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Sunday, 19 March 2006

To everyone who supported this project.

A very big "Thank You".

Your donation has changed the lives of the four members of the Loveneris family forever.
They now have a beautiful brick and tile constructed house, thanks to your generosity.
They could never have even dreamed of owning such a fantastic home. Their outlook was extremely bleak following the devastating events that took place on Boxing day of 2004 which saw their home washed away.
They now have a brighter future to look forward to because you cared to donate.
You have also helped to secure the future of the little four year old girl, Samina.
Most importantly, she will now be provided with the milk that is necessary for a growing child to have healthy bones. This, the family were unable to afford prior to our visit.
All this has been achieved by you and just 64 other donators.
I hope you are all pleased with the results shown in the following report.

Thanks

Cavan, Deb and Aimee Sullivan

1/ Tsunami Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with this appeal.
We would also like to thank Kushil, Rashmina, Shane and all the other staff at the Foundation of Goodness, who built the new home.

On Sunday 5th February we proceeded to the community centre where we met Kushil and Shane who have been working tirelessly for others since the disaster.
One statement that was made by Kushill was that after "The waves of destruction, followed even greater waves of compassion".
When you have seen the work that they have completed, "waves of compassion" is an understatement.
They have now built over three hundred homes, new schools, sports facilities, baby care centre, computer rooms, and the list goes on and on. Their dedication and the care of their staff is evident everywhere.
They have given many people employment or helped to find employment in many different ways.
One of the first things we did was to hand over approx 60 writing pads, colouring books, pens, pencils, 250 markers. We were certainly glad to have finally got rid of them as they must have weighed approx 25 kilos. Never carried so much hand luggage in my life!
We had a look around the new computer rooms and then we went to visit the house we had all sponsored and to meet the family who are now living in it.
We travelled on bumpy unmade roads a few kilometres out of the main village.
Here we met the family for the first time.
The grand parents, their son and their grand - daughter, Samina.
Apart from people working voluntary I would not think there had ever been any tourists in this particular part before and without doubt we were obviously the first Welsh family to visit
The house looked really impressive and we spent a good hour looking round.
This particular house was in a district of ten houses and I believe that every single person came out to see the "tourists". All the kids were very exited and we did try to take a photo of just us and the new home owners, but obviously this was an impossibility. No matter how many times we took a photo, they all wanted to be in the next one and the next one.
On entering the house, the place was extremely cool, I am told due to the high ventilated roof .Obviously well thought out for someone who cannot afford to run fans.
There were two bedrooms, each with a single bed, a living room and a kitchen.
The living room had a new table and chairs and the kitchen was really just a work surface area as all the cooking and washing are always done outside.
There is no running water so it is collected from the well approx 25 metres away.
Cooking is done by wood fire as this is the way that Mr. Loveneris prefers.
While looking around the rear of the house, I spotted a large monitor lizard approximately 6-7 ft long, just basking on the side. As I approached, he moved on, although I did manage to capture a few photos of him.
Smiling children's faces everywhere. It was difficult to move without children following you I have no idea what they were saying, but they were extremely happy.

We left the little girl (Samina) with a new doll, but now felt guilty as we had not brought presents for all the other children, although they did not seem to mind.
We left the village and went back to our hotel, as we had been in Sri Lanka only a short time.
Deb said the house was extremely bare and after us both thinking for a while we realised their only possessions were what we had provided. There was not an ornament or even a photo, absolutely nothing. It seriously made you stop and think what "poor" really meant.
I decided that as we still had some money left, then this family should benefit more as they still needed a lot of help.
The following day I decided to go scuba diving in the morning and then during the afternoon I took a look around the town.

Monday

"Just six bags of cement to finish my home"

