

Sponsor a Trustee

Martin Davies is one of NLT's trustees and likes running. He is taking part in the Royal Parks Half-Marathon on 8th October to raise funds for NLT's relief work in south-east Nepal. The bad monsoon this year has destroyed many homes and we are helping with repairs and rebuilding for the very poor. Money raised through Martin's run will help us with this. Visit his Justgiving page at:



<http://www.justgiving.com/Wiliam-Martin-Davies>

This will be the 10th year of the "Royal Parks Half" and links several London parks including Hyde and St James's Parks in the run.



Children needing Sponsorship

Contact Mildred: 020 8940 1200, mildred@nlt.org.uk



Sujan

Sujan is 7 years old. He lives with an aunt who struggles to support her own 2 sons as well as Sujan. Sujan's parents cannot afford to look after him and were severely affected by the 2015 earthquakes.



Nilbika

Nilbika is 9 years old. Her father died abroad while working to support his family. She lives with her mother, grandmother and older sister in an old mud house. They have very little income.



Astha

Astha is 3 years old. Her mother was deserted by her husband when she was pregnant. She is disabled and earns a little money by tailoring and sewing. They live in one small room and she is unable to pay for Astha's education.



Facebook Group

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

Help in the office at Richmond is still needed, and we would be thrilled to hear from anyone who would like to spend a few hours a week regularly to help with various administrative tasks, and/or at fairs and events locally.

Speaking Team!

We have a group 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 charge for this, but we do like to bring NLT handicrafts to sell!



Twitter

NLT has a Twitter account!

You can either go to our website to see the tweets or if you are a tweeter yourself follow us at: [@NepalLeprosyTr](https://twitter.com/NepalLeprosyTr)



For information concerning NLT please phone Enid or Mike on 020 8940 1200 or email us at info@nlt.org.uk

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

Nepal Leprosy Trust

Changing lives

Floods bring chaos to Nepal



2017 has seen the heaviest rainfall in Nepal for 15 years with serious flooding across many of the Terai southern districts. The picture on the left shows the area south of Janakpur near the airport, and the large volumes of water moving around on the ground have done a lot of damage to villages, crops, houses, water supplies, and livestock. In the hills of Sindhuli to the north of Lalgadh, ground

already fragile from the earthquakes two years ago, has slipped in many places, with landslides blocking and breaking roads, destroying houses, disrupting electricity and communications networks, and making travel and food transport difficult in the hills. The picture on the right shows supplies being carried from the lorries at the point where the road has collapsed, up into the hills to villages where it is needed.



So far about **150** people have died in the floods and landslides, **90,000** homes have been destroyed, and over **450,000** people have been displaced in the **27** districts mainly affected. It has caused chaos on the roads, making travel in the affected areas difficult, and slowing the efforts to bring aid to those in need.

Despite these problems, Lalgadh has remained very busy, with patients wading through flooded paths and roads to get there.

Apart from doing what we can to help those in difficulty, a concern for us is the effect of the high water levels in the normally empty Ratu River (picture below left), which threatens to further erode the hospital boundary, which has suffered badly in the past.



However, the real heartbreak is the further damage that is inflicted on the lives of poor people who were already struggling at the bottom of the heap. Our community team has come across many people whose homes are now just a soggy pile of sticks, mud and tiles. The tiles may be salvageable, but the rest is useless, and with the high level of poverty in the Terai, means a

desperate time ahead for many. Add the inevitable increase of diarrhoeal disease as water supplies are contaminated, and it is clear that Nepal is facing another major challenge. ***Do please pray for this situation, and if you are able to support us financially in our relief work and medical care, that would be greatly appreciated.***



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Lalgadh Hospital grows again

On Tuesday June 13th, the official opening of the new Outpatient buildings took place and we finally have an Outpatient facility that can cope with the large number of people who come looking for help. The picture (right) shows Linda Kentrow, the USAID (US Government agency working to end extreme poverty) representative in Nepal and local MP Mr Mahato unveiling the commemorative plaque on the new consultation suite.



Much of the funding came from USAID through the enabling of American Leprosy Missions who worked hard with our team at Lalgadh to put together a proposal for developing our infrastructure to be more suitable for serving our patients. Lalgadh was originally designed for the several thousand people affected by leprosy who came for help and treatment each year, rather than the hundred thousand plus that are now coming, with sometimes more than 800 in a day.



The picture on the left looks towards the new **registration and billing suite** which will help

patients book in more quickly, and the new **consultation suite** which gives medical staff and patients the extra space they need for proper consultations. This building has a solar array on the roof which will power the hospital IT equipment even when the main grid is non-functional. The picture below shows the new **accident and emergency unit** which will help staff to handle emergencies, such as road traffic accident victims, effectively.



