

## Lydia Children's Fund



**Ananda** is nine and is the son of leprosy affected parents. His father does not have a job, his mother makes batiks and his older brother does labouring work. This keeps the family going, but is not enough to enable Ananda to go to school. They would be very grateful for your help.



**Anugraha** is five and lives with his disabled father who cannot do heavy work - so he sells peanuts at a street stall - and his mother who also cannot work as she looks after Anugraha's baby sister. The street stall provides seasonal work and cannot support Anugraha's education.



**Sujan** is seven and lives with his aunt and uncle who already have 2 sons of their own and struggle for daily survival. They need help to give Sujan an education. His own parents have health problems and have no regular income.

If you would like to sponsor any of the above children please contact Mildred.

020 8940 1200 or mildred@nlt.org.uk

### Lovely Easter Presents....



All at £7.50 + p& p

Please contact the office on 020 8940 1200

### Future Events in 2017

Watch out for us at the Mortlake Summer Fair on 24th June.



Join us in September for our sponsored walk - date and venue tbc.

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## Facebook Group

If you follow NLT's work and would like to follow our Facebook group, you can request to join at:

### "Nepal Leprosy Trust Alumni"

You can post your thoughts or, if you have visited Nepal, you can post your memories and pictures - whether serious or amusing. Please take a look.

## Twitter



NLT is on Twitter!

follow us at @NepalLeprosyTr or visit our website at www.nlt.org.uk to see the tweets.

*We really need some help in the office at Richmond so it would be great to hear from anyone who could spend a few hours a week to help with admin and handicrafts and, occasionally, local events.*

Contact us on 020 8940 1200 or info@nlt.org.uk

### Speaking Team!

We have a team of three people - Enid, Mildred and Mike - who are happy to visit your church, school, club or group and give a talk, drama and/or slides. We do not make a charge for this, but we do like to bring NLT handicrafts to sell!



## We need wheelchairs and crutches

We are running out of these vital items and need to raise some funds to get more. Many people affected by leprosy need these while their complicated foot ulcers heal, but in Nepal crutches and wheelchairs wear out more quickly and they are hard to replace.

**If you would be happy to receive your copy of the newsletter by email to save NLT some postage, please let us know by emailing us at: info@nlt.org.uk**

# Nepal Leprosy Trust

Changing lives

## Life returns to normal in our Kathmandu office



The original building (the smaller building)



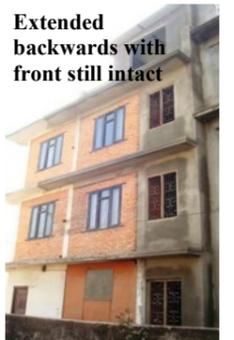
The Long House



Extended backwards with front removed and re-finished



Interim workshop



Extended backwards with front still intact

It has been a long journey since the threat to demolish our headquarters building emerged in late 2012. This was to be without compensation and would leave us with no building, as the amount to be removed would make it useless. After a flurry of meetings in 2013 and support from other locals affected, the situation went quiet, aided by the elections.

However, CEO, Kamal Shrestha prepared for the worst by building a new workshop on the adjacent accommodation, and converting the old "Longhouse" to a temporary office unit. In late 2014 the government suddenly paid some compensation and agreed that the road could be narrower, potentially leaving enough of our office building to still be useful.

Kamal got to work on extending the building backwards a small amount and then cut the front off to match the new road boundary, resulting in a useful building that is just six feet narrower than it was before. This work continued throughout the earthquake and monsoon in 2015, and the staff moved back in just after Christmas 2016.

Kamal's team's amazing efforts enabled the production work to continue with little interruption while the building was completely re-modelled. Now the workshops and the office staff are getting used to their new working environment.

*Our sincere thanks to all those who helped with prayer, money and encouragement. It has been a hard journey, but has ended well.*

## Sad news ....



Susi in foreground

Susi Dunsmore, a long-time friend of NLT, passed away in January after a short illness. Susi was an art teacher and specialised in using materials in art, particularly textiles. She and her husband John worked in Nepal for a number of years, and Susi helped cloth producers in the hill country improve their production and marketing of dhaka and allo nettle cloths. NLT was one of the organizations that supported her efforts, and this forged a strong relationship with Susi which has endured for several decades, latterly through her home church at Eastwick Road in Bookham. Over the years, she and her friends at Bookham have arranged a number of events in support of NLT's work, including two very enjoyable music events, which raised funds for our leprosy and earthquake relief work. Susi also helped many art students to visit Nepal and work with cloth producers on new designs, as well as supporting many other art initiatives. Her memorial service was packed with friends and she will be greatly missed.