Deb and Aimee decided they needed to catch some rays while lying horizontally opposed to the sun. As I find this sport pointless and boring I set out to look around the town and check out the dive shops. Walking along side the main road, I had covered just a few kilometres when I was approached by a male in his early twenties, who said " Hello".
"Ah", he said on hearing my accent, "you're from England!"
" Wales", I explained and he actually knew where Wales was.
"Don't you recognise me? I clean your room in morning".
" Sorry" I replied, " I have terrible memory."
" You are with beautiful lady" he said.
" Yes that's right, but two, as my wife and daughter are with me".
"Yes I know. I clean your room" he replied once again.
Unfortunately my recollection of faces is appalling, but I realised he was obviously the cleaner at my hotel.
"The English people are fantastic" he said. "Sri Lankan government are a waste of time."
He started to explain that his house was very badly damaged by the Tsunami but was being fixed now by English volunteers.
"They have rebuilt a few walls and all they have to do now is render the outside and it will be finished. The work is due to be finished today and the English tradesmen are going home.
All I need is just six bags of cement to finish, but have run out of money."
The young man asked if I would be able to help.
I replied "possibly," but I will need to see the building to check that the work did indeed require finishing.
He replied by saying that I could check now as he only lived around the corner.
"Okay, let's go and look now" I said. After all, who would not want to help - it was only six bags of cement!
"How much is the cement?" I asked, as we were walking.

He told me the cost in rupees, which I then quickly converted in my head into pounds and then into dollars, as is was dollars that I had.
I worked it out to be just seven dollars.
As we continued walking he told me of how the Tsunami came and how he managed to find safety with his two boys and wife. Unfortunately, his mother was not as quick and was killed.
I told him I was very sorry to hear that.
We walked for ages, up one narrow lane, then another, then another, but each time he told me that his house just 100mtrs away. He explained his wife and children would be so happy to see me and we would sit down at his house and have a cool drink. We walked for ages again, up yet one more narrow lane, then another, then another and again each time his house only just 100mtrs away.
He said, if I gave him the money now, we would shortly be passing the cement shop and he could pay for the cement and collect it later.
I responded by telling him as soon as we looked at his house I would give him the money.
Down one or two more narrow roads and then he asked me once again to give him the money now, as he could purchase at a better rate, being a local, which is standard in countries like this and he would collect the goods later.
I told him that as soon as we checked his house, then I would pay.
He then asked me why I did not trust him.
All sorts of thoughts raced through my head and I then began to question myself. After all the trauma he had been through, why was I doubting him, why didn't I trust him. After all it was only seven dollars.
So I took out my money and gave him seven dollars.
"That's enough for just one bag" he replied." I need six bags "
I then thought perhaps I had converted the amounts incorrectly and then my brain suddenly engaged.
Oops, I thought to myself I am going to be turned over here.
I promptly asked for the seven dollars back so that I could give him larger bills. He was not very happy with this, but I showed him as I took out fifty dollars from my wallet to exchange with the seven I had already given him, but as he offered the money I quickly took it from him and placed it all back into my pocket and abruptly turned and started to hastily walk away.
He was not a very "happy chappy" and continued to chant that I didn't trust him after all he had been through.
Luckily, by now, I had a fairly good idea how to go back to the main road and as I turned down each narrow road there were people walking towards us, which obviously made me feel a lot safer.
Finally, I was back at the town where I knew I was okay. He continued to pester me and even dropped the price back down to seven dollars. He said he would manage on one bag of cement.
I then asked him the name of the hotel that he worked at.
He replied with "Coral Gardens"
I replied, "That is not my hotel". With that, he just laughed and walked away.

The strange thing about this story is, that a few days prior to my holiday, I had been asked to visit one of my customers.
His faith, although different to mine, is something he believes in very strongly and he wanted me to call to his house so that he and a handful of his friends could say a few prayers for me to guide and protect me while I was in Sri Lanka.
After a reading by each of the three persons, he spoke to me and telling me not to be scared, but there would be a test for me to try my strength and beliefs. But he was sure that no harm would come to me, that I would come through okay as God would be watching over me to protect me.
That was one very strange coincidence and certainly one I will not forget in a hurry.

Tuesday

Had another brainwave!!
Went out and bought 160 sweet lollies and set off down to Seenigama (the foundation) and leisurely walked through the village and handing them out to the children.
One of my better ideas I thought, now I have recovered from yesterday's brainwave.
This was going well. I had taken my camera with me and had decided to take loads of snaps and would have them developed. I would then leave them in the community centre at the Foundation.
Word soon got around and even grans and grandpas wanted a lolly.
Ah, I think the crowds are getting a little bigger now.
Lots of children, everywhere.
Slight pandemonium, but everything still going okay, just.
One older lad puts out his hand for a lolly and I am only too glad to give him one.
Within a few seconds he wants another one. I decide that as he was a big lad and he was not as mentally aware as most persons, he should have another one. A few minutes pass by and he taps on my shoulder for another lolly. I explain as best as I can that he has already had two and there are no more for him, so carry on handing out to the others.
Again he taps my shoulder and as I turn around there he is again, but this time holding a small child and pointing at him, so I gave the child a lolly and he moves away. Within a couple of minutes he is back with another small child pointing again at the child for me to give him a lolly.
I looked at them both and yes, it was a different baby, so I give him a lolly and watched as he takes the child away, stands him back down on the ground, takes the lolly from him and immediately and picks up a new child.
He realises that I have seen him and despite his pleas, I tell him no more and he laughs. It was very funny and made me laugh. He certainly had one up on me. Well done mate!

