



Karenni Student Development Programme registered charity 1108288
Helping the Karenni to help themselves

OUR SUPPORT FOR THE KARENNI GROWS

We hope you will enjoy our new illustrated format. May 2006 saw KSDP reach a significant achievement. We have raised a total of £200,000 for the Karenni since Stephanie first became involved in 1999. Thank you to everyone involved. Please help us continue to provide valuable support for the Karenni living in refugee camps near Mae Hong Son, Thailand. Beryl was out on the Burma border for two months at the beginning of the year and our coordinator, Bridget, returns to Mae Hong Son at the end of May to begin a new Advanced Skills Development Programme (ASDP) with Beryl joining her in July for another two month stay. Two volunteers stayed with us in Mae Hong Son over the winter: Marcus who specialized in IT and Clifford who taught history and world affairs on the ASDP.

The situation within Burma shows many signs of becoming even worse with daily reports of gross human rights oppression of the ethnic minority people, and a continual flow of refugees across the border to Thailand. See www.freeburmarangers.org for more information on the current situation inside Eastern Burma. Our educational projects and orphanages are working well and we continue to explore new areas that need our support and we report on these inside. We are currently developing our own website www.ksdp.org.uk and in the interim you will automatically be re-directed to other Karenni sites.



KARENNI REFUGEES RESETTLE IN FINLAND

In March eleven Karenni refugees left the camp to take up the chance of resettlement in Finland. Amongst them was Poe Myar, a student in one of our English classes and Htoo Htoo, shown here in the refugee camp with Beryl & Steve just prior to her departure. Htoo Htoo worked in the camp for the Karenni Education Dept, as a teacher and latterly as a school welfare officer. She was one of Stephanie's friends, and a student on our 2005 ASDP Course and she was very excited to be given



this chance of a normal life, albeit in a very different environment. They left Thailand in temperatures of 95°F and arrived in Helsinki where it was 28°F. The latest news from Htoo Htoo is that she loves her new life of freedom and does not mind the snow because "white is my favourite colour". She immediately landed herself a job as a teaching assistant helping Burmese refugee children settle into school. Htoo Htoo has already learnt some Finnish, and has adapted well to a very different life style. KSDP intends to continue to support these Karenni even though they are resettling in Finland and so Beryl and Steve are to visit them (at their own expense) in their

new home in June, and will be taking lots of warm clothing for them. In complete contrast they would also like us to take some swimsuits, which are very expensive there, so that they can experience saunas and swimming for the first time.

If you have any items: smallish sizes, adults, children or babies, bring them or send them to us at Laceyby, (see page 4) or bring them to our Open Garden event in Muswell Hill, June 18th, (page 2).

LIBRARY BOOKS ARRIVE

In February, the 2500 children's books that Nettleham library donated arrived in Mae Hong Son, after a two month sea journey. We had spent a whole week sorting, classifying and securely packing the books at Laceyby and then they needed to be sorted again on arrival at our office in Mae Hong Son into suitable groups for each of the libraries. These books have now been distributed to two libraries which are being run in the camps by the Karenni Student Union as well as some to each of our orphanages and schools.

Most of the young people in the camps have never seen an illustrated hard back book and we found that many adults were also very interested in the books.

Thanks go to Nettleham Library, North London Collegiate Junior School who donated the shipping and other costs and JRS in Thailand for all their help.

giftaid it

Don't forget that we can now collect GIFTAID on your donation. If you complete the Gift Aid declaration on the back page and send it with your donation the government adds 28% to the sum, at no cost to you. This now forms a very major part of our annual income—don't let us miss out.

FUND RAISING EVENT — OPEN GARDEN JUNE 18th

This year we shall not be holding our usual summer concert in the grounds of our home at Laceby. Unfortunately it has proven impossible to find suitable musical performers at an economic price and would have meant next to no profit.

However we are holding our regular OPEN GARDEN in London and we hope to see many of you there. This year, because of a clash with exam dates, we shall not have the support of the girls of Steph's old school, NLCS, and it is being run by a group of Steph's ex-teachers and old school friends, so we ask all our London supporters to turn out in force to support us. It will be

another wonderful afternoon. Susan and Earl's garden has been described by the Evening Standard as "among London's finest private gardens" and by Which as "one of the capital's best gardens". For more details on their garden visit: www.ngs.org.uk and look up the address alongside.



