



KSDP NEWS

MAY 2008

Karenni Student Development Programme

What we can do with £5

Supply food, clothes & toiletries for one of our refugee students for a whole month *****

Buy rice for an IDP family for a week *****

Buy medicines for an IDP family *****

Pay a teacher's salary for 2 weeks+ *****

Buy 2 life straws to supply clean water for a year. *****

Buy Burmese books for our library *****

Fund one week's keep and care for our mule Stephanie who is helping IDPs inside Burma *****

Buy 3 cane balls for one of our Boarding houses *****

Buy a white board for our school in Huay Pu Keng

THIS ISSUE

Website	1
Library	1
Moe Bue	1
Talented students	2
KSDP projects	3
KSDP projects	4
Contact us	4
Events	5

New Website

www.ksdp.co.uk

KSDP now has its own web-site. If you visit right now you will find much to interest you on Burma, the Karenni and the work of KSDP. You'll find recent newsletters in case you missed them and we have that all important DONATE button which accepts secure on-line donations. You'll also find links to other websites which provide additional information on the Karenni and Burma.

Please tell your friends about our website and keep returning to see how it develops.

We thank Marcus, for all his help with the website. For the past few years he has been our volunteer IT expert both here in the UK and in Mae Hong Son, where his skills are put to great use maintaining all the computers belonging to our Karenni projects.



Camp Library

These pictures show the new camp library in use. It has proven to be one of the best new KSDP projects in camp, with many refugees young and old using it as a great resource and activity centre. In fact it is now so popular that the Karenni Students Union who run the library have decided to build an extra floor so that

space for the adults and children can be separated. Many Karenni have access to illustrated books for the first time and also come to enjoy the many games such as chess, draughts and Scrabble and that we've given them as well as discovering jig- saw puzzles for the first time.

If anyone has unwanted games, please contact us—they would be put to very good use.



Update on Moe Bue

You will have read in our last newsletter that Moe Bue has been granted the right to remain in the UK and she has been actively involved with KSDP and the Burma cause in the past few months. She is shown here alongside Pascal Khoo Thwe, the famous Karenni author of "The Land of the Green Ghosts" during a march in London at the time of the Burma uprising last September. Moe Bue has attended numerous KSDP talks and fund raising events with Beryl, especially at NLCS and



Bryanston Schools who we thank for raising funds for KSDP. However Moe Bue is also kept very busy with her preliminary studies for a qualification in Health and Social Care which she hopes will eventually allow her to study to become a qualified nurse. She has also taken on part-time work in a local supermarket and this has helped considerably with her spoken English and integration into the 'British way of life', even though she admits that it has highlighted how unhealthily many Brits eat.

Basic Needs

Last Summer Moe Bue asked us if we would consider funding a new project to provide basic needs support to around 950 young girls in camp. The young women had previously never been supplied with underwear or sanitary protection and so with our funding the Karenni Students Union held several introductory training sessions in both refugee camps. They taught the girls about puberty and basic hygiene, dispelling many rumours that were associated with 'that time of month'. KSDP purchased £1700 worth of supplies and this provided support to 950 young girls for six months. This is such a basic project but one which we feel has been sadly neglected in the past.



"It is wonderful for me — for the first time someone is really understanding the situation for us girls".

"Now I will be able to tell all my younger sisters what will happen to them so that they are not frightened like I was".

"This has given me so much confidence to go out in front of other people. Now I will not have to miss school every month".

"My mother never told me anything because I think even she does not know what really happens to her body".



Here are some quotes from the young recipients:

Huay Pu Keng Schools



For five years, KSDP has supported the Middle School in Huay Pu Keng Kayan (long neck) village, meaning that the middle school teachers received regular salaries. The primary school was funded by the village and because of the intermittent nature of their income, it meant that some months primary teachers received no salary, creating an imbalance in the schools. In March 2008, KSDP agreed to take over the total funding of both schools and we also agreed to build a new primary and kindergarten school and rebuild and refurbish the middle school. It cost £4000 to rebuild the primary school and we are very grateful to KTCT who gave this amount via KSDP. See <http://www.kitchentablecharities.org/index.html>. The new primary & kindergarten was built by the villagers and the pupils will move here at the start of the new term in May. The middle school refurbishment starts in April. We are hoping to encourage volunteer teachers to come and work here — contact us if you are interested.

KLMC & Shining Stars Boarder

The Leadership & Management Course provides training for older students and continues to fulfill a much required need. Following their two year classroom based study they put their theory to the test in a one year internship with a camp organisation and then most will stay and work with that camp organisation. With 20,000 refugees the camp is like a small town and especially now that many refugees are taking up offers of resettlement in a third country there is a constant need for educated replacement staff.