Visited a different village. One of these places where real people live, where you don't catch many tourists.
Found a small shop which I watered at quite often. Possibly their first ever tourist.

5/
Had a drink of coke and all the family came out to see me. I tried to buy the lad a coke but he wouldn't have it, so I drunk half of mine, then asked for another and when he offered it to me I gestured for him to have it. Another lad came out so I had to get him one too just as a small girl across the road gestured to take her one as well. So soon enough we were all drinking happily.
Bought some sweets and ALL the biscuits from the shop. I gave all the children the sweets and briskly crossed the road where there was a nursery just about 10 metres away. Here I gave the biscuits and rest of the sweets to the teacher.
Total expense for: four cokes, sweets and four packs of biscuits was about £1.20.
The only word of English that was understood was" coke " but, like I said, everyone understood.
I visited this shop on many occasions, always for a coke and a genuine smile.

Wednesday

Scuba Diving - (My passion) in the morning.

p.m.- Arranged to meet Kushil to discuss the options of what to do with the little money we have left over.
We visited the brush factory where they turn the wood to make brush handles and stems. Also, there were three women spinning mashed up coconut hushe which is then spun into rope and sold.
Had a lift back to the hotel with my Tuk Tuk (Taxi) man, who also works for the foundation. Very nice chap, who would not take money for the ride because he was so grateful that through the generosity of myself and many others helping his people, he now has a home and job due to the foundation.

Thursday

Diving morning and afternoon.
Aimee coming to try again as she has tried twice previously in year 2000 and enjoyed it very much.
Got a feeling I could be paying out here!

Friday

Just a few yards up from the hotel was an extremely reputable bicycle hire shop.
I decide to forget about costs (60 p) a day and rent a top of the range Raleigh mountain bike, which had 21 gears and a comfort saddle. Oh! Just rented that one out. Ah well, I take the girls pushbike instead. The one with the bubbles in the side tyres, two gears and is driven by the latest technological advances in wheel propulsion. It's a belt driven beauty.
Quite easily capable of a good 8-10 kph, which is all that I really need.

With no deposit or proof of where I'm staying, I pedalled off, giving the name of my hotel. Trusting people, I thought. Brakes not too sharp but the bell seems to be okay. Cycled to diving centre.
Back to the hotel about 11.30am. Everyone is okay. Sun-beds are in correct position for Deb and Aimee! Well, I am off again.
Up town and to the village to visit my favourite shop. Bought four cokes, for everyone who was there.
Cycled on to Seenigama. Called in to community centre to see if I could find a guide, as the house was up quite a few windy paths/roads and I wasn't sure if I would be able to find my way.
Found a guide who has a scooter to take me. So I then locked up my trusty bike where I am assured it will be okay.
Climbed aboard the scooter and off to the house when on arrival everyone ran to meet me again. Lots of excitement.
Mr. Loveneris immediately asks if I would like a drink of coconut and when I agree he rushes outside, grabs a length of rope and, after looping the rope around his ankles he continues to shimmy up a nearby tree, which is about 20 mtrs tall and picks some king coconuts. He runs back in the house, chops off the top and there it is, fresh coconut milk as quick and as good as it gets.
I asked Mr Loveneris twice if there was any other thing I could buy for him.
He replied" No" as we had already paid for his house and he was very very happy.
I tried to explain that I had a small amount of money left over in which to buy something he may need.
Finally, it turns out, that although he has electricity in the house, we had not paid to have it connected to the pole outside. I asked for the cost and he produced the forms but they gave no costs. He then scurried across the road to ask a neighbour. The neighbour thinks approximately 6000 rupees (£35), but it all depends on the length of the cable.
I ask Mr Loveneris to obtain a written quote and I will then go and pay.
"Anything else?" I ask him.
He explains that his job is to climb coconut trees and sometimes he walks a long way to work and maybe a bicycle would make life a lot easier.
Strangely enough, I had already priced a bike on the way, as on the previous visit I had looked around his house and hadn't seen one.
A bike is also used for carrying the shopping or even the whole family to the town.
I agreed to sort out a bike for him. Mr Loveneris is paid just 20 rupees (11pence) for removing all the coconuts up one tree.
He told me that was everything he needed. I then asked his wife if there was anything that she needed.
She replied they had no cloths for the windows or doors. I told her I would buy some material.
I asked "What about the child?"
Mr Loveneris replied "The most difficult thing for them was being able to afford to buy her milk on a weekly basis.

