



## E-News January 2014

**Thinking of volunteering in the UK or Nepal to help with our work in 2014?  
Just email Anna expressing your interest: [annaclutterbuck@gmail.com](mailto:annaclutterbuck@gmail.com)**

### AGM UPDATE AND PLANS FOR 2014

The format of the AGM, which was held in Edinburgh at the end of November, followed the pattern of previous years. Participants first approved the accounts as presented by Rod for the 2012 financial year, which showed a small net drop in reserves, and then engaged with Jeroen in a review and assessment on achievements in 2013 and discussion on projects and plans for 2014.

Finance Director Rod Lowcock emphasised the need for all involved to make a substantive effort in 2014 to reverse the trend of falling income in respect of the general budget over the past 3 years. He emphasised that, while the projects budget is healthy, it is the general budget that covers the costs of staff and our core healthcare programme in Nepal. Our most valuable income is the members' monthly standing orders: anything you, the readers, can do to add to or help boost this source of income will be invaluable: please remember how far a £ goes in Nepal.

### TREKS TO BUILD 2014

It is already that time of year when we need to start blocking diaries and planning for adventures in 2014.

Our trek to build programme is well established and will give volunteers the opportunity to trek with the Nepal Trust to Sarkegard in 2014 and participate in the completion and opening of our second birthing centre. With ample scope to tune itineraries to individual needs, we depart mid-September and return mid-October 2014. Regardless of your skills and background, if you would like to participate please make contact with Anna.

In 2014 we are also launching a new scheme: our "Trek to Teach" programme. This is for gap year students, post A-level, and will offer them the opportunity for six months of meaningful volunteer work at schools in Humla, assisting in teaching English. Can we call on all of our supporters and members to help us promote this: please bring it to the attention of families you know with 2014 school leavers?

Further details are available from Anna ([annaclutterbuck@gmail.com](mailto:annaclutterbuck@gmail.com)) or our website: [www.nepaltrust.org](http://www.nepaltrust.org)



*Dr Jim Hunter, 2013 Trek volunteer engaging with local children*

**Remember just how far a £ goes in Nepal.  
Might you consider making another small donation?**

## OUR PROGRAMME FOR 2014

Our ambitions and plans for 2014 are not yet fully funded and we will have to work hard at plugging the gaps, relying on members and supporters to help as much as possible.



*Progress at Sarkegad*

Mother and Child issues will remain the core focus of our healthcare programme, with our birthing centre programme the central component. 2014 will see the Bargaun birthing centre move to an operational state, construction of our second centre at Sarkegad complete and

work at the third in Yari take shape. Support from Rotary means that Sarkegad is fully funded: Bargaun and Yari remain part funded.

We will also run 3 Little Doctors Courses: currently 2 are funded but we still need to find sponsors for the third. Might your Rotary club be up for taking this on, perhaps in partnership with other clubs?



*Little Doctors at Bargaun*



*Solar lamp project*

In the area of renewable energy, our focus will remain on bringing the Service Centre into operation. The aim of the Service Centre is to provide a local capability to service and repair infrastructure, including renewable energy projects. As has been said so often, there is little point in undertaking new build projects if we can't keep the old ones going. With the building now in place, we have launched a number of initiatives to generate the funds to equip the service

centre. In 2013 the solar lamps project was a big success: we're very much hoping to find ways of repeating this in 2014. One suggestion is to introduce a mountain biking element to our treks to build programme: might this appeal to you or people that you know?

In the last edition of Namaste we described the Agriculture project that is now under way: this plus the construction of the new school at Tehe will be key projects for us in 2014.



*Harvest time in Humla*

## DIARY DATES

Time flies by so quickly and already we need to think about planning for Jeroen's visit and the 2014 AGM. For 2014 we will be radical and switch the AGM to Bristol: hopefully by rotating it round the country we will be able to reach more supporters over time. The date is 22nd November; the venue TBC.

In another attempt to keep in better contact with friends and members, this year we will hold a number of regional supporters group social events around the country. The first two are scheduled for the 9th April in North Wales and the 24th April in Dover. We will circulate more details on venues and timings shortly.

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