

# Gorkha Development Scheme

Health & Education in Gorkha, Nepal

Issue 14  
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[www.nepal.co.uk](http://www.nepal.co.uk)

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## Welcome to Issue 14 of the GDS Newsletter

### Message from the Chair

The last twelve months have been less active than normal for GDS hence the delay in Newsletter 14. We can, however, report that even through these difficult times GDS has been able to support several covid related projects in Gorkha as detailed below. This was thanks to the dedication of our volunteer committees in Gorkha and UK who recognised the needs of the hospital and community. **Linda Blunt**

### 2021 Covid Nepal

As we all know, Covid has been a global pandemic resulting in a roller coaster of infections and lockdowns as variants spread around the world. In developing countries, the vaccine programme was dependant on donations from others and for Nepal these came mostly from China, India. Sadly, supplies were erratic and first vaccines for the vulnerable were not followed up in time so offered little protection. Thankfully full vaccine and booster programmes are now in place. Though fatalities recorded due to Covid remain low in Nepal the true figure is unknown.

### Hospital equipment

Having funded re-usable PPE for doctors at the start of the pandemic, in May 2021 GDS were asked to fund several oxygen concentrators costing approx. £5,000 to help save lives in the small local hospital and also in rural communities.



### Lockdowns and Schools

Without government support for those unable to work during lockdown, many families had no access to income and became dependant on extended families and neighbours sharing resources. In order to enable the workforce to return, schools were kept in lockdown for months at a time to help reduce the spread of Covid. The lucky ones gained some access to online learning. Others missed months of their valuable schooling.



*For news updates and more details on all our stories please visit our website [www.nepal.co.uk](http://www.nepal.co.uk) or follow us on Facebook*

### Food for the community



GDHEDS were approached by local social workers asking to help provide for families in desperate need of food. In total 125 families were identified and supplied with essential food parcels of rice, lentils, oil, flour etc. The team worked rapidly to access and deliver the food. Though we generally focus on long term sustainable projects, just £1,500 was enough for GDS to help in this emergency which we willingly supported.

If you would like to contact us, please visit our website or email [lindagdsnepal@gmail.com](mailto:lindagdsnepal@gmail.com)

## GDS Fundraising

It has been a difficult time for every charity with fundraising activity limited. No quiz was held in 2021 and is postponed until later in 2022, and no presentations were possible to clubs etc. However, over £600 was raised selling plants grown by Lin and Jean on Lin's front drive and £700 on the annual wreath making at Christmas plus sales of jams and chutneys to friends. Surprise donations through the post or online are always a thrill as well as our regular donations. We thank you all and once again to note Mr Hook now aged 101 once again donated £1,100 to sponsor children which is needed now more than ever.

### How to donate to GDS

Would you like to help fund our on-going projects?  
Please make payments and then notify us of your payment [lindagdsnepal@gmail.com](mailto:lindagdsnepal@gmail.com)

**BACS payment – Gorkha Development Scheme**  
**Sort Code 201995 Account Number 10318302**

**PayPal – visit our website and follow the link**  
**<http://www.nepal.co.uk/>**

**£30 provides uniform, shoes and school equipment for a child up to 16, £60 supports children age 16-18 and £120 supports college students for one year.**

## GDS Trustee update

Our meetings this year were held online but we did manage to get a social gathering with Geeta and Amir which was very special. We are pleased to welcome as a new Trustee, Linda Cairns. Linda has helped us so much over the years so great to have her on board officially. Zoe is now in Dubai, but still remains an active Trustee – though not able to be marker at our next quiz night! Former Trustee Olivia married Mark in August and we wish them well.



## 2022 New Committee in Gorkha

Online 'zoom' meetings became the norm through lockdown including the GDHEDS committee in Gorkha. Recently, they were able to meet in person and hold their long-awaited AGM to discuss and agree their new committee. We thank all of the former committee for their time and efforts and welcome the new committee with Chair, Laxman Babu Acharya. Laxman has been very active for many years managing school sponsorship, developing Teacher Training and assisting volunteers to enrich their experience.



## Reminiscence of GDS Trustee - Geeta

Geeta Karmacharya (ne Shrestha) was born in Gorkha and was inspired by her late Father Mohan to be involved in the GDS Charity. Mohan was one of the founder members of the charity in 1987 and at this time there was no opportunity for further education in Gorkha after leaving school at 16. *Geeta recalls when she was little; her father left his job as a School Headmaster in order to establish a college. He attended meetings at the Universities, Ministry of Education, and different embassies in Kathmandu to raise funds. As a result, the community based Drabya Shah Multiple Campus was established initially in a couple of spare rooms which then developed into multiple departments. Geeta recalls 'teachers and students in the college where I was student at the time were additionally motivated thanks to GDS volunteers'*

Today the Campus is a thriving college with several hundred local students studying 'BSC' level courses. GDS sponsors 4 students selected as diligent but needing support to continue their studies.

Mohan worked for the benefit of people in Gorkha, and was Geeta's inspiration.

**Geeta now works as a specialist diabetes nurse in the UK and supports those in Gorkha through valuable contributions as a Trustee of GDS.**

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