7/
Normally when you ask someone what their child wants, you expect to hear them say sweets, toys, or clothes, but when someone tells you they can't afford one of the most basic and essential food items, it really makes you think.
I told him that I would sort something out for them.
I made a conscious decision that I would find a way to ensure that at least this child would be given a better chance in life. I was determined to find a way to help on a much longer term basis.
I said my goodbyes and sat back on the scooter. We drove back quite slowly as we had very little fuel left. We took a new way to go to the petrol station and then after filling up he looked at me and said, "You drive". Although, I never would have thought of riding a bike without leathers or a helmet, I think the heat sadly got to me and I rode the 5 klms back in just my sandals and shorts.
First rule of riding is, find the horn, because you certainly need it and use it regularly.
I arrived back at my trusty, rusty bike and cycled back to the hotel to check on Deb and Aimee, who at that time were strangely engaged in some sort of tribal ritual which involved lying on their backs worshiping the sun.
Could not really see the object of this exercise, so got back on my trusty bike, cycled to restaurant, then the dive centre and then on to bus station to the camera shop to have more snaps developed .
Went to bike sale shop and agreed to buy a very strong bike with rear rack that could supposedly carry 50 kilos and also a front shopping basket. I paid extra to have dynamo lights fitted and a spare chain and blocks, spanners, puncture repair kit and pump. It was quite expensive in the end at £45, however, I had looked at one or two second hand bicycle but they weren't a lot cheaper.
Paid 1000 rupees and was told the bike would be ready the following day after 5.00pm.
I cycled back to the hotel. Must have cycled 30-40 klms today, which is no mean feat on my bike.
We ate our evening meal out at a different restaurant and then while walking along the dusty roadside we purchased a few pictures on way back.
Back at hotel, Deb and Aimee went to the room while I shared a beer with my friend "Lanka." (our taxi driver)

Saturday

Diving (again)

Sunday

Diving in morning
Back to hotel to check on Deb & Aimee, who had managed a walk on the beach before engaging in more sun worshipping. Then took the new cycle to buy containers and pots for Mr. Loveneris.
Bought two water carriers, two big cooking pots, hair bands for the little girl and lollies for all the other children.

Went to community centre and managed to find a guide who spoke some English who actually turned out to be Mr. Loveneris's nephew.
As usual, on my arrival, Mr. Loveneris ran into house fetched his rope and practically ran up the nearest coconut tree. I stayed a short time, while all the children ate their lollies and then I left.
I brought the bike back with me as I still had to buy a few more possessions and needed the bike rack to transport them.
The nut that secures the saddle on the bike has now fallen off. I will call in to the shop and get that fixed. After all I bought the bike with a one year warranty, so the bike shop owner told me!

Monday

Diving today.
I made my way to the "Foundation", to find the guide again as I had decided to see if we could help a young girl who was terminally ill and desperately needed help to purchase special food as she was extremely thin.
It took us quite a while to find the house but we persevered and eventually found it.
On our arrival, the mother disappeared into the house while we waited outside. She re-appeared carrying photos of the little girl's funeral. Sadly, she had died a few weeks ago.
I apologised for disturbing her and gave a small present to each of her other two young daughters.
The little girls were so pleased with their new dolls so we said our goodbyes and made our way back.

Collected Deb & Aimee from the hotel and made headway to meet a very nice couple we had become friendly with at diving.
We met Bob and his wife Jane, from Somerset and Chris from England, on the beach at approx 5.00pm on the beach.
They had claimed to watch loggerhead turtles bobbing up and down on the surf and the rock shelf just about 20 yards from the shoreline.
We had brought our swimsuits & shorts, snorkel and mask so we could try to swim with the turtles. What a thought. However, I did have a go but the rocks and the powerful waves made it extremely dangerous.
So instead we just sat relaxing on the deck chairs with a couple of cold drinks, watching the turtles heads bobbing up and down as the sun went down.
We all decided then to meet up later for our evening meal at a well known local restaurant called " Neela's".
The meal was very nice but we waited a staggering 1hour 45 minutes for the food, but they were not very busy!

