

TAMWED NEWS



Registered Charity No: 1113533

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JustTextGiving

A new service to help fund charities has been launched by Vodafone and JustGiving. Use your mobile phone to donate to Tamwed by sending a text to **70070**. Just type:

TAMW12£X - X being the number of £s you are donating which can be **1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 10**.

You will be texted a receipt and also told how Gift Aid could be added. Funds raised will support work on climate change to be carried out by our partners in Tamil Nadu. Help will be given to grow and sell crops that can adapt to extremes of weather while improving irrigation, health and housing. Our research has shown that some subsistence farmers have lost up to 50% of their income due to climate change.

Tamar Travellers

Every month or so, Tamwed supporters and others get together, hear about a part of the world visited by a local traveller, eat food related to that country and raise funds for Tamwed. Ethiopia and Indonesia have been featured so far.

The next event will be at 4 pm on Sunday July 31st at Higher Hampt Farmhouse, Luckett, Callington PL17 8NP. Email or ring us for directions or enter the address into Google Maps. Rob Meredith will be talking about the Hidden Corners of Wales. Bring some Welsh food!

INDIAN DANCING AND EATING

We held a very successful event with dancing led by Maggi Squire and food provided by Tamwed supporters. £500 was raised towards our herbal medicine project which will pay for 50 family gardens for herbal plants that people are being trained to identify and use for medicinal purposes.



Photos: Roger Croxson

www.theoneimage.co.uk

MOOLIGAI THOTTAM (HERB GARDEN)

Tamwed is supporting a programme to encourage the reintroduction of traditional herbal medicines that can be grown on small family plots. Nursery gardens have been set up and health workers trained to show others in their villages how to produce medicine from herbs that they can grow themselves.

Ashoka, 45, is from New Erumaivetti Palayam village and is a member of one of the many Self Help Groups organised by our partner CRUSADE. She had been suffering from white discharge problems (leucorrhoea) for three years. She was feeling very weak and although she had spent a lot of money on medicine, there was no improvement. She heard of the home herb garden kept by Ammu, one of CRUSADE's trained Health Workers and approached her for a possible herbal remedy for the problem. On Ammu's advice she prepared and took doses of a solution of aloe vera and jaggery. This gave her good relief and she is now feeling completely well.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

Tamwed has funded the training and on-going work of a team of Community Health Workers who, as well as setting up awareness-raising programmes, identifying diseases and referring patients for specialist treatment, run training programmes for women in their communities..

Velu, 39, lives in Pasuvan Palayam village with his wife Vasuki, daughter Thenmozhi and son Srinivasan. Vasuki is a member of one of CRUSADE'S Women's Self Help Groups.

Velu had breathing problem for two years and initially went to the government hospital where he was wrongly diagnosed as having jaundice for which he was treated. Later, at another hospital he was diagnosed correctly as suffering from mild cardiac arrest and needed an operation. He was afraid to undergo the operation and was instead taking medicine to treat the symptoms. He was motivated by the Health Worker Amudha, who is from the same village, to undergo the operation under a government scheme. His health has much improved after the operation although he continues to be under medication. He is not able to go to work and his wife supports the family by doing manual labour. CRUSADE will help in meeting the cost of medicine for the next three months.



Photos: Jothi Ramalingam

CLIMATE CHANGE

Lisa Murray spent December and January with our partners the ISLAND Trust in the Nilgiris and GAWDESY in Thanjavur. During a series of interviews with farmers and others she established how climate change is affecting people from some of the poorest communities who are dependent on agriculture for work and food. Her report can be seen on Tamwed's website.

She reports: "Everybody has noticed a change in the climate. The general consensus was that over the last 10-15 years and particularly over the past 5 years there had been far less rain; the once-regular climate cycle had become far more unpredictable; the seasons more extreme; and when the rain finally came there would be a heavy downpour. In 2009, there was a short period of heavy rain causing landslides. The last year had been the driest yet with the seasonal rains failing and the only rainfall from the cyclones over the Bay of Bengal."



"We don't grow vegetables as there isn't enough water and they are often destroyed by wild animals - now we only grow tea".

A 2 year programme has been developed using the experience of last year's pilot project and the information in Lisa's report. Farmers would be encouraged to grow and market climate-adaptable crops, improve irrigation and soil fertility as well as taking other measures that will allow them and their families to become self-sufficient for food and attract a reasonable income. The programme will start when funding can be found.

FUNDING

After many years of support for projects in India, the RH Southern Trust is ending our regular grants due to the drop in interest rates. James and Marion who manage the Trust take a great interest in our work and funds from the Trust have enabled us to carry out projects which would not have otherwise taken place. As grants are hard to access for small charities like Tamwed, donations and fund-raising is now even more important. Our climate change programme is on hold until we can find the relatively small amount (compared to that available to larger charities) of funds needed to continue this important work. One way of supporting this project is to donate at: www.thebiggive.org.uk.

Tamwed has very few administrative overheads and all support and expertise from the UK is given voluntarily.

TRIP TO INDIA

We are organising a 10-day visit to South India in January next year. We will be visiting our projects as well as doing some sight-seeing. Those that wish to will stay on to do some more traveling. We will finalise arrangements in November but it would be good to hear from those who would like to join us. We have drafted an itinerary and estimated costs.