREET