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# darling

Wimbledon's magazine for local women

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UP FOR MERTON  
BUSINESS AWARDS

**GIRLS WILL  
BE GEEKS**

The Future's in IT

*Carol Andrews*

Reining Champion

**Spotlight On**  
Durham Road

Avoiding Holiday Nightmares - Hart Brown advises. Holistic approach to learning disorders. SCHOOL FEES? USE THE INHERITANCE TAX. Good morning Vietnam! TVF goes cycling. Wimbledon - Fashion Magnet. Michael Caine's new book.

# BEYOND!

Once a year the world comes to Wimbledon. For the rest of the year, thanks to the True Volunteer Foundation, Wimbledon goes out to the world.

**F**ancy cycling Vietnam? Darling has discovered an extraordinary outreach organisation that started in Wimbledon and is beginning to make a difference in far flung places and at home.

Back in 2004, when TVF was founded in Wimbledon, initial fundraising meetings took place at David Lloyd Leisure to help fund its first major projects. Loretta Bird recollects: "My husband and I met up with Michael Padmanathan, one of the founders, at the Fox and Grapes on the Common. After the Tsunami had just caused so much destruction we decided to host a gala ball within 12 weeks."



After 8 weeks gone only 30 tickets were sold. John Mager, a member of the organising committee, recollects: "This was the first major event so we could not fail. However, the people of Wimbledon came good and a sellout crowd of 330 raised over £25,000. A number of sponsors came onboard including David Lloyd Leisure."

TVF built 3 schools and a children's home. The Birds had put in so much time and effort that TVF named one of the schools Bluebird after them and their dog, Blue. TVF now has 15 schools in Asia and Africa and this is what interested Dao Tran-Boyd, a local business woman.

"My dream has always been to build something for children in my native country Vietnam. I was lucky enough to move to the UK and escape the war but as a result, I felt that I needed to find a way to give something back. I am ecstatic to have discovered TVF! As a True Volunteer, this dream can now come true!" In July Dao went to Vietnam and saw the land where the school will be built and started organising *Cycle Vietnam*, a 500km



Kids at the Bluebird School

bicycle ride which will take place in November 2011 to raise funds to for this project.

TVF is a unique charity. No one gets paid and no one gets expenses reimbursed. There are over 100 True Volunteers who donate between 5 and 35 hours of their time per week to various duties within an organisation. Many True Volunteers work from home.

TVF has projects in 28 countries and a number of initiatives are planned in Merton relating to improving school dinners, free sport for middle aged women and addressing mental disorders amongst the young.

To get involved in local projects or *Cycle Vietnam* please email [info@truevolunteer.org](mailto:info@truevolunteer.org) or call 020 3468 7671 [truevolunteer.org](http://truevolunteer.org)