OPEN GARDEN

SUN JUNE 18th

2pm to 6pm

5 St. REGIS CLOSE

ALEXANDER PARK RD

MUSWELL HILL, N10 2DE

Afternoon teas

with home baked cakes

Plant sale

Karenni and Asian crafts

Raffle & competitions

Admission £2.50, children free.

NEW!

SHOP ONLINE WITH KSDP and RAISE FUNDS

KSDP has opened its own online shopping mall for our loyal supporters.

KSDP benefits from every purchase you make, at over 700 retailers that are available in the mall, at no extra cost to you. Shop at brands such as Avon, Blockbuster, Budget Insurance, Curry's, Dell, Domino's Pizza, iTunes, Harrods, Hertz, Hilton, HMV, John Lewis, PC World, Tesco.com, Thorntons, and Orange, and we will receive a percentage commission on your purchases to put towards our Karenni refugee projects.

What's more, as shoppers of our mall you can also register as a Fruutz member, a versatile reward club that gives members instant cash back returns from purchases made online. This is an entirely free online rewards club, meaning that you can also benefit from your online purchases as well as supporting our cause.

Please don't forget to shop through our online mall the next time you need or want anything, as every contribution helps us.

"If you buy your groceries from Tesco on-line, go via www.4rcharity.co.uk/ksdp and KSDP will benefit also"

Our online mall's website is:

www.4rcharity.co.uk/ksdp

Don't forget to bookmark this address—you can do this once on the site by clicking—"Add to favourites" on the home page. Please pass on these details to all your friends so that we can swell our coffers at no cost to you.

YOUR RUBBISH IS WORTH CASH TO US

Items that normally end up in the bin - toner and inkjet printer cartridges, and old mobile phones - can be recycled to raise valuable funds for KSDP.

We have teamed up with leading recyclers at the Recycling Appeal in an environmentally friendly fundraising scheme. Every time you donate a cartridge or old mobile phone to us Recycling Appeal will make a donation to KSDP. Recycling Appeal is an easy way to help the environment while supporting us and with your support, we are confident our Recycling appeal will be a success and raise much needed funds. Not only will your participation in the KSDP Recycling Appeal raise funds, recycling allows you to make a positive impact on the environment. Some of the mobile phones even end up in developing countries where

little or no landline infrastructure exists meaning your old mobile could provide a lifeline for someone.

So put your old mobile phones, inkjet and toner printer cartridges to one side. The Recycling Appeal provides free collections if you have more than ten items, and freepost envelopes if you have less. To get more details and begin recycling, visit www.recyclingappeal.com or call the Recycling Appeal team on 08451 30 20 10, telling them you want to support KSDP account no: 718936

Please support us—it won't cost you a penny.

KSDP's NEW PROJECTS

We recently agreed to fund three new Karenni projects that had links with current or past students of our ASDP course

KAYAN LANGUAGE SCRIPT PROJECT



Maung Htan is a Kayan (the Karenni sub-tribe whose women wear the brass neck rings) and was a student on our last ASDP course.

With other young Kayan students he has recently formed a local branch of a youth group called Kayan New Generation Youth (KNGY) to support and educate their community. They recognise that most of the Kayan youth have had more educational opportunities than many of their parents and although they all speak the Kayan language, the written form died out many years ago. KNGY recognized that this causes communication difficulties especially as their community is becoming further spread

out. They proposed an on-going training programme to teach all the Kayan people a new simpler form of their written language that has been devised by one of the educated Kayan leaders. We decided to fund this project because it enabled the young people to contribute to their community through their education. Maung Htan and two other students are currently undergoing training in the Kayan script and they will then set up the training programmes in the three Kayan villages, running group classes with follow-up individual help. We are pleased that Maung Htan is putting to good use the training that KSDP was able to give him and is a good example of our motto "helping the Karenni to help themselves".

See: www.huaypukeng.com for news from the Kayan village of Huay Pu Keng.

Whilst talking of the Kayan and languages, here is Ma Jon, a Kayan girl who lives in Noi Soi village and who speaks six languages including English, French and Italian which she has picked up from tourists who visit her village. We have recently taught her how to use the Internet at our office and she is now able to communicate with friends around the world.



