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By buying these products you are supporting the workers in our Kathmandu workshop, which runs a variety of projects. It was set up to provide people affected by leprosy with a living wage in a society where leprosy often means stigma and rejection.

To order email: [info@nlt.org.uk](mailto:info@nlt.org.uk) or tel: 020 8940 1200

### Nepal Leprosy Trust



To order, email [info@nlt.org.uk](mailto:info@nlt.org.uk) or tel: 020 8940 1200



### Christmas Cards



(Larger)  
£4.00  
For a pack of 10

P & P not Included

(Smaller)  
£3.50  
For a pack of 10



#### The online shop

Some of our products are available from our online shop, accessible via our website. Please visit and have a look at the beautiful products there, and perhaps buy one or two!

A monthly Prayer Letter is sent out by NLT to people who receive the Newsletter by email. If you would like to receive the Prayer Letter, please send your address (email or home) to [info@nlt.org.uk](mailto:info@nlt.org.uk). If you still receive the Newsletter by post, please consider receiving it by email as it saves NLT a lot of postage!

**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 helping with various administrative tasks, and/or helping at fairs and events locally.

Please email or telephone [info@nlt.org.uk](mailto:info@nlt.org.uk)/0208 940 1200

#### Twitter



NLT has a Twitter account. You can either go to our website to see the tweets or, if you are a tweeter yourself, our hash tag is:- [@NepalLeprosyTr](https://twitter.com/NepalLeprosyTr)

#### Speaking Team!



We have a group of four people, Enid, Mildred,



Naomi and occasionally Mike who are all happy to form a small team 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!



# Nepal Leprosy Trust

Changing lives

## A New Constitution

The new constitution for Nepal, which has taken more than seven years to draft, was finally accepted in the Constituent Assembly on 20th September. Bearing in mind all the previous deadlines that had been missed, it was a historic occasion, and was supported by the main political parties. It also marks the official end of the Maoist uprising, which from 1996 to 2006 claimed more than 15,000 lives.

There was pressure from some groups to use the constitution to return Nepal to an official Hindu country, with appropriate laws. This worried the Nepali Christian community, which has enjoyed more freedom during the last ten years than at any previous time. In the event, people voted for Nepal to be a secular country.



However, some of the smaller opposition parties, particularly those representing the Terai people in the south of Nepal, voted against the new constitution, feeling strongly that they were not sufficiently involved in the process of developing it, and that it does not provide adequate political representation to the Terai. This has led to sustained protests, with violence,

loss of life, and a trade blockade along the Nepal-India border, coupled with a general strike across the Terai region. This combination has crippled Nepali business, and is steadily bringing Nepal to its knees.

The NLT workshop is at a near standstill because of leather and glue shortages. The building work on the Kathmandu office has almost stopped as cement cannot be sourced. The acute fuel shortage forces cars to wait for days in queues more than a mile long, hoping that some fuel will get through, but mostly people are walking everywhere. Even equipment such as the water treatment plant that keeps drinking-water in Kathmandu clean, is threatened with shut-down, presenting the real risk of water-borne disease. Cooking gas is now so scarce that many have had to revert to using wood for heating food and water, and some in Kathmandu are eating food raw.

Our Centre at Lalgadh is only seeing about 200 patients a day instead of the usual 300 - 500, as people are unable to travel. Our field work is also greatly limited by lack of fuel and the road blocks. Cooking is being done with wood on temporary stoves outside the kitchen, and there is no fuel for the generator at the moment.

Sadly, the earthquake relief efforts of many organizations have also been severely hampered by the fuel shortages, and snow in the hills will soon



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## A New Constitution - *continued*

make further aid impossible, resulting in many people being very vulnerable in the colder winter conditions coming soon. Strong concerns have been expressed to the Nepali government by other international governments, and the UN is worried by the developing humanitarian crisis, as poor people across Nepal are severely affected by the current situation.



Many Nepalis blame the Indian government, which they believe is supporting the blockade, and relationships between the two countries are strained at the moment. Some think that the more militant Terai groups want to separate their districts

from Nepal and become part of India. Others believe that the Indian government has its eye on controlling the huge rivers that flow across the border, as they represent potential hydro-electricity, and irrigation. The Nepali government has tried to negotiate with the protestors and wants to discuss amendments to the constitution, but the Terai groups feel that the government has not created the right environment for talks, and so the demonstrations continue. More than 40 people, both protestors and security personnel have so far lost their lives in the anger and violence, and many have been arrested.

