

## John Lally International Foundation



### Annual Newsletter



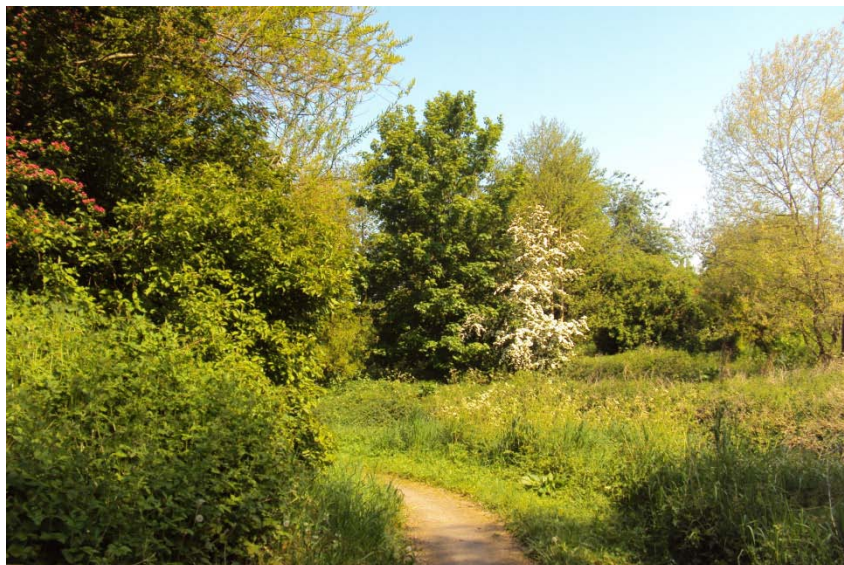
Proposed Ramnagar Eco Community Centre & Primary School

Dear Friends and Supporters,

First let me apologise for not sending this newsletter earlier, it is not due to tawdriness, but due to the fact that I have been busy putting a bid for funding together, we should know the result by mid August, let us hope it goes well.

Let me update you on what we are attempting to do, and how far we have got. We were set up in 2003 to carry on from where the Friends of John Lally Community Wood left off. The wood has proved to be a total success, and it is hard to imagine now that in 1995, the year of John's death, that it was 6 acres of sticky clay. You can view the planting of the wood at

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbp\\_N8ABopw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbp_N8ABopw)





Anyway a few of the original planters went on to form the John Lally International Foundation a registered charity to carry on the creation of woodlands and sustainable developments aimed at helping poor people in developing countries.

Yours truly has been based in India for 8 years in the quest for the right ingredients needed to complete a project based on the work done at St Nicholas Fields, York. You can view their site at <http://www.stnicksfields.org.uk/>

JLIF have been working first in Goa, and are now in Kolkata (Calcutta), West Bengal, India. Our present project is centred in the village of Ramnagar in the Sundarbans, West Bengal. This is a very poor village of about 3,500 people who live precariously in the climate change threatened area on the edge of the Bay of Bengal.

**Our project is aimed at providing the following programmes;**

**A Primary School for children aged 5 to 12**

**Spoken English and Computer Classes**

**Health Programmes-Family Planning advice**

**First Aid Clinic**

**HIV / Aids Awareness**

**Environmental Education**

**Garbage Collection & Recycling**

**Sustainable Energy Generation**

**Tree Planting Scheme**

**Employment Opportunities using Traditional Handicrafts**

**Small scale Agricultural Programme like bee keeping, organic medicinal plants plus other sustainable projects**

**We believe by doing this in this location we can show a way forward for small communities to get out of the poverty trap in a sustainable way without destroying the environment, we realize we need a helping hand in getting started, but once the project proves itself, which it will do, a momentum will be generated which will gain in strength and continue to spread to other localities.**



**Local people in need of a help up, not a hand out**

**Where Now?**

**An opportunity has arisen here in York whereby JLIF can generate funds for the project in India independently of funding we might gain elsewhere, in other words funding that would sustain the long term goals of John Lally International Foundation. As you walk down any High Street in any town or city you will see a number of charity shops, Oxfam, Save the Children, Scope, British Heart**

Foundation, to name a few. Well JLIF have been offered a charity shop lock, stock, and cash register. An organisation not linked to any particular charity is seeking to pass on the lease to JLIF. The current shop generates between £ 300 and £1300 per week, current overheads amount to £150 per week. You can see that this could be a big source of income for JLIF. However, we need over £2000 to take over the lease and pay the first 3 months rent. Currently JLIF has about £400 in the bank from member's donations. We have volunteers ready to work in the shop, we just need to get it.

#### **SO WE NEED SOME "ANGELS"**

What this means is that we need some short term donations which will be paid back as soon as possible from income generated by the shop. Sadly we won't be able to pay interest on the loans, but be assured the loans will be paid back. So if you are in the fortunate position of having a few bob in loose change please make a cheque out John Lally international Foundation and send to JLIF, The Treasurer, 92 Monkton Rd, York, YO31 9AS

You can follow our progress on our website at [www.ilif.org](http://www.ilif.org) and if you go to the Reports page you can download a PDF file called "Making a Difference in Ramnagar". You can also download a standing order form, or make a direct donation from the website.

If you have any queries about anything please feel free to call me on 07927921450 or email me at [gordonct@gmail.com](mailto:gordonct@gmail.com)

On behalf of the John Lally International Foundation and from me personally, I would like to thank you for keeping the faith and supporting our work, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi "you must be the change you want to see in the world"

Gordon Campbell-Thomas

Project Advisor