

Gorkha Development Scheme

Health & Education in Gorkha, Nepal

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Since our last newsletter in February, we have seen GDS go from strength to strength, thank you all for your continued support of our small charity.

Linda Blunt's February 2017 Visit to Gorkha.

Linda's visit to Gorkha was GDS' first time back in Gorkha since the 2015 earthquake.

Two years on and though it may look like all is normal, many people remain in galvanised or bamboo shelters and the majority of the schools in the district still hold classes in make-shift classrooms as buildings are still unsafe.



As always, she received a warm welcome from the charity's many friends and whilst in Gorkha Linda worked closely with our sister charity GDHEDS committee in order to further strengthen relations between the two charities, devise new strategies and implement new projects for the future.

Linda reviewed and reconciled recent accounts with Ram Kumar, GDHEDS Treasurer. All was in excellent order.

Hospital: Linda met with Doctors at the local hospital in Gorkha, and discussed the prioritising of project proposals to supply much needed essential lifesaving equipment. She also facilitated opportunities for medical electives in Government and Private Hospitals, and visited the Lions Club who fund and support the Eye Clinics in Gorkha,

Gorkha Womens Association (GWA): Linda attended a GWA meeting also witnessed and reviewed the highly successful Hygiene Programmes in schools. As a result of Linda's report they will now do an additional check several months after completing the programme to measure and review the impact.



School Sponsorship: It was clear how successful our school sponsorship continues to be. We now have 50 children sponsored across four different schools in Gorkha District including the rural Sansari school which was devastated by the earthquake.



Sponsorship of a child's education costs £30 per year, and provides full school uniform, shoes, school bag, books and a calculator. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, please visit our website or email info@nepal.co.uk

Prison, Deaf School and Occupational Therapy

GDS Trustee Zoe is an Occupational Therapist (OT), and is developing opportunities for OT volunteering in Gorkha. Linda spent time in visiting the disabled children, orphanage, deaf school and even visited the prison. All offer future volunteering possibilities.

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

Opportunities for Volunteering include:-

- Medical electives
- Assisting and Teaching in schools
- Hygiene programmes
- Occupational therapy

Everyone has something to offer!

Fundraising Efforts

Women's Institute Talks: Linda has presented talks and sold plants at various WI and gardening groups to include Wickham bishops, Good Easter Daisy Circle and Silver End with more talks booked for 2018. All money to GDS.

Open Gardens – 17th June 2017: Linda, Darren, and their lovely neighbours Bill and Roz once again opened their gardens for another incredibly successful event. We were able to **raise over £2000!!** This was through the sale of home grown plants, teas, delicious cakes and strawberries, nepali jewellery and trinkets, Linda's homemade jams, Darren's wooden mushrooms and benches as well as a raffle. **Gift Aid** - We were able to raise over £300 from gift aid alone and cannot stress enough how important it is to gift aid any donations to the charity. Plant sales continued in the following weeks afterwards and enabled us to raise even more funds.



We would like to say an enormous thank you to friends



and neighbours who attended and supported the event, to Wilkins for the strawberries and Limes Farm Shop for donating the bedding plants. We had one visitor who purchased over £85 worth of plants! Particular thanks go to Bill and Roz who again made this all possible.

Naomi's Triathlon, 22nd July 2017: Charity trustee Naomi Cairns participated in the London Triathlon in order to raise money for GDS. It was a superb effort from Naomi who trained hard and completed the race in a good time. She had to do a 750m swim, 20km cycle and a 5km run. She was incredibly grateful to all who supported her on the day, and was able to **raise over £500.**



Current Volunteer Richard Van Neste

In Gorkha currently, we have an experienced volunteer Richard who travelled to Gorkha originally for a 6-week placement and has now extended his stay to be four months! He has been an absolute pleasure to work with both in the UK and with the GDHEDS committee and has already achieved so much during his time there. He has been able to follow the aims of GDS, continue with projects put in place by Linda after her February trip, and look for new initiatives that GDS can be involved with in the future. His full report will follow when he finishes his placement and will be available on our website.



Current Project Proposals:

Hospital equipment including oxygen concentrators
Sponsorship of 50 children/ Sewing machines for rural community/ Sponsorship of an undergraduate student/ Hygiene programme in a new school

More detail on all of the stories and events above are available on our website – www.nepal.co.uk