However, China has taken the opportunity to help by bringing some fuel into Nepal from Tibet which may change the dynamics of the blockade, as India sees its monopoly on some supplies potentially threatened. However, this is a very limited answer to the problem and Nepal remains in a critical position. It is still coming to terms with the earthquakes that have devastated so much life and property, and the country remains politically volatile when many were hoping that the new constitution would be an opportunity for improvement. Nevertheless, many feel that the constitution does represent a significant step forward although there is clearly still a lot to resolve.

Please pray that calm and normal trade and business activity can be restored to this troubled country and that the needs of the vulnerable, of whom there are so many in Nepal, will somehow be met. Pray for wisdom for the political leaders, for the leaders of the protests, and for the security forces. Please also pray for the safety of our staff at Lalgadh.

*Thank you*

## World Leprosy Day 2016

**Sunday 31st January!**

Help us to raise funds to help people affected by leprosy, by organising your own event or supporting ours. Ring our office on 0208 940 1200 and ask for more details of what help we can provide.



## Music at Eastwick Road Church

Thank you to our friends at Bookham ERC who organized an evening of music last month, to raise funds for people in Nepal affected by the earthquake. World-class musicians volunteered their time to entertain a packed church with a wonderful and rich selection of classics and original music. This event raised over £1500 and our sincere thanks go to Susi, Sue, Ann, David and the team, Beth and Natasha, and all the musicians. *Thank You*

## Tom Bradley

### Leprosy Eliminated

#### AN ANCIENT DISEASE IN OUR CONTEMPORARY WORLD

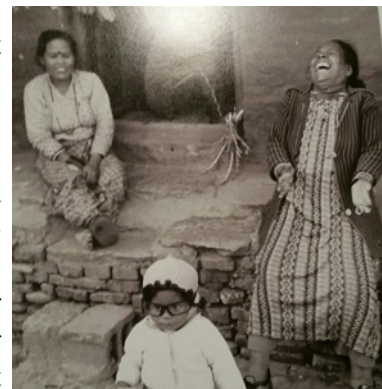


Tom is a self-taught British photographer with a strong interest in leprosy, who has worked with various NGOs across Africa and Asia since 2008. He has been published in The Guardian and New York Times.

On 30th September he open his first serious art exhibition in Barnes with photographs and stories from the countries where he has encountered many people affected by leprosy. This journey began when he visited our centre at Lalgadh in 2008, and his heart was captured by the plight of people coming for help. As a keen photographer, he realised that he could contribute by raising awareness in the Western world about leprosy through his pictures.

His photographs capture the humanity of these people, and communicate their determination to live life against the odds, not as human debris but as human beings with ambitions and dreams.

We visited the exhibition and were touched by the beauty, depth and presentation of the photos, and one in particular caught our attention. A lady known as the 'Tiger Lady' had been thrown out of her home because of leprosy, and was driven off into the jungle. The only shelter she could find was a cave which was also home to a tiger. Every day she would say to the tiger 'I live in your house, please don't do anything'. The tiger would snarl at her but he never attacked her during the time that she lived there. She was eventually helped and now lives in Kathmandu in a much happier situation.



## Steps against Stigma 19th September 2015



After a period of very wet weather, September 19th dawned bright and clear, and walkers plus Smudge gathered in Richmond for NLT's annual sponsored walk.

The start was shaky as it was discovered that local buses do not take cash - however eventually we all arrived at the Hampton Court starting point.

Small children kept the pace gentle, and all enjoyed watching ducks, swans and other river-life, picnicing while watching the boats, and finishing at the office back in Richmond with tea and scones. It was a good day, and we are grateful to all those who sponsored us. We are still working out the steps this walk represents!



## Funds Needed for the NLT Headquarters Building



Many of you will remember that our Headquarters building has been under threat of demolition since mid-2013, and we were praying that it would not go ahead. In late 2014 we received a compensation payment which confirmed that the road widening was indeed going to take place and the demolition would have to occur. Plans were

made to extend the office backwards to gain space and stabilize the building, as 2.5 metres need to be cut off the front. Some funds to help this work have been received, apart from the compensation payment, but these funds are now almost exhausted. the work undertaken so far includes building a new workshop room above one of our other adjacent buildings, as well as making significant progress with the major adjustments to the existing building. The next stage is to cut the front of the building off and this is a big job as the building is about 80 feet long and three storeys high. ***Please pray for the remaining funds needed for this work, and for the safety of all the staff involved.***