

Obituary – Chris Morrice

Opening our e-mail the weekend of 14th August was hard. We knew Chris was not well, but no one likes this sort of news. Don Griffiths broke the news with the following poignant tribute that says it all.

Dear Friends,

Sue has asked me to let people know that Chris Morrice died at home over the weekend (Aug 14). She said that he was fading each day and was tired, but that she now knows that he is no longer in pain, which she says was a relief.

Few of us get to choose the way we die, but if we had to choose I think we'd all choose to die at home in bed surrounded and cared for by those that love us, in this case Sue and Joe.

I first met Chris and Sue in 1992 when Chris and I teamed up for ODA/DFID to manage the Northwest Fisheries Extension Project (NFEP) in northwest Bangladesh. I may be biased but NFEP did some good work and many of its successes were its varied extension methodologies, which Chris directed. Chris subsequently went on to work for the DFID Fisheries Training and Extension Project (FTEP-2) and the DFID SUFER (Support for University Fisheries Education and Research) project both in Bangladesh, where I'm sure others will testify that he did an equally sterling job.

Each evening after NFEP work, Chris and I would adjourn to the roof of Canada House for a beer under our thatched roof bar to discuss the day's events, plan work ahead and just relax. The roof bar was at canopy level so we bird watched (a favourite pastime of Chris's) and bet on when the old rain tree next to the toilet would fall down and what it would demolish when it did.

Chris's passions were for his family, his work, good beer, ornithology and star watching. Our thoughts go out the Sue and Joe and our hope is that there is challenging work, good beer at the local and exotic birds wherever Chris may be now.

We'll miss Chris, but the memories will remain.

Sadly yours, Don Griffiths

Direct Tsunami Relief

Saravanane Poobalane (Saro) is currently studying for a PhD with the vaccine unit in the Institute. His home village, Veerampattinam in southern India, was directly affected by the Asian Tsunami. With the help of friends at the Institute and some support from the University, Saro was able to visit home shortly after the tragedy struck. Since then he has been working with colleagues in the vaccine unit to raise funds to directly support his shattered community at home. The culmination of these fund raising efforts was a ceilidh held in Stirling this summer to raise funds to support widows and their families who lost their fishing husbands and fathers back in December. Some of the £1230 raised has already been used to buy clothing and food for these families, who now have no source of income. The distribution of aid to more than 50 families was organised by the Twinkle Star youth club and overseen by Saro's father.

Fund raising for Saro's community didn't stop in Stirling. Pat Smith from Schering Plough vaccines, who are part-funding Saro's PhD, involved his local community of Wenden Ambo in Essex to raise further funds to support the establishment of the Thiruvalluvar Educational Trust. The inauguration of the trust included the distribution of educational material to children of Veerampattinam and neighbouring coastal students in Pondicherry state. Textbooks, notebooks, school bags, pens etc. were distributed to 900 students. The event was organised at the premises of Sindhanai Sirpi Singaravelar government high school, Veeramapattinam. On returning from his village to take part in these events Saro said 'the trust is very pleased to have the support and contributions from the friends and voluntary organisations to take the mission forward'. More information can be found at www.valluvartrust.org, who are also grateful for donations from Falkirk High School Charities Committee and the Ochil Mountain Rescue Team.



Chief technician Iain Elliot cycled from London to Edinburgh (and back!) this summer for fun! And in the process raised £1250 for Jen Howie to buy computing and other equipment. Jen, daughter of Brian Howie - the Institute's engineer - was seriously injured in car crash last year. Even when he's being photographed you can't get Brian out of his overalls!

Ernesto Jack Morales is pictured here explaining his prize-winning poster to Dr Kirk Ramsay, Director of the Glasgow Science Centre. Jack's poster was presented at the first Stirling Graduate Research School conference this year. You can find out more about his current work - with farmers looking to increase the availability of their favourite fish - on page 21.

