



School Sponsorship Review 2017-18

www.nepal.co.uk
Charity number 1069611

Welcome and Thank You

Welcome to the first Gorkha Development Scheme School Sponsorship report.

Thirty years ago in 1988 GDS was founded by Joy Leighton and we have always aimed to help support children in both health and education. Following the success of our GDS newsletters, it seemed about time we prepared an annual update on how the well-established sponsorship programme now works, information about the children we sponsor and stories of the donors who make this possible. In future we would hope to bring more news from the students during and after studies.

GDS remains a tiny charity with a total team of just SIX volunteers in the UK and so we apologise for the fact we are unable to provide a link between specific children and sponsors. We have tried this over the years but in reality is too complex for the resources we have and so we hope this annual update towards the end of the Nepali academic year will be of interest and help inform you of progress made.

How it works

We currently sponsor 50 children in Gorkha, some paid by individuals and some through general fundraising. We are careful not to overcommit and instead wish to ensure that when a child is taken onto the programme aged approx. 11 then we acknowledge that we will support them to at least 16.

Through our local organiser, the teachers discuss and decide who to put forward for sponsorship using three criteria:-

- Showing academic ability
- From poorest background and without sponsorship is unlikely to continue
- Is dedicated to studies despite difficulties

A funding application is then forwarded to GDS UK through our committee in Gorkha. When all is in order, funds are released and Laxman and team buy fabrics, have uniforms made, purchase books, bags, shoes, and for the first time this year, a calculator. Presentations are usually made at annual school anniversary ceremony.

All is then ready for the new academic year starting in April each year



Sponsorship Coordinator Laxman Archarya

Co-ordinator

Laxman is Headmaster at Shree Mahendra Jyoti School where the programme has been based for many years and he works incredibly hard, is a great leader and has transformed the school since the 2015 earthquake. Laxman co-ordinates the sponsorship programme and now children are selected from 4 local schools to ensure the most needy children are helped.



Sponsorship Coordinator Laxman Archarya

Two childrens stories

Sansari School in Niyasagu is in a rural area, 3 hours from Gorkha town and as with many schools in the area, was completely devastated by the earthquake of 2015. After 2 years of classes in sheds, there are now semi permanent rooms which look great but are very hot in summer and freezing in winter!

Twenty children from this school were selected for sponsorship, all of whom lost their homes in the earthquake.



New classroom - hot and cold!



Anita, lost her home

Anita

On her visit in Feb 2017 Linda met Anita who was buried in her home as it collapsed so quickly, was rescued by neighbours and is now seen as a miracle girl. Another two girls we sponsor now live in a bamboo or a makeshift galvanised shelter next to their devastated homes. When will there be the money to rebuild? Not even considered an option at this time.



Home- from a stone house to a galvanised hut!

Volunteer Richard van Neste visited San Sari School with teacher Madhu, and was able to meet the Teachers and all the children. A ceremony was held to distribute the clothes and bags.

Richard also did some teaching but as the area of Naya Sagu is much hotter than Gorkha Bazaar due to its lower elevation in the river valley, some lessons had to be taken outside in the shade of the trees – the 'temporary' school structures constructed after the earthquake simply too hot.



Presentation of school bags by volunteer Richard

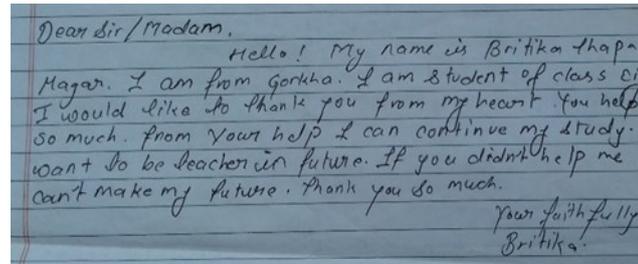
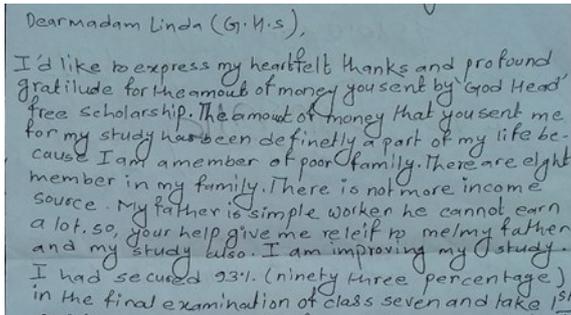