Tuesday

Diving in morning

Took a trip to Galle with Lanka (taxi driver) in the afternoon and bought a few more items of necessity for the Lovenis family, including curtain materiel and net curtain, plates, cups, cutlery, cooking knives, a clock, umbrella, one sarong for the lady and one each for the men. Also purchased a pair of flip flops each and several sets of clothing for the young girl, including three pairs of novelty plastic sandals that squeaked when walked on.

Wednesday

(All three of us)
Visited the Foundation and paid $800 to provide food parcels for eight different persons.
Also $150 per year over a period of two years to a family of three children (two aged 17 and one aged 11) to help towards learning to speak the English language.
We paid out $100 per year, for next three years to help towards the welfare of the little girl in the house we sponsored.
This is drawn on a monthly basis to help pay for food etc. especially milk for the child.
We then visited the new house with our English speaking "Tuk Tuk" driver .
We presented the new bike and all the other gifts to the family, who were absolutely overwhelmed. The little girl looked great in her new "Telly Tubby" outfit but was unsure of the squeaky sandals. As was usual by now, Mr Loveneris climbed the coconut tree once again and made us all drinks.
As you can imagine, lots of people around and all wanting to have their photo taken.

Took another trip to the shopping centre at Galle later and then evening meal at the spaghetti house.

Thursday

More Diving.
Today, Aimee and I were diving together as she had now become a qualified diver.
We were diving with the owner of the dive centre, Jay and his nine year old son.
This highly active young lad is unfortunately deaf, however he is certainly one fantastic child who, at the age of nine, can drive a car, ride a geared motorbike with his dad as a pillion passenger and he also dives to 100ft.
He is one unbelievable live wire and is constantly on the move.
One minute he is steering the boat, the next he is holding the GPS, then quick as a flash he's back at the rear of the boat .
He was an absolute joy and I have no doubt that within a few years will be able to beat anyone underwater and become one of the best underwater guides in the business.
He certainly made my day whenever I saw him. One fantastic lad!

10/
Friday

Hectic day!
Hired my very friendly English speaking “Tuk Tuk” driver to take me to the house again, to check on the outcome from the electricity company.
Took with me lots of lollies for children, as usual.

Samina notices me from approx 30 metres away and frantically jumps up and down with excitement. Although it may just be that she has guessed I have a lolly for her, or even more clothes. But no matter what the reason, she was certainly one very happy little girl.
Still not received a quote from the electricity company.
Time was running out for me, so I decided to visit electric board myself taking with me Mr. Loveneris and my trusty “Tuk Tuk” driver.
If I don’t sort it out now, it may never happen.
On arriving at the electric board, my driver explained that I was flying home in a few hours and desperately needed to get quote for electric connection.
Amazingly, they pulled out all the stops and after finding lots of different papers they finally gave me a quote (in rupees) about £46. With correct paperwork in hand we then travelled to the place that accepts the money and were give the official paid stamp.
Once more back to the electric board where I seem to get top priority once again with four persons serving. Finally I am told the electric will be connected in three days time in stead of the normal waiting time of 14 days.
Very impressed with the Lanka electricity board. Well done!
Back to the house and the Loveneris family to say our final goodbyes.
While I am sitting in the house, it suddenly occurs to me that there are only two beds in this house, one in each bedroom. I ask Mr Loveneris who sleeps where. He replies by telling me that he sleeps in one bed while his son sleeps in the other.
I then asked him where his wife and grand-daughter sleep.
I was astounded when he replied “On the lounge floor”.
I could not believe it had taken until now for me realise this. It was a real shock to me and I was so disappointed with myself that after all my hard work the three year old was sleeping on a concrete floor.
I realise that every culture is different and in Sri Lanka the males are the most important in the family, so I could not tell them that this was not right.
I reminded Mr Loveneris that I would be leaving shortly, however, I asked him, if I were to send two beds in a few weeks time, would he move into the bedroom with his son and allow the grandmother and child there own bedroom.
He told me that he would do that so I made a promise to sort that out two as quickly as I could.
I had always meant to photograph the water well, so walked the twenty yards to where it was situated.
The well looked pretty new, with concrete rings and was about 20 metres deep. However, somebody was there actually collecting water from the bottom but when the gallon bucket was dropped to the bottom it had to be flicked on to its side in order to collect just half a bucket full. The well was practically empty.

