

# Life Lines

April 2014



## Changing Lives

Towards the end of 2013, Jimmy Newall and Lyn Howgate, two of our Trustees, travelled to Sri Lanka to visit the projects. It was an interesting time, as our involvement with Women's Development Centre in the Kandy region was drawing to a close. WDC hosted a tour of the project areas, where Lyn and Jimmy saw first hand the improvements to school buildings and equipment that SLCT has helped fund. We have since completed our activities on the Pupuressa Tea Estates and leave the communities far better placed to continue providing their children with improved education, nutrition and recreational activity.

They also visited the Child Centred Livelihood Development Programme in Galewala. We were delighted to see huge progress already. Jimmy reported, "The children are eager participants in their newly formed Clubs and the mothers showed us how the skills they have learned in their leatherwork and sewing workshops are enabling them to produce clothing and footwear for their own use or for sale."

We are now six months into the main project and starting to see tangible results. Working in three villages in close proximity to each other means the project is efficiently administered and communities can learn from each other.



Children at Silvathgama School in Galewala



The results of the sewing and leatherworking workshops

## Happy New Year!

A key objective of the Shining Life project being undertaken in Galewala is to promote social and cultural opportunities for young people and to boost the capacity of the community to host programmes for parents, children and preschool teachers.

The Sinhalese New Year falls on 14 April, and our Field Director Kevin McParland attended celebrations in Nuwanpura village. The community organised a festival of events including games, competitions and a traditional dance display, and culminating in a prize giving ceremony.



Nuwanpura Children's Club Members celebrate New Year

## Life at Shining Life HQ

We are delighted to let you know that we have two new additions to the Board of Trustees.

One face who may well be familiar to you is John Dean, who was our Field Director from 2010 until 2012. His knowledge of the projects, as well as day-to-day life in Sri Lanka, is proving invaluable to us.

We're also very pleased to welcome Janaki Hemaratne to the team. Janaki's connection with us stems from the time we rented a Field Director's flat from her and she has stayed in touch. Whilst based in London, Janaki visits Sri Lanka on a regular basis.

Janaki visited Galewela in January this year with Kevin McParland and saw the sewing training programme in



John



Janaki

Silvathgama and leather merchandise-training programme in Nuwanpura.

We now have a good spread of skills across the Board and the extra time resource to plan for the future of the charity whilst providing comprehensive support for our Field Director and Partner NGOs.

## Life Cycle



Last year's participants

### Saturday 7 June is the date for your diary!

We do hope as many of you as can make it will take part in this year's cycle challenge. In order to make it a manageable challenge, as well as the 100k route we will have a shorter distance circuit for the "sometimes cyclists". If you have children you'd like to involve, we'll also organise a short 10k route. Accommodation will be in chalets at The Shorefield Country Park complex, near Milton on Sea and cycle hire can be provided for those who don't have their own wheels.

If you can join us, please download the registration form from the website, <http://www.shininglife.org> where you'll find lots more information about the event. All ages and abilities can be catered for, and we guarantee an enjoyable time for all!

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## How to donate to Shining Life Children's Trust

### Regular donations

Regular donations help us to plan our work in Sri Lanka better. If you would like to donate regularly, please set up a standing order to our account. You will need to give your bank these details:

**Account name: Shining Life Children's Trust, Sort Code: 40-52-40 (CAF Bank), Account Number: 00016399**

If you set up a standing order, please let us know by email [admin@shininglife.org](mailto:admin@shininglife.org) or write to us at our address.

### By credit card

You can donate by credit card through the Charities Trust or BTMyDonate websites. Please go to <http://www.charitiestrust.org/charities/shining-life-children-strust/index.html> or <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/shininglifechildrenstrust> to make a donation. There are also links from the Support page on our website (<http://www.shininglife.org/support.html>)

### By cheque or charity cheque

Please send your donation to Shining Life Children's Trust at 1 Chestnut Lane, Amersham, Bucks HP6 6EN.

**Thank you**