MORNING STARS



Meh Reh and Twah Reh, both past ASDP students, and Nga Meh, an IT student have formed another youth group called Morning Stars. We gave them a full set of football kit, donated to us in the UK, and they asked if we could fund a set of traditional costumes, which they could wear to festivals. We agreed to provide the funds which also meant income for the women in the camp who weave the costumes. We show here a victorious Morning Stars group, at the Khay Hto Bo Festival (Karenni New Year) in April when they won first prizes for dancing and male volleyball and a second prize for female volleyball. They also ran a small shop during the celebrations to raise more funds for their group, and acted as guides for the various officials who visited the refugee camp at this time. The confidence that these young students gain by attending our ASDP course is measured in part by these actions, and KSDP was able to claim a little bit of this success since their pride in being smartly kitted out obviously lead to increased confidence. Although only a small budget was needed, it meant so much to Meh Reh who sent us an excellent PowerPoint presentation telling the story of his

RISING STARS ORPHANAGE COMES UNDER OUR WING

Stephanie first helped this orphanage by buying them a generator in 1999, and we have continued to support them by paying the fuel costs each month. However it was apparent during our recent trip that they received no other regular funding and Phary Reh, the boarder master was contributing his own funds earned from a CD that he had recorded. Clifford, who was volunteering with us over the winter is a great fan of Phary Reh's music and was so touched by this dedication, that he decided that he would like to sponsor this orphanage and is now embarking on KSDP fund raising in Alaska where he lives and works.

We gave them immediate funds to rebuild and extend the orphanage, allowing them to house up to 25 students aged 12 years plus and we jointly agreed to rename it Rising Stars—do you notice a STAR theme amongst our projects? As well as Rising Stars, we have two Future Stars orphanages and the Morning Stars youth group. With the more secure funding it means that the young people will have better food and clothing and Phary Reh and his wife will be assisted by another of our ex-ASDP students, Eh Say, whose experience as a boarding monitor at Future Stars will stand him in good stead.



Construction Karenni style



THANKYOU

“Thank you for sending warm clothes for these Karenni refugee children. Although for much of the year it is unbearably hot, temperatures get close to freezing during winter nights, and when your house has open gaps for windows and is made of flimsy bamboo and leaf, there is little protection from the elements.

We constantly need serviceable clothing (t-shirts and trousers or simple skirts) together with trainers and football boots. The Karenni are mostly small for their age in comparison with the west.

We also still need jewellery and make up for our female students but we have sufficient knitting needles and wool for now thank you.

Gift Aid Declaration

Registered Charity No: 1108288

KSDP, Laceby Manor, Laceby, N.E.Lincs, DN37 7EA

Title _____ Forename(s) _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____ email _____

I want KSDP to accept all donations that I have made since February 24th 2005 and those that I make in future, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid. I currently pay UK Income Tax. I confirm that should my circumstances change in the future and I no longer pay tax on my income and/or capital gains equal to the tax that KSDP reclaims on my donations, I will write and advise you to cancel this declaration. I also confirm that I will keep KSDP advised of any changes to my name or address.

Signed _____ Date _____

Frequently Asked Questions:

Here we answer your questions:

Where are the refugees from?

Their homeland is Karenni State in Eastern Burma, a tiny minority State that was originally invaded by the newly independent government of Burma in 1948. Matters became far worse after the military takeover of Burma in 1962, and in 1988 a peaceful uprising against the junta backfired and became a bloodbath of the protestors. Since then there has been gross human rights persecution of the Karenni by the military junta called the State Peace Development Council (SPDC) and over 22,000 of them have been forced to flee to refugee camps across the border in Thailand, near the town of Mae Hong Son. Thousands of others are living in the Karenni jungle as Internally Displaced People, constantly avoiding land mines and hiding from the Burmese army.

What rights do they have in the refugee camp?

They are not officially allowed to leave the camp to work outside to earn a living, although many do on a daily basis only to be exploited as cheap labour by local farmers. Their lives are largely controlled by aid organisations who provide their basic food, housing and schooling. There is very little opportunity for higher level education, and they are refused full ID which would allow them to become Thai citizens and eventually obtain legal papers or passports.

- KSDP exists to provide educational and other support to Karenni refugees who are living in camps on the Thai/Burma border.
- 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 £35,000 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. Virtually 100% of your donation goes directly to the Karenni.

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

Beryl & Steve Lee
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