When the bucket was raised, the water looked disgusting, partly due to the fact it was collecting the sediment from the bottom. I made a comment about the well being almost empty, when I was told that until approximately the month of April, when the rainy season starts, they can't expect it to get any better. I found this unbelievable as it was only the middle of February I asked if there was another well nearby when I was taken approximately forty metres to find another well, that was only a few metres deep, but surprisingly nearly full of water.
I was then told that this water was not suitable for drinking, only washing.
I was then taken to yet another well just fifty yards away.
One again it was only a few metres deep, but it was full of water. When I asked if this was drinking water, the answer I was waiting for finally came, "Yes" was the reply. Although there seemed to be a little hitch! It seems they have to cross on neighbours land to access the water and soon the owner may be building a wall across which his land and therefore would soon put a stop on accessing the only water available nearby.
Again, I could not believe what I was hearing.
I asked what they would do if the wall was built and everyone shrugged their shoulders and said they did not know.
I was told there is a small piece of land close by where a new well could be built, but obviously they can not afford to buy the land from the government.
There are ten houses altogether that use the wells and it is incredible to think that all the families have to get by on such little water.
Surely it isn't that difficult to bore a hole and have water pumped up into a simple filtration system?
I finally say my goodbyes and I am back in the Tuk Tuk and on my way back to the hotel.

I rode with Aimee to a local school where I had earlier watched the morning roll call.
I had noticed that quite a few children were not wearing shoes. I returned to find out why, as they were all in smartly dressed in white uniforms.
I met with a teacher to ask this question.
It was, just as I had thought, purely because they could not afford shoes.
I told him that on my return to my own country, I would find a way to purchase shoes for these children and would be in touch as soon as I was able to fulfil my promise.
He said he would ask each form teacher to check and would email the amount of shoes required.
I have since been informed that approximately forty pairs are needed, but I am unsure of the cost as yet.
Back to hotel, as I had also promised manager of the hotel to visit a family with him who indeed were in need help.
The manager himself had received a letter requesting help and had visited the family and had satisfied himself that they needed this money.
The boy aged nine, is in need of a kidney transplant and although the government will pay for the operation, they will not carry it out until they have 80 000 rupees (£450) in savings to pay for the aftercare and drugs. They also advised the family that the boy should have his own toilet, which must be kept spotlessly clean.

This amount of money is totally beyond the reach of the parents.

The manager had opened an account with the mother and over a period of time had managed to raise two hundred pounds, from tourists at the hotel, which was then banked in her name but the book was kept in the hotel safe until the necessary funds are needed. He had asked me if I could help.
I apologised and told him that I was not be able to help at the moment but if I could visit the family I could check on a few things and write it in my report on my return home. Possibly then I may be able to collect some monies.
So, the manager, Lanka and myself jumped in the car and set out on our way just a few kilometres to the boys house.
We stopped at the entrance as a boy came out walking on “all fours” to greet us. We walked up along side the house to another house and as we entered we met the family. It was obvious that the family were very poor and I proceeded to ask a few questions. There were five children in the family and it was obvious that judging by their sizes all children were suffering from a poor diet and lack of milk.
All were very small and were very skinny. It was so sad to look at them, but although they were all smiling it was obvious they have never ate very well .In fact, the parents would struggle to look after one child and here there were five.
I feel the problem is just down to the lack of education, but hopefully these children will have the education they need and will learn not to make the same mistake.
I asked why the one boy walked the way he did, on all fours. They replied that they had taken him to the hospital and the doctors had confirmed that there was nothing wrong with him and they suggested walking him every day on the beach in an upright position. It was obvious from talking to them that they had not done this and therefore I feel the lad certainly has a very bleak future.
I asked about the young lad with the kidney complaint and they answered all my questions. They even showed me his hospital reports and scan, which sadly meant nothing to me.
I asked if I could have copies as I have a friend who could check them for me.
As soon as I requested this, a neighbour swiftly took the documents and had them copied immediately for me.
We then had a drink of coconut milk and we left soon after.
On the way out I noticed there was an outside toilet that was shared by at least two houses.
I did not venture too close but I expected the hygiene not to be of the highest standard.