Classes in the shade



Bipana

At Mahendra Jyoti, two girls whom we sponsor are Bina and Bipana. Both are beautiful girls, full of sparkle. Bipana's English was impeccable and this is what we mean by a bright girl. Both Richard and Linda visited Bipana's home – again devastated by earthquake and 3 years later the family of 8 including Grandma, live in 2 rooms. Her Father was a travelling musician. Our aim will be to support her through A Levels and then on to Higher Education studies and hopefully Bina too.



Many letters of thanks to donors

Letter from Bipana



In a smaller village school where we were funding a hygiene class as very poor living conditions for all, 2 boys had been found sleeping rough by their teacher. They had been abandoned through complex family matters, and the Head teacher asked for our support. Of course, no question. They will now at least get an education to give them a chance and now live with some extended family.

Buying uniforms and equipment

Richard confirmed that much trouble was taken on visiting different suppliers for the school uniform and other equipment to ensure best value for money. They settled on the same two suppliers as were used last year since there is: a good relationship, the price is fair, a quick order turnaround, good quality and the facility of credit. Additionally, the supplier of shoes provides an exchange facility for sizing and a 6 month guarantee and free maintenance.

GDS first undergraduate student

Three years ago following a request from Laxman, we started funding 'A' Level equivalent students to take their studies to aged 18. This has been a great success with £60 covering extra tuition rather than uniform and books. Following on from this we are now thrilled to have funded the first student at Drabyashah Multiple Campus to study Bachelor of Education to study and teach English. Our GDS Trustee Geeta who comes from Gorkha and who's Father was the first Campus Chief, wished to sponsor a deserving young person at the Campus. Student Sabina Tamang was nominated as a very dedicated student from poor background, her Father has small land and is a farmer. Richard was able to meet her and interview her before agreement was made to fund her tuition – just £150 per year.



First degree student sponsored

Thank you to Donors

In years past we raised money for general funds and then sponsored children from this. Today, we are lucky enough to have an increasing number of individuals wishing to sponsor one, two or even many children. This means that our fundraising can be used to fund other projects like hospital equipment, school hygiene and women's health programmes and much more as can be seen in our regular newsletters.

It's a great success all round and really is changing the lives of not only the children sponsored, but their families too. An increased understanding of what education means, better jobs, hope for change and, we would hope too, the focus on staying in Gorkha and Nepal to believe in their beautiful country and help others as they have been helped.



Mr and Mrs Hook

If you don't mind we have a few special mentions. Mr Ron Hook became involved with GDS in the very early days nearly 30 years ago. He has remained in contact and always interested. After the earthquake he had great empathy having lived through the bombing of London in the war and the devastation left behind. As an engineer he believes strongly in education and several years ago he offered to help further and this year he has sponsored 10 children at £30, and 4 'A' level students at £60 which is fantastic – he will soon be 98 years old! The support of his

wife Isobel and daughter Adrienne is much appreciated. A wonderful scarf and certificate of appreciation was presented to Ron and Isobel earlier this year.

Sponsors from America!

Mrs Stuart Robinson from Louisville, Kentucky together with family, trekked the wonderful Annapurna Circuit in 2015 and as we all do just loved Nepal and the beautiful people. Stuart and her husband Mark found GDS on the internet and after many emails and overcoming payment issues, transferred enough money to support over 10 children. Wow, this was amazing, someone we had not met but believed in what we do enough to help and support. Such is the power of the internet and the draw of the Nepali people.



Other sponsorships have come from Inger in Canada, Germany and a wonderful Christening Gift too!

Why not GIFT a School Sponsorship

If you know someone who would love this as a gift or who might be interested in sponsoring a child, we now have a really simple way of starting a sponsorship so just visit our website at www.nepal.co.uk or email lindagdsnepal@gmail.com for more details .

Thanks to everyone who has made this possible
From GDS

Trustees: - Linda Blunt, Naomi Cairns, Zoe Dallow, Geeta Karmacharya, Amir Karmacharya,
Joy Leighton, Olivia Power, Jan Raven