All of the teachers are Karenni refugees and KSDP helps by preparing curriculum materials. We have just funded several new laptops for them because they require much less generator power. If anyone ever has a good quality laptop to dispose of please let us know.

We also provide boarding facilities for many of the students who have no family support in camp and here we show some of them receiving their new KSDP/KLMC t-shirts.





Thank you for your continuing support. Please contact us if you have any comments or ideas for fund raising.

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 reg charity 1108288

- KSDP provides educational and other support to Karenni refugees living in camps on the Thai/Burma border and elsewhere in the world , following third country resettlement.
- KSDP was founded in 1999 by Stephanie Lee, who was killed in Thailand in a road accident in 2001. KSDP is now run by Stephanie’s family in her memory, and is a registered charity.
- KSDP needs to raise at least £70,000 each year to fund all their on-going projects.
- You can sponsor a student for just £5 per month—contact us for a standing order form.
- KSDP operates a policy of minimum administrative costs. 100% of your donation goes directly to KSDP projects.

JUST GIVING.COM

We now have an account with <http://www.justgiving.com/> which will enable you to easily set up a fund raising page to support KSDP. You could organise a sponsored event or invite donations in lieu of birthdays or other occasions. Please contact us if this interests you and in the meantime see what on of our supporters has done: <http://www.justgiving.com/francescasilman>

Rising Stars and Future Stars

Along with Shining Stars, KSDP funds two other boarders in the Karenni refugee camp, providing homes for over 100 students who have no parental support. Our original boarder is called Future Stars and has around 70 young boys and girls over the age of 14 and is run by Kyi Shwin and assistant boarder masters Andrew and Tin Maung. We recently gave them a computer and we were delighted when soon after they produced an excellent CD of their activities showing every student performing a task or playing a sport.



Future Stars meeting room

Rising Stars is a boys only boarder that we have supported in a small way for several years but when two years ago we realized that they were receiving no permanent funding, KSDP took over the total support. Following some initial leadership problems we are pleased to say that we now have an excellent boarder master running Rising Stars . His name is Tar Reh and he is a KSDP product through and through and an excellent example of our motto “Helping the Karenni to help themselves.”. He originally lived in Future Stars, then attended KLMC and the KSDP Skills Development Programme, then became KLMC Boarder Master. Tar Reh has totally turned around the boarder and takes great pride in showing that RS is one of the best boarders in camp. We recently bought a new generator, and funded a recreation room with TV and DVD player. Tar Reh intends



to show films to other camp residents, charging a small fee which will help offset other activities for his young charges.



2008 SUMMER EVENTS

London Garden Party

In the company of Mayor & Mayoress of Haringey



Moe Bue in Susan & Earl's garden in 2007

**“100% of
our income
goes to
help the
Karenni ”**



Once again with thanks to Susan (Steph's art teacher) and Earl, plus friends from North London Collegiate School, past and present we shall be holding our London Garden Party in Muswell Hill. There will be great teas with home made cakes, many plants and pottery on sale and Beryl, Steve & Moe Bue will be there with a wonderful stall of Karenni & S.E.Asian crafts.

Visit www.ngs.org.uk and enter the postcode N10 2DE for full details

(including directions) of Susan and Earl's garden on the National Garden Schemes (NGS) website. Maureen Lipman describes this as her favourite garden *“Humour and trompe-l'oeil combine with wildlife-friendly carp ponds, waterfalls, lawns, abundant borders and imaginative container planting to create an inspirational restoring experience”*

Please phone Susan on 0208 883 8540, if you have any enquiries.

**Sunday
May 4th**

2pm to 6pm
Admission £2.50
Children free

**5 St Regis Close,
Alexander Park Rd,
Muswell Hill
N10 2DE**

Music in the Garden

We are delighted to welcome Flossie Malavialle to our Summer Concert and Picnic. We limit the number of tickets to ensure that we have under cover seating for everyone, so don't leave it too late since this is a most popular event.

In keeping with our policy of offering different genres of music, this year we have a folk/jazz/standards singer and guitarist who is a great entertainer.

This is a recent review:

“Flossie's a sensational performer. She intrigues listeners with her quaint French-Geordie accent and charms them with her stories and ready laughter. Yet it's her singing that bowls them over. An artist's artist, a people's artist, here's a mammoth talent emphatically radiating that magical X-factor. A veritable show stopper!”

to listen to Flossie singing

<http://www.flossie-malavialle.co.uk/>

**Saturday
June 21st**

5pm for 6.30pm
£10 adult, £3 child
(Bring a picnic)
at

**Laceby Manor
nr Grimsby
DN37 7EA**

Limited tickets