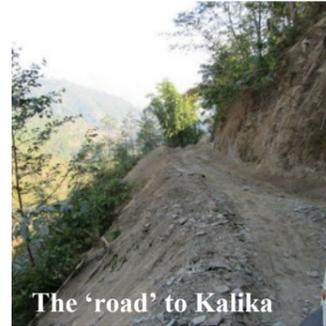
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## ANOTHER VISIT TO KALIKA SCHOOL

Some of you will remember that, after the earthquakes in 2015, a small team from Lalgadh, including Graeme and Meena Clugston, visited a village in the high hills of Sindhuli District to the north of Lalgadh with blankets, and were asked if they could help with the school building which had been badly damaged. Later, when they went to look at the school, they met Sarita - a 9 year old girl with no feet - and were able to make special shoes for her which enabled her to walk for the first time in her life.



The Kalika School children



The 'road' to Kalika

The team subsequently returned to Kalika to begin surveying the site for a new school building, which Lalgadh will help them to build. The visit also highlighted the need for some medical care for the children. With that in mind, they set off again at the end of January to do a thorough medical examination of the children at Kalika school, and to see how the preparations were going for the new building. Graeme and Meena, along with Dr Krishna and Suman, and Upendra the brave driver - it is a very difficult road - set off early on the 4 hours of driving on precipitous roads, followed by another hour and a half on foot, climbing up and down to reach the school.

They were welcomed once again by the Tamang community who enjoy the fact that Suman, Krishna and Meena are all Tamang themselves, and Graeme is the only white person they ever see. The children - and some adults - all lined up anxiously and the usual range of skin infections were



Krishna and Meena



Graeme with the children

found, along with malnutrition, throat infections, ear infections, eye problems, etc. Of course, almost none of the children have been vaccinated, but that will have to wait for another trip.

The adventure really began in earnest when the Landrover steering failed on the way back, and the team was stranded high up in the freezing cold for several hours until another Landrover from Lalgadh could bring a repair team and some spare parts - they were thankful for mobile phones! In the meantime a friendly Mangar family fed the team around their fire, and enjoyed a good time with them until the repair squad arrived in the dark and they were finally able to set off carefully for home at 10.30pm, arriving back at Lalgadh at 1.00am. It cannot be said that life is boring for our staff at Lalgadh!



A meal by lamplight

## A New House for Ram Pukar

It is hard for the very poor in Nepal to provide safe shelter for themselves in the face of storms, the monsoon, landslides and earthquakes. For some like Ram Pukar, who has struggled because both he and his young wife have leprosy, earning enough to even feed their family can be hard enough. When their house started to fall down around them, they had no way to cope with it and faced great hardship. Using funds donated by our supporters, the Socio-Economic Rehabilitation team at Lalgadh helped these people to rebuild their house with stronger and safer materials. This is literally a life-saver for this family and has lifted a terrifying situation from Ram and his wife's shoulders, enabling them to concentrate on raising their children.

*Thank you so much for your support - it makes a real difference!*



Before



After

## 8th March was International Women's Day

Naomi Lowther and Enid Kimmerling went to Bishop Perrin School in Whitton to tell the children there about a very special lady called **Eileen Lodge**. Of course all our readers know about Eileen and the incredible things that she achieved in Nepal, but the children were amazed to hear how she devoted her life to caring for people affected by leprosy, because of her love for the Lord Jesus. There are now many thousands of people in Nepal whose lives have been transformed by this love, and the care provided by the organizations Eileen established. Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital & Services Centre is now one of the two busiest leprosy centres in the world today, and certainly would not be there if Eileen had not trusted God to provide all the finances and people needed to start this work. It seemed impossible, but God specializes in the impossible. Eileen's story is a wonderful one and shows what can be achieved by faith and perseverance!



## World Leprosy Day – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2017

In 1953 Raoul Follereau, a French humanitarian, chose the last Sunday in January each year as World Leprosy Day. His aim was to raise awareness about leprosy, a disease that many people had largely forgotten or believed to be extinct. 64 years later World Leprosy Day still gives an opportunity to reach out to the public with information about leprosy and its effects on many thousands of people around the world. To mark the day this year, we joined in a social media "**Thunderclap**", which is a way for organizations and individuals to share a common message all at the same time, to make it stand out on social media. The message shared across social media platforms this year included this picture - perhaps you saw it?



I am supporting World Leprosy Day. Join me. #WLD2017

## Hand Surgery - an Artist's Perspective

The hand surgery camp at Lalgadh last November was the best yet according to Donald Sammut, the surgeon himself. He was accompanied by his dedicated team but had an additional member on this trip - his friend George Butler, a reportage artist. George observed many of the operations as they took place and captured them in a series of sketches, each of which tells its own story. You can see more of these pictures in a Guardian article at: <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2017/mar/12/the-art-of-surgery-life-drawing-and-leprosy>



## Main highway to Kathmandu collapses

A 30 metre section of the new road that links Lalgadh to Kathmandu via Sindhuli collapsed into the Sun Koshi river on the evening of Monday 20th February. It is said that the earthquake in 2015 had caused cracks in the road and weakened its foundation. It will take some time to repair it, as only a tiny strip remains in place so the road will have to be built back up from the bottom of the slope. This road reduced the journey time between Kathmandu and Lalgadh by several hours and took about 20 years to build. Now our staff will have to use the old roads again.

