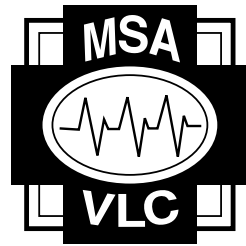


VIETNAM LAOS CAMBODIA



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AGENT ORANGE VICTIM NGUYEN SY THANG



During their recent Project Appraisal visit to Vietnam, Peter And Mary Lidgard met with representatives of VAVA, the Association of Victims of Agent Orange, at their centre in Ha Tinh.

Whilst there, they were told the story of one of the many young victims of Agent Orange, Nguyen Sy Thang, who lives in Thach Ha Town, Ha Tinh Province.

Thang was born in 1988 suffering the secondary effects of Agent Orange transmitted through his father, a former soldier in the war against the Americans.

As you can see from his photograph, Thang's contact with Agent Orange has manifested itself in an appallingly disfiguring facial growth which affects him both physically and mentally.

Peter and Mary were told that the cost of an operation to remove the growth was far beyond what the boy's family could afford and were requested to see if MSAVLC could make a contribution.

Thang's story has moved the Trustees to take the unusual step of seeking donations to help an individual victim of Agent Orange to lead a normal and fulfilling life. The treatment would consist of two or more operations, to be carried out in Hanoi.

If you can help Thang please use the enclosed Donation Form to make your contribution. As usual we will ensure that every penny donated is used to help pay for Thang's life-changing operation.

The Trustees

AN APPOINTMENT WITH IEU GEORGE, PURSAT'S DISABLED BARBER

We went with Pheng Samnang, the Director of Disability Development Services Program, to visit one of their clients in Pursat, Cambodia. We were keen to meet Mr. Ieu George again, the disabled barber, who we had met two years ago.



George fell from a tree when he was twenty years old and injured his spine; he was paralysed from the waist down. He is now 68 years old, and when he first became disabled he trained to be a

hairdresser. Recently DDSP stepped in to help him, as his equipment was old and worn. They provided him with new shaving and hairdressing equipment, and repaired his wheelchair.

George works from a small wooden lock-up near the river in Pursat, and on some days he has one or two clients, on others he has none. He charges 3,000 riel for a haircut, about 50p.

To supplement their income, his wife bakes 'num-pums', small waffle-like cakes, which she makes on a small burner and sells outside the shop. They are made from rice, coconut oil, sugar and eggs, and she sells them at 2 for 500 riel, about 10p. Apparently they are delicious, and are well sought after, but unfortunately we were unable to try them, as that day she was away at a friend's wedding.

However, I was able to try out George's skills and I was given a very smart haircut. The neighbour came round to watch! We paid George the 3,000 riel and gave him a printed photo of the Cotswolds to say thank you. Ieu George is just one of many DDSP clients who benefit directly from donations given by MSAVLC supporters.

*Peter Lidgard
Honorary Secretary*

FUNDRAISING

Along with many other charities we are feeling the effects of the downturn of the economy with a serious decline in the number and amounts of donations.

Our recently approved accounts for 2012 showed a 40% reduction in our income and this trend appears to be continuing into 2013.

Were it not for the legacy left us some years ago by Professor Grant Lathe we would have needed to substantially reduce the level of funding to our supported projects in South East Asia.

The Trustees continue to actively seek to reduce the administration costs of the charity (the four page format of the Bulletin being one

example) and to promote and encourage fundraising events whenever the opportunity arises, but we do need your help.

Without your help and donations we are nothing, with your help we can continue the work of improving the quality of life for those less fortunate than ourselves.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR PAST AND FUTURE HELP

DISABILITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

PROGRAM CLIENT VISIT

MSAVLC is the sponsor for the Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Rehabilitation Project run by DDSP in Pursat, Cambodia. During our visit there in February, we were able to visit some of their clients, including Mr. Aout Sao.



To reach his home we had to travel way out into the countryside, along a bumpy dirt track, passing barren fields, buffalo, cows and cricket-traps on the way. Sao was a 35 year-old man who had fallen out of a tree five years ago and become paralysed. He had only the slight use of one arm. He was married with two children of five and eight years old. When he had fallen from the tree, he had landed in mud and it was 20 hours before he was found. He told us that he was very frightened, and scared that he would be attacked by wild animals.

He now has a small shop, along a dusty path which leads to other villages across the fields. He sells a few groceries, and produce that his wife buys from the market. Life is very hard for him, but he is a lovely man with a sense of humour. He had a wheelchair that had been adapted to lean back for him to lie out on. The seat was made of plastic, and

although it was padded, it must have been very hot, and it was beginning to wear out. DDSP send a physiotherapist to see him each month, and have provided a water filter, chickens, a buffalo and a pig for him to farm. He lives in the shop next door to his parents, but he has

his own small plot of land across the field, and he would like to move there to live. If he does there is the possibility that he may be able to have a well and be provided with a latrine. Obviously these things would make a tremendous difference to him.

Sao and his family work very hard, and make most of their money from passing trade at harvest time. This money has to last throughout the year.

His wife and son went off to fetch their buffalo to show us, and brought her back along the dusty track tethered with a rope through her nose. They hope to breed from her next year. They were a courageous family, and we were pleased to see how they had been helped.

It is only through the generosity of MSAVLC's donors

That assistance continues for Aout Sao and his family, and many other disabled people in Pursat Province. For us to continue this level of support donations are desperately needed.

*Mary Lidgard
Trustee*



HEDO VISIT TO COVENTRY



Professor Trinh Ngoc Trinh, the Director of HEDO, visited the UK in June 2013.

As usual he took the opportunity of this visit to travel to Coventry to pay his respects to Dr. Madeleine Sharp, our 93-year-old Joint President.

With their friendship and co-operation now measured in decades, it was edifying to listen to their conversation about past and present

joint projects. They spoke at length about the value of the Traditional Midwives Training Project, and its value to the people in the Northern Highlands of Vietnam.

We were pleased to hear that Professor Trinh had

delayed his return to Vietnam to enable him to attend our Annual General Meeting on June 11th.

Following the formal business of the AGM, Professor Trinh addressed the members present. In his, typically, ebullient manner, he thanked MSAVLC for their help and support over many years and expressed to hope, that this would continue in the future. He then read a poem that he



had composed about the value of friendship and the role that MSAVLC had played since 1965.

He also took the opportunity to recognise the contribution of Dr Sharp to the rehabilitation of the victims of war in Vietnam.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 11th June at the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The AGM was hosted by the Embassy, and we were privileged to have the presence of the Ambassador, Mr Vu Quang Minh, his Deputy, Ms Le Thi Thu Hang and the new First Secretary, Mr Nguyen Van Phong.

In his review of 2012 Honorary Secretary, Peter Lidgard highlighted a

few of the projects which had been supported by the charity.

Working with VAVA (the Association of Victims of Agent Orange) 90 wheelchairs were purchased and delivered to victims living in Ho Chi Minh Province.

Equipment was donated to the Ha Tinh General Hospital, Paediatric and Eye Departments.

The British Friendship Hospital in Ky Anh, Ha Tinh Province, continued

to receive our support with enhanced prizes for the Joan McMichael-Askins awards for outstanding contributions to the work of the hospital.

Along with the good news we were reminded of the sad death of our dear friend, Dr. Nguyen Dinh Lan in Ky Anh.

The evening was rounded off with a traditional Vietnamese Buffet generously provided by the Embassy and enjoyed by all present.

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