

VILLAGE MATTERS



Winter News from AVI!

AVI CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND BEAUTIFUL PRODUCTS – ORDER YOURS NOW

AVI are excited to showcase our new online shop with ethically sourced products made by our partner organisations in India. 100% of profits will go back to the projects we support. Choose from hand woven and hand printed scarves, Kalamkari cards, a gift donation to AVI, and more...



Buy our ethical products [here](#)

Brandenburg Chamber Choir

Rachmaninov Vespers by candlelight

Saturday 24th November 2018
9.30-10.30pm



We are proud to continue our partnership with the Brandenburg Choral Festival to present a concert of Rachmaninov Vespers by candlelight. This beautiful evening of music will be at the atmospheric venue St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 4JH.

Tickets are £15 and 40% of ticket sales will go towards supporting AVI.

[Buy your ticket here](#)

Kerala Appeal Update

On behalf of Action Village India, Ekta Parishad and KGSN, we would like to say a HUGE thank you.

The money donated has gone towards supplying bedsheets, blankets, utensils, clothes, tarpaulin sheets and books. Clean-up operations will also take place, psychological classes will be held for people still in shock and repair works will be done on huts and houses. Our partners will also be involved in re-settlement of villages that have lost everything.

We would like to give a special thank you to RH Southern Trust, the Westcroft Trust, Zephyr Charitable Trust, Alan Leather Dr (Mrs) K. Siripurapu, Vivek Gandhi for their significant donations as well as to . Blesson Ethackadu for organising a fundraiser at his workplace.

OM YOGA SHOW

Update



This year AVI was at the Om Yoga Show at Alexandra Palace. It was a great event where we spoke to interesting people, signed up lots of people to our newsletter, tried and tested our new products – including beautiful yoga shawls and yoga mat bags, drank lots of free smoothies and of course raised money and awareness for our great partners and projects. See our products [here!](#)

We would like to give a huge thank you to the wonderful yoga teachers, Jane Piddington, Punam Singh, Elaine Morrison and Suzanne Gribble for hosting a yoga class in aid of Action Village India at the Show, and to all the volunteers who helped us at the desk; and to Maggie Purcell, Asha Kaushal, Marisa Rawlins, Mary Holmes, Rahul Singh, Diede de Kok, Sophie Gorton, Jessica Simpkin, Simon Jenkins and Sinead O'Connor.

AVI is looking for new Trustees

AVI is looking for trustees to join our board who are interested and passionate about development issues in South Asia, have knowledge of travelling, living and/or working in India and who are able to bring specific skills and experience to the governance. Trustees are required to attend four trustee meetings a year and will be involved with AVI events throughout the year as well as giving time and specific support to the staff team.

If you are interested in this opportunity it would be great if you could anna@actionvillageindia.org.uk for more information.

Internship Opportunity

Action Village India is recruiting an intern to join our small, hard-working office team in London. The position is for 2 days a week but we can be flexible on this. We would like you to be able to commit your time to us for approximately 6 weeks-3 months. The role would be varied and include research, fundraising applications and other office tasks. If you would like to apply, please send us an email with your CV and a covering letter.

Jan Andolan 2018



Our partner, Ekta Parishad has been working for 'Land Rights' for over three decades in India. During its huge national marches, Janadesh (2007) and Jansatyagraha (2012), Ekta Parishad brought some key concerns and negotiations to the table with the Indian Government. However there is still much to achieve in the struggle for land rights and to this end, Ekta Parishad held another mass movement, named Janandolan (People's Action) in October. Over 25,000 people marched between Gwalior and Morena in Madhya Pradesh.

This action demonstrated the power of people to make the state more accountable. Both the ruling and the opposition parties have finally agreed to engage on the proposed 5-point agenda especially aimed at improving the lives of small and marginal farmers, the landless and homeless, and women suffering from the lack of land/farmers rights.

Jai Jagat will be Ekta Parishad's next action. For more information: www.jaijagat2020.org/

AVI's 30th Anniversary Co-Founder Ivan Retires



As Action Village India celebrates its 30th anniversary, Ivan Nutbrown, one of its founders, retires as AVI's Coordinator and Project Manager of 18 years.

AVI Friends and Supporters met this October to mark Ivan's dedication to his work and his resourcefulness in steering AVI through thick and thin. The tributes highlighted Ivan's love of India (it's where his heart lies), his ability to listen to what AVI's partner organisations want to do (he's not in the usual Development mould) and the strong bonds he has encouraged between Indian partners and UK supporters (including biannual Partner Forums).

Tributes from people who couldn't attend included Alan Leather, AVI's previous Chair, who stepped down through ill health. A book of messages to Ivan underscored people's appreciation of Ivan both as a pillar to AVI and as a person. The occasion was made all the more with a Madras Cafe style meal, cakes, flowers, and presents.

Of course India was ahead of the game with a celebration in March at NBJK with AVI's partners, another later in July with the Disability Project staff and again that month at CRUSADE.

We wish Ivan and his partner Jennie a well deserved retirement - a proper one with many walks and seeing friends. Visits to India seem to be on their agenda to continue their interest in welfare and economic issues and to keep up with people they have come to know so well.

A few words from Ivan:

"Saturday 27 October's party will live with Jennie and I for a long time. So many friends came from so far away to 'see me off'. I was really touched (and surprised).

None of it would have been possible without Mary's hard work and initiative, so a really special thanks to her and thanks too to all who came to 'see me off' including those who came to feed us, speak, write in the 'message book' that Fran organised, contributed to my retirement collection (which naturally will be spent on a flight to India!) and also to the cards, letters and emails I received from those who could not attend.

Although I have now retired from paid work with AVI, I will continue to support the charity and have accepted the position of Founder/Advisor. So, AVI, all those who came to 'see me off' and the partners have not yet seen the back of me!"

On behalf of the AVI staff, trustees, volunteers, and our partners working in India we'd like to offer you a big thank you for your ongoing support.

Action Village India