

The Andrew Clark Trust

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2015



In April 4 more students and another teacher went to the UK, and stayed in Kent and London. They attended classes at King's College, Canterbury, Kent University, Christchurch University, Simon Langton Grammar School, Lyminge Primary School and Cedar House which is a special needs school. Each student said that the most outstanding thing for them was the teaching. They were also taken on many cultural visits. Our grateful thanks go to Rob & Theresa Howell, who hosted, organized the visit, and funded it, together with other donors. They also went to London, where they were hosted by Maggie & Mike Short, Jan Meredith, and Rolando & Sarah Cinelli. Our grateful thanks to all concerned.

Next month we are going to start online courses for the older students which are free courses offered by the British Council. For this we will have to have the internet. This will enhance the student's education. We have also had to purchase a small generator, as most of the time there is no electricity, and now in the monsoon, the sky is so dark, that without electric lights it is impossible to teach.



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We now have many more students attending high school and this will mean that when they finish they will be able to get much better jobs or go onto further education, if funds allow. Because most of our students speak very good English, they have so much more opportunities, in whatever they choose to do.

Now there are many more hotels in Ngapali (where the school is based), and therefore they can get good jobs locally.

However the problem is that land prices have gone up so much, that most land owners have sold, so that some of the poor people who were either squatting on their land, or paying rent, have or are having to move.

One example is of a family having to move because the land was sold by a broker. They were offered to move to other land which the broker owned. However this is far away, and means that there is no chance of work for the parents, their adult son and daughter, and another daughter who is sponsored cannot go to school.

Some families have left their children with neighbours or relatives, so that they can have free education, because if they take their children with them, they will not be able to afford to send them to school.

Another difficulty we face is that our expenditure has considerably gone up. The cost of sponsoring a child up to high school, covers their education and school uniforms, but when they go to high school it does not cover the amount. We don't like to ask for increased sponsorship fees, but this means the student is mainly funded by donations. High school is for 2 years, but next year the government is going to introduce 1 more year.

Student 9th Standard High School

Tuition fees per month are 25000 kyats = £14.17 per month = £127.53 per year. If the student is outstanding, and their home doesn't have electricity, in a few circumstances, we pay for them to stay in a house under supervision to do their homework. The cost then is:-

70,000 kyats per month £39.74 = £357.66 per year.

Student 10th Standard (Final Year) High School

Tuition fees per month 35000 kyats = £19.88 = £198.80 per year.

Tuition fees per month for a student staying in a house under supervision to do their homework. The cost then is:-

90,000 kyats per month £51.10 = £511

This does not include their school uniforms and books.

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Now we have 11 teachers at the English School, and we have 1 librarian and 1 caretaker. Our monthly cost of salaries is now 1387500 kyats which is £786.50.

If anyone can help with fundraising we would be most grateful.

During June, July, August and September it is the monsoon season which is a difficult time for the poor families. Over the last month we have seen torrential rain for most of the time causing flooding. In the nearby town, more than 80 families lost their homes in the floods. If you can imagine what it must be like. The humidity is more than 90%, so to dry clothes is very difficult, and once the people's homes are damp and wet, it is very hard to live. All the patients in Thandwe Hospital had to be moved out to a monastery, because the hospital was flooded.



There are now 9 people living in this small shack, because one of their adult son's, his wife and son, lost their home in the floods near Sittwe. We are now going to build a shack for them, if they can find a small piece of land to rent. For the fishermen and their families with no work during this time, they get into debt. At present some villagers have got dengue fever and malaria, and for the worst cases they are hospitalized.

The school now has a playground roof, very kindly donated by the Bernie Family Trust. This means that the students can wait for their classes in the dry, and also be able to play and have other activities out of the sun.

Our grateful thanks to them.

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Thanks to all our volunteer teachers who did a great job, and helped teaching English, art, making jewellery, making coconut vases, flower arranging, teaching healthcare, building toilets, to name but a few.

THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT WITHOUT WHICH WE COULD NOT CONTINUE.