

Gorkha Development Scheme

Health & Education in Gorkha, Nepal

Issue 1
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www.nepal.co.uk

Registered Charity
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Welcome to Issue 1 of the GDS Newsletter

When Joy Leighton first set up the Charity in 1988, she prepared a number of newsletters to keep interested friends as well as donors informed and updated. This was before the use of the Internet after which Joy established a website with the amazing address of www.nepal.co.uk. Technology has allowed the charity to continue with excellent communication opportunities and we can now even Skype to Gorkha depending on the erratic availability of electricity!



After many years of working with the people in Gorkha, the charity was struggling. In 2013 a resurgence of energy and changes in Trustees has led to a determination to make the charity work. The website was upgraded, fundraising efforts have excelled with over £6,000 raised in the last 18 months, and now we are ready to re-work the programmes in Gorkha and start spending the money raised! The focus remains education, health and hygiene as well as encouraging and guiding medical elective students and volunteers to spend time in Gorkha.

The GDS Trustees are:

Joy Leighton – Founder and Chairperson
Linda Blunt – Secretary
Amir Karmacharya - Treasurer
Geeta Karmacharya – Electives Programme
Jan Raven – Trustee
Naomi Cairns – Trustee

Cost of some of the programmes

- £30 to sponsor a child for a year – uniform and books
- School Hygiene programme - 1 group for 10 classes with hygiene pack for all students £120.00
- School Toilet £1,500 -£2,000

Any donations are of course welcome. Contact us through the website for bank details and please complete a Gift Aid form so that the charity receives 25p extra for every £1.00 raised.

Thank you.



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

Recent Fundraising Events

We have been very busy this summer at GDS with various types of fundraising events. At the start of the summer one of our trustees, Jan Raven held her annual open garden where she has a cream tea and plant sale as well as various other stalls and entertainment from Chelmsford Young Strings. This event was very successful and raised £912.

Later on in the summer Viv and Claire Chipperfield invited the charity to hold a plant sale over 4 days at their open garden in Harlow, this event raised a total of £1056.30, which includes a donation of £305.30 from Viv and Claire's cake sale.



Widford Lodge Prep School donated £180, which the students raised through a book sale. This was organised by Naomi Poole who is hoping to go to Nepal as a volunteer in 2015 through GDS. This makes our total for the summer £2148.30, which we are very happy about!



Nepal updates

30 children from the Mahendra Jyoti School in Gorkha who are the most in need have been sponsored this year. They have been provided with uniforms, a rucksack, books, and stationary.

This enables children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to be educated. We are looking to extend this sponsorship program to other schools in Gorkha to ensure we are targeting the poorest children. Children can be sponsored on a 'one to one' basis, please contact the charity if you are interested.

We are also considering a project to provide the children with school jumpers to keep the children warm in the winter.

Volunteer Updates

We currently have one volunteer in Gorkha, Kitty Hardman who is a medical student from Cardiff University. She is staying with a Nepali family and is helping us to reinstate a hygiene programme which we originally ran a few years ago, educating school children on the importance of good hygiene. The children are provided with bars of soap, toothbrushes etc. An update from Kitty 'I have had a fantastic time with the hygiene project both at Balmandir and Prithie Naryan Balbicas Primary ... They have welcomed me in and have treated me like family and shared everything'.

Earlier in the year we had two medical electives from Bristol University, Rebecca and Vicky, who spent 4 weeks in the Gorkha District Hospital and lived with a Nepali family. They had a fantastic time and found it to be a very valuable experience.

We also have 5 potential volunteers looking to go out in the next year as well as 5 potential medical electives in the pipeline, so it's all go!

What's next?

- On the 21st September we have our Nepali fundraising meal at Everest Gurkha Bar and Restaurant, Chelmsford at 5pm. There will be a buffet meal and traditional dancing.
- During December, one of our trustee's Linda Blunt is doing a wreath making demonstration at Hylands house, where she will also be selling them. Order now to avoid disappointment.

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