

VILLAGE MATTERS



Summer greetings from Action Village India! The AVI team of staff, trustees, interns and our MadCaf extended family are working hard towards this years' WOMAD festival and we invite you to join our latest fundraising events.

Walk for women

Sunday 7th July 2018



This year, the Walk at Virginia Water is going to be held on Saturday 7th July 2018. It's a stunningly beautiful location to spend a warm summer day walking and talking and enjoying a picnic. Please let us know if you are planning to come this year or if you prefer you can just turn up at the lake on the day with your friends and family!

The walk is dedicated to the disadvantaged women in rural India, raising funds since 2005. Every year the funds raised are donated to Action Village India (AVI), a UK based charity organisation (Reg. No. 1118845). AVI closely works with their partners in India, aiming to change the lives of thousands of people, especially women and their families, living below the poverty line in rural areas.

Some of the on-going projects include:

- Enabling women to setup their market stalls in the near-by town.
- Ensuring that village girls in Bihar can continue their secondary education.

- Reducing the number of low birth weight babies born in Tamil Nadu providing medical care and encouraging nutritious diet.

Last year 135 people participated and raised an astonishing £2587.50. Thanks to you all! You can read more about this and donate [here](#).

One lap of the lake is approximately 5 miles, but you may make your walk as long as you wish. The walk will start at 10:30 am, but please feel free to come along anytime up to 2:00 pm. Most people walk around the lake in small groups until 3:30pm. Food and refreshments will be provided free all day and first-aid will be available too. All you need to do is turn up in comfortable clothing and footwear to suit the weather. We hope to see you all on Saturday 7th July!

WOMAD 2018

25-28th July



AVI is gearing up to WOMAD 2018 with big plans for the AVI front of house, an exhibition based on this years' theme: The Year of the Woman as well as new products to sell. We have an enthusiastic group of volunteers and interns who look forward to chatting with the festival goers.

- WOMAD - Madras Cafe has been appearing at world music festival WOMAD since 1993. What started as a chai stall has now become something of a festival institution serving delicious Indian food to over 3,500 people during the three days. Staffed entirely by willing volunteers, all the profits from Madras Cafe go back to Action Village India to support rural initiatives and help to combat poverty and social injustice across India.

Om Yoga Show

19-21 October 2018



AVI will have an information stand at the [Om Yoga Show](#) at Alexandra Palace in London this October. We'll be there for 3 days talking about the work of AVI's partners in India, selling products and promoting our fundraising events. If you're interested in volunteering for us for a few hours (and spending some time at the Yoga show) then please [drop us a line](#) with some information on why you'd like to work with us.

Fundraise for AVI

We've had some exciting news and an opportunity for an energetic fundraiser. AVI has won a ballot place in the 2019 Virgin London Marathon! If this is of interest to you, [please get in touch](#).



If the marathon isn't for you, then here are some other opportunities for fundraiser whilst you run. You can read more about these fun runs on our [website](#).

British Indian Awards



We are delighted to inform you that Action Village India has been shortlisted as one of the finalists under the Best Charity Of The Year category at [The 6th British Indian Awards](#) 2018.

Date for Diary:

AVI's AGM will this year be held earlier on in the year on **September 22nd**. We look forward to welcoming members old and new to the formal business and an AGM lunch.

Welcome to our Interns



We now have a full complement of interns to boost our work force at the AVI office for the summer. As a small, hardworking team our interns contribute a huge amount. A big thank you to them and we hope you'll join us in welcoming them to our team.

Sinead

Sinead will be working with us this summer to prepare for WOMAD festival. She has completed her final year of Chinese Studies at the University of Cambridge. You'll see her at our AVI desk in the Madras Café tent.

Nicole

Nicole is an MSc Environment, Politics and Development student at SOAS and will be working with us for a few months on fundraising and university networking. It's great to have her enthusiasm and energy on board!

Ella

Ella is in her first year at the University of Cambridge studying Human, Social and Political Science. She will be working with us in the research and development of a potential new line of ethical Indian products to be sold to generate funds for our projects.

GDPR

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Changes to the AVI Board of Trustees



AVI is waving a farewell to our Chair, Alan Leather. The AVI trustees, staff and partners would like to give Alan huge thanks for all his energy and commitment spanning his ten years tenure at AVI as a trustee and for contributing his life-long interest, experience in and passion for rural India to our work. We are very grateful especially for Alan's work as Chair over the last eighteen months and for his wonderful and engaging contributions to the Partners Forum 2018.

We look forward to keeping in touch with Alan as a valued AVI supporter and friend.



Stepping in to the role of Chair is our trustee Andy Rutherford (second left). Andy has worked with community-based and people's organisations in Asia, Africa and Central America over the last 35 years. His work evolved from being a member of a joint UK-India research programme on the social, economic and environmental effects of the Green Revolution in rural Tamil Nadu to working with grassroots and women's organisations across Asia, Africa and Latin America. He worked first with organisations in India and then, as Head of International Partnerships, with War on Want (1985-1990) and One World Action (1990-2011). He is a founder member of the Asia Europe People's Forum. Currently Andy is establishing the UK's first not-for-profit tour company, Fresh Eyes – People to People Travel, encouraging thoughtful, socially responsible travel.

Welcome to our new trustee!



We'd like to extend a warm welcome to Bryan Osbon who is joining AVI as a trustee in addition to his immense involvement in Madras Café and in our partnership with Ekta Parishad. Bryan was one of the founders of Action Village India so has always been part of the AVI family – however we are delighted to have his experience in this new role as a formal member of the board.

Bryan first went to WOMAD with a small tent and an old VW bus in 1993. It's amazing to see how his vision and hard work has made Madras Café a festival institution and multiple winner of the Peoples' Choice Award.

You can read more about Bryan's fascinating journey with Madras Café [here](#).

Project Update: Girls' Education



The Indian school year came to an end in March and the new school year has started. This year Action Village India has been able to secure funding to support 300 girls to continue their higher education. Below is the story about Madhu, who has been supported by AVI last year.

Madhu Kumari was born on 3rd January 2004 in very poor Dalit family in Sakhwa village, Pariya Bock, Gaya district in Bihar, India. She lives with her mother, Asha Devi and her sibling. Madhu's father, Ashok, died in an accident in 2008 when Madhu was just four and a half years old.

Madhu's family has a small piece of agriculture land but this is not sufficient to maintain the family and thus was Madhu's mother forced to work as a labourer besides taking care of the family and working on the land. Unfortunately, Asha is only able to do labour work during the agriculture season. Madhu's mother was struggling to provide enough income to make sure that her two children could go to work.

Asha came in contact with a LSSK field supervisor and she requested her daughter, Madhu to be considered for support under the project. Madhu and her mother visited LSSK's office and met with LSSK's founder, Ramswaroop Bhai. The actual condition of Asha's situation was checked by the fieldworker after meeting them. After a report was submitted by the fieldworker, the decision had been taken to support Madhu to be able to continue her

education. An agreement was signed by her mother that she would not get married before 18.

Madhu has been supported for the last 2 years and is currently in class 10. She is a sincere student who works hard and enjoys school. She attends school and her tuition classes on a regular basis and she also supports her mother at home.

It is through the project that Madhu has a chance at a better life and is able to finish her education.