

Gorkha Development Scheme

Health & Education in Gorkha, Nepal

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Welcome to Issue 8 of the GDS Newsletter

Following on from fundraising efforts by trustees, and great support from friends of the charity, as well as Charity Secretary and Co-Chair Linda's visit to Gorkha in February; we are able to update you on all of the fantastic projects we have been able to facilitate in Gorkha recently.

Total Funds Raised: £5000

Project Costs:

Hospital Equipment - £2000

Children Sponsorship - £1500

3x Hygiene Programmes - £750

Degree Level Student Sponsorship - £150

2x Teacher Trainer Programmes - £400

3x Sewing Machines - £150

All funds raised go directly to Gorkha.

Money very well spent!

GDS Volunteer in Gorkha

GDS and our sister charity GDHEDS hosted an excellent volunteer Richard Van Neste, who went for 6 weeks and stayed in Gorkha for 4 months! He witnessed and participated in many of our planned projects. We thank Richard for all his efforts and the impact made.

Richard stayed in local family accommodation arranged by Sarita and the GWA. He immersed himself in the community and culture, taking every opportunity to attend festival celebrations, parties (including lots of dancing!) and playing cricket with the children of Gorkha. He taught regularly at Mahedra Jyoti School, building close bonds with students and teachers alike.

He attended meetings of the GDHEDS committee and worked closely with the team to help improve funding applications, encouraging them to recognise cost contributions and breakdowns for individual projects. They were so grateful for constructive feedback by Richard and GDS in the UK to improve all programmes.

We maintained regular contact with Richard whilst he was in Gorkha, which he stated helped to inspire him.

If you would like to contact us, please visit our website www.nepal.co.uk or email info@nepal.co.uk

Teacher Training

GDS have had a long term commitment to the development of teachers in Gorkha, as set out by Founder and Patron Joy Leighton, knowing that the impact in schools will be greater and longer lasting. Richard was invited to attend and participate in a teacher training programme in the remote village of Laprak organised by Nepal English Language Teachers' Association (NELTA). Trainers Krishna Upendra and Laxman clearly helped to improve the confidence and develop their teaching skills of over 30 rural teachers.



Teacher led games and rhymes and other fun activities were used that they can take to their classrooms to make their lessons more engaging and child friendly in contrast to the traditional 'rote learning'.

After the success of this first programme, Richard and Laxman put together a second programme in another remote community - Tangli Chowk. GDS provided funds and it seems there is a bright future for the partnership between GDS and NELTA and we hope there will be many more teacher training programmes in the future.



School Sponsorship

GDS have been sponsoring the provision of studies for the poorest students at schools in Gorkha for many years as one of our key funding initiatives. Richard witnessed the organisation of this year's sponsorship programme, including 'shopping' for best prices! The Mahendra Jyoti School held a large distribution ceremony and other schools in the programme also attended. The more rural school, San Sari held their own ceremony, which Richard attended. *Equipment children receive through this sponsorship includes: uniform, shoes, socks, school bag, exercise books, geometry box, calculator, exercise books and pens.*

One of the students of Mahendra Jyoti most committed to her studies and the school's extra activities, Bina Gurung of Class 9 said:

"Today I take my scholarship from GDHEDS charity. I feel so great. I feel to 'fly in the sky'. I am happy. Thank you."



Campus Sponsorship

What happens after leaving school? GDS have now started sponsorship of further education at Drabyashah Multiple Campus, Gorkha. Richard was able to meet with Sabina Tamang who is a very bright young lady and is committed to her studies and was selected by Teachers as an aspiring English teacher studying for a Bachelors in Education and needing help. Sabina is 19 and was born in Siren Chowk, a remote area, where her Father continues to work in agriculture but for a small income. Clearly a worthy recipient of our first scholarship and we wish her well.

Hygiene Programmes

Another key initiative GDS have long been supporting in Gorkha is the provision of School Hygiene programmes run by the Gorkha Women's Association (GWA). Richard was lucky enough to take part in two programmes during his trip and was thrilled to see that the women led their session in an active and engaging way, with group work and feedback and practical demonstrations of hand washing and teeth brushing. Feeling more confident after watching some classes, Richard led his own session on hygiene and water

treatment. One school noted that teachers still reported issues with the children's hygiene and again requested the assistance of GDHEDS. This request proves that our well established programme is both recognised and respected. In response, we now request that teaching staff also participate in the programme so that hygiene and personal health becomes embedded in each of the schools where programmes are held.

Sponsorship of Hospital Equipment

GDS recently received a request for life saving equipment from Gorkha Municipal Hospital. It is a very small hospital with limited resources serving the Gorkha District, a rural and disparate population. Funds are limited to the hospital, as are Doctors and it suffered significant damage during the 2015 earthquakes. We have supported the hospital through our medical elective programme for many years, but were happy to be involved in funding to create a wider impact for the people of Gorkha.

In early 2017 during Linda's visit to Gorkha, she met with Doctors at the hospital. Dr Santosh and Dr Tiwari compiled a list of 92 priority items that the hospital required! At the top of that list were Oxygen Concentrators. A request was made for GDS for funding and after checks on maintenance etc., all was agreed and the money released for £2,000 worth of breathing equipment which can have massive impact. Richard was present during the delivery of the Oxygen Concentrators. *More on this story in Newsletter 9*



More details on all of the projects can be found on our website www.nepal.co.uk

What's next?

- Would you or someone you know consider volunteering? An amazing and fulfilling experience and we could help it happen.
- See website for more details and contact us.
- GDS Annual Quiz 20th January – Contact Olivia Power on 07807928108 for tickets
- Watch out for GDS 30 year celebrations!!

If you would like to contact us, please visit our website or email info@nepal.co.uk