Time to return to the hotel and one last dip in the sea before we depart for elephant orphanage and the long journey home.

This experience gave my family and I an enormous amount of pleasure seeing what little a mount of money and a lot of kindness can do.
Personally, I had a great deal of satisfaction in seeing what we have all done collectively, by donating money.

To put things into perspective, if you had donated £5 you have paid for an extra allowance for the Loveneris family ensuring the little girl receives milk and also that they will have more food on their table for about three weeks.

If you donated £20 you paid for 1% of their house. That is an astonishing fact and a huge achievement to be proud of.

Total amount of money raised was: **£2600** from 65 donations

Main Costs were

House 333,365.42 Rupees (£1900)

Sponsorship of house recipients to help pay for food, especially milk for the little girl, Samina, for the next Three years. = 1000 Rupees per month (£6)

Food parcels Eight different persons = 1000 Rupees each (£6)

Sponsorship for two girls and one boy, to help learn the English language.

= $150 a year for two years (£176)

New Bike and parts = 8000 Rupees (£45)

Water Containers and Pots = 3560Rupees (£20)

Curtains, plates, clothes etc. = 11500 Rupees (£65)

Connection of Electricity = 7686 Rupees (£43)

Bags of rice, eggs, milk etc. = 3000 Rupees (£17)

Two beds and mosquito nets,that we are currently sending payment for

= $85 (£50)

Amended total 6.04.06

Beds £100 I thought it was only £50 but that was each, so two payments sent

Also printed and distributed approx 250 photos

At least 250 lollies handed out.

Colouring books, pens, pencils etc. handed out.

14/
Handed out several dolls and toys, donated by Mrs Fuller.

Instant camera was later awarded to Miss Samammali, who has made astounding athletic achievements, despite several members of her family being caught by the Tsunami. Donated by Kate, Gav, ollie and Family.

Cost of stamps etc. were all met by Welsh Window Systems.
Running costs were therefore nil.

Total amount of money spent was in excess of **£2600.00**

One thing I have learnt from this experience is that no matter how much you have achieved in life, a huge portion is due to the actual place of your upbringing and also by the support and dedication of your parents by working hard to give you a better chance. However, if you are brought up by parents who unfortunately struggle to pay for basic items such as food then sadly you have little or no chance at all of achieving a better standard of living.
I have personally decided to donate money each year, to the fund I started, which will help secure the future of the little girl Samina and will probably help others like her.
The money we would normally spend on Christmas cards each year, we will now donate towards a much more rewarding use.

Should you wish to help further, there are a few families in the same village where our house is built who are still in need of sponsoring.

a) I am also looking for help with the purchase of approximately forty pairs of shoes, for schoolchildren who walk to school barefoot.
b) Also,the little boy who is still in need of a kidney transplant.
Unfortunately, the operation cannot proceed on the little boy until another £250 is raised.
I would like to have a toilet built and provide necessary disinfectant, to increase his chances of a better recovery.
c) I would like to sponsor the same family for the small sum of approx £15 a month.
This would make such an incredible difference to their everyday lives. It will pay for a substantial part of their monthly food bill, for the seven family members.
This is a very poor family who obviously struggle to survive on a daily basis.
Every one of these children is seriously thin.

15/
d) My main project :
I have decided that within the next two years I will try and collect enough money to provide a new well and / or filter system, which will provide a pumped water system for the ten houses in the village.

If you would like to help with any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for the generosity and support in helping me achieve what I set out to do. Your donations have made a huge difference to one family in particular, who may never be in the situation to offer you anything in return.

When I started this project, a friend of mine asked me how could building a house make any difference when there are hundreds of thousands of people that have been made homeless.
Well, I certainly believe that Mr.Loveneris knows, as there are now hundreds of thousands, less, his family.

Thank you all, once again for the tremendous support.

Cavan, Deb and Aimee

I hope that whatever your donation, you are pleased with the outcome.
Please do not hesitate to contact me should you would like any further information.
We have a photograph album in the shop should you wish to view.

If you are reading this letter and did not support our initial project maybe you would like to support one of our future aims, I will use every penny without exception, to make someone smile for a very long time.

Should you wish to comment on any of the above please do not hesitate to contact us by phone, letter or email