The style of the new buildings is very much the same as the originals, as the same architect, Ueli Zuerrer, also kindly designed the new buildings for us.

These buildings, along with an expanded **laboratory**, expanded **pharmacy** (partly funded by the Symphysis Foundation via FAIRMED Nepal), and a **new footwear and prosthetics workshop** will provide a platform to enable the team at Lalgadh to serve our growing patient population better, and make patient visits more comfortable and less time-consuming.



We are enormously grateful to American Leprosy Missions, USAID and the others involved in this huge support for the next era of our work.

Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital and Services Centre is the world's busiest leprosy hospital...

A few facts and figures:

Last year we had almost 104,000 patient consultations. This number just keeps growing and this year is likely to reach 120,000 visits, which is a staggering number when we only ever expected to provide services to a few thousand people affected by leprosy. Of the many thousands of consultations last year, nearly 12,500 were for people affected by leprosy, and of those, 1,280 were new cases of leprosy, more than a third of all the leprosy cases diagnosed in Nepal.

Of the 91,500 non-leprosy consultations, about 96% were for dermatology problems.

There were about 800 admissions into the Inpatient department for the complications of leprosy and other medical problems.

Our community work has established over 100 self help groups in the 4 districts around our centre, where people affected by leprosy work together to help themselves and their communities, and change attitudes about leprosy. The team also works with seven extremely poor villages to bring about transformation in health and education, and to empower villagers to have equal access to public services. This has been very successful and directly affects many thousands of individuals. *None of it could happen without your support!*

The price of a home



Kalpana and daughters on the verandah of their new house.

One area our community team keeps a close eye on is vulnerable families in very poor situations. Some of these have been affected by leprosy and others are simply vulnerable people in deep poverty. Often the local self-help groups are aware of these people and keep us updated as situations develop. A need we have addressed on a number of occasions is house repair and rebuilding, where a home has collapsed or is damaged, and the family are unable to repair it themselves as the cost is beyond them. In the last newsletter you will have read about Ram Pukar's new house, and many of you will be aware of Kalpana, affected by leprosy and a mum of 4, for whom we



Mauli's House

built a new house through your generosity. This help can be the difference between life and death for people who have already passed beyond the boundaries of survivable living; and Kalpana, Ram Pukar and others like them are doing better now. Sadly the heavy rains that have caused such difficulty and tragedy during the last few weeks have also brought much suffering to the village of Inawaha, a very poor Dhalit community



Bhogendra's House

near the Indian border. Mike visited this village in June and was aware of the deep poverty there, and the silent cry for help that was written on every face. NLT Ireland is planning to start a sanitation project for this village as the people there have no toilets, and are being harassed by the local police for using the traditional open space. Their houses were in poor repair then, but the rains have created havoc since. A report from our team at the end of August is asking for urgent help for 9 families whose homes are in a critical state, and we would like to move quickly on this if possible. About £13,000 is needed to carry out repairs and rebuilding, and these pictures from the report highlight the situations. If you are able to contribute towards this work, you could help transform these lives. Each new home costs about £1,500. ***Do please remember these people in your prayers as they face terrible conditions in the continuing rain.***



Ramsakhi's House



Binod's House



Dr Krishna Lama studying in the USA

Thanks to the support of Indiana University, Dr Krishna Lama and several other staff at Lalgadh will have the opportunity to spend time in Indiana

University on study fellowships. They will learn more about the diagnosis and management of the thousands of patients who come to Lalgadh with skin problems. Dr Krishna started his one-year fellowship in July and is settling in to the very different environment of the USA. Following him will be Ravi Nepali, the manager of our laboratory at Lalgadh, who will spend six weeks there learning new techniques using modern equipment to diagnose various skin infections in the lab. Because 96% of our patients come for help with skin infections, this training input will be very valuable and will be further supported by the donation of some lab equipment to Lalgadh by the university. We are tremendously grateful to Dr Simon Warren and his colleagues at Indiana University for all their support for our work. Please pray for Krishna as he settles into his new situation at the Sidney and Eskanazi Hospital, surrounded by unfamiliar technology, without his family for a year, and being part of a very large American church.



Future Events in 2017



NLT sponsored walk

Burnham Beeches (post code SL2 3PS), **Saturday 23rd September** from 10am to 4pm. Meet at the Burnham Beeches car park. Please join us if you can - or sponsor us.



St Matthias fair

St Matthias Church, Richmond (TW10 6LS), **Saturday 11th November**, 11am to 4pm. Enjoy crafts, and support NLT by treating yourself to some.



VCC fair

The Vineyard Community Centre pre-Christmas fair, Richmond (TW10 6AQ), **Friday 24th November**, 3pm to 6pm.