

## **Paddle4Relief 2008**

August 17<sup>th</sup> 2008 will see the fourth Paddle4Relief Saunton to Croyde and back charity paddle!

Everyone is invited to help raise money for the 'Forgotten Victims' of the 2004 Asian Tsunami.

Check out the terms and conditions for full details at [www.paddle4relief.co.uk](http://www.paddle4relief.co.uk)

Registration is available both in advance and on the day.

Participants will collect on the beach at midday and commence the paddle at 1pm.

After the paddle there will be live music and a BBQ on the beach through into the evening.

The past year has seen a dramatic change in Paddle4Reliefs fortunes. We are now gaining more and more media coverage due to our impressive project success and fun filled and musically entertaining money raising events.

Through our hard work over the past year we managed to raise over £5000.00.

Tim Tanton, Founder and Chairman of Paddle4Relief has just spent four and a half months in Sri Lanka managing and participating in a number of varied projects. The original proposed projects were modified to suit the community's needs at present. Numerous small projects were identified as being priority due to the deterioration in the local economy and the change in climate conditions. The escalating civil war combined with world increases in fuel prices is having a severely detrimental effect on the country as a whole, but more so the areas further away from Colombo. We focused solely on Arugam Bay due to the increase in security and safety issues. When it is safe to travel and work in Komari then we will engage in our planned projects so long as the funds are available to us.

Tim, has been a regular visitor to Sri Lanka for the past twelve years, and his first major project was the construction of a pre school classroom and playground, which has given a real boost to the children and has played an important part in rejuvenating the local community.

The Paddle 4 Relief team has since achieved numerous other projects such as rebuilding the road accessing the Montessori pre-school and Temples, building cabanas and tea shops, regenerating existing wells, dramatically improving the water quality supplied to many families, putting in pipeline's, providing water pumps, designing and constructing an environmentally friendly water tower and supplying medicine, food and fishing equipment. Tim most recently started a swimming club and he has now encouraged local young surfers to set up a surf club – the boards were generously donated from UK surfers and then shipped out to Arugam Bay.

This year will see the charity applying for official charity status that will enable us to move forward in greater capacity in 2008 and the years to come, with an aim of broadening the area of our aid work.

Our focus remains with health and education, especially in giving the children and young people a firm grounding, a good start, and an opportunity to develop. P4R is committed to working with the youth of the village, supporting and guiding them in various activities. We are about being realistic and not about unbelievable extravagance in creating massive monuments of wasted western money!

We continue to work at base level, with all religions within the community. We are able to empower the communities to do it for themselves, to motivate, support, encourage and develop. We remain flexible to the communities needs and therefore prioritise what is needed at the time rather than what had been planned previously. The community needs change from day to day. Our agenda is not set in stone.

Please contact [tim@paddle4relief.co.uk](mailto:tim@paddle4relief.co.uk) for further information.

## **PLANNED FUTURE PROJECTS**

### **1. WATER SUPPLY**

Continue to supply clean water to everyone within the community, which will mean the continuation of Well improvement and water supply. We are aware of the huge water treatment supply plant being built by US Aid. This should be completed by July 2008. Other agencies are responsible for supplying water to all the homes from the plant. A major concern is that this work has not been commenced and could take a

further two to three years, if not longer, before any of the community receives water from this project. The community needs water now, so we will continue what we have started until which time the US Aid project is able to supply the community.

## **2. YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The major project we have identified as being invaluable is a Youth and Community Centre. P4R plans to raise enough money to finance both the purchasing of land and the building of the centre. We also aim to fund the running of the centre where both activities and educational courses will be available for everyone within the community to access.

## **3. PRE SCHOOL**

P4R will also continue to maintain and improve the Pre-school.

We are therefore looking for further financial support from organisations, businesses and individuals alike.

### **Last thought**

Are you passionate, keen to travel to Sri Lanka and help a great charity? If so, contact Tim directly – you may just well be the next pioneer of Paddle4Relief. Also volunteers are welcome and we are currently looking for Legal and Financial Advisors to join our crew – please spread the word.