

Community Action Nepal NEWSLETTER

NO. 11

PATRON: SIR CHRIS BONINGTON CBE, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR: DOUG SCOTT CBE

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Registered Charity Number: 1067772

Operations' Director's Report

"Independence must begin at the bottom. It follows, therefore, that every village has to be self-sustaining, and capable of managing its own affairs, even of defending itself against the whole world." – Mahatma Gandhi

The accompanying quote is particularly apt where members of central government let down the people they are there to serve, something not peculiar to the Indian Sub-continent. It is also a fact that mankind is at his best when taking responsibility for his own life and in the manner best suited to his environment and traditions. Wherever possible CAN is endeavouring to place the decision making with the village people.

Expansion with accompanying sustainability initiatives continues to be at the heart of CAN's forward planning. We are fortunate that the reformed Nepalese Social Welfare Council (SWC) is right behind CAN addressing sustainability issues. CAN is also fortunate to have its own Management Committee in Nepal backing the proposals put forward and to have the indefatigable Ian Wall in Kathmandu as UK rep to keep up the pressure to implement wherever possible sustainability programmes.

One very important development is that finally CAN is beginning to tap into local funding particularly in the health sector where Trustee, Monahar Shrestha and Health Manager, Rajani Gyawali have been able to put referrals from our Health Camps into Government Hospitals for treatment f.o.c. Ian and Office Manager Murari Gautam have steered CAN through various administrative hoops to re-register with the SWC under the new system instigated by the present Government. CAN's operations are officially recognised by all the relevant Government Departments and are now entitled to Government support which will help towards maintaining the high standard of performance at CAN's Health Posts and Schools.

Just as CAN's health programme goes from strength to strength so too are the schools that CAN has built and supports. Ghunsa and Melamchi schools both obtained 100% pass rates in the recent School Leaving Certificate exams. Usually the rural school pass rate is between 40-50%.

At the Bahrabise School for the Deaf the Chairman of the school, Bhoj Raj applied for and received 6 Lakh Rupees (£5,000) towards the school hostel. This has to be the best way forward when considering the future of CAN. Last Spring CAN purchased more first class agricultural land around the school as endowment land to provide not only food but much needed funds for salaries and school equipment from rent and sales of surplus produce.



Ghunsa School

Other initiatives at local level include work on the local lodge and teahouse at Milareppa Health Post which will be particularly profitable to CAN during times of pilgrimage. Similarly, at Kutumsang CAN is supporting the women's group in their initiative to set up a camp site and tea house to benefit the Health Post there. The satellite telephone at Walung Health Post contributes enormously to costs there as does the newly installed satellite phone at Lihi Health Post which has already paid for the equipment and installation. All future projects will only be taken on in conjunction with similar initiatives.

I would like to extend my thanks not only to Ian out in Nepal, Ruth in the office, Dave Absalom doing the book-keeping, fundraisers Les Owen and Robin Ashcroft but also to all our hugely supportive UK Trustees and volunteers.

Doug Scott

DONOR NEWS – Ruth Moore

Bahrabise School for the Deaf - David Spear raises money with his Pack of Three gigs in the Brighton area. **The Cattanach Trust** has given a large donation towards the Hostel Building. We had invaluable, initial funding for this project from the **Debbie Crichton Memorial Fund** and from **Glenwalk** in Ireland and the school has benefitted from generous donations from **The Tanner Trust** and **Erach and Roshan Sadri Foundation** have kindly donated £12,000 towards the Bahrabise Hostel.

Lihi Gaun - Ictopus have kindly given us a second donation of £2,500 for Lihi Gaun school and **The Sandoz-Fondation de Famille** have generously sent £11,000 for the annual running costs of Lihi Gaun Health Post.



Treatment at Lihi Gaun

Porter Shelter Donors - The Himalayan Trust - £5,000 towards the Gokyo **Porter Rescue Shelter**; they have previously given support for the **Machhermo** and **Gorak Shep Shelters**. Also promising support for Gorak Shep are **Mandi Banks** and **Stephen Gatenby** who visited the CAN office to explain an innovative, new fundraising idea. More details will be available shortly, check the website.

The Scottish Foundation for Surgery in Nepal have provided invaluable funding for the very successful CAN Health Camps, for medical supplies and for support for Kutumsang and Milareppa Health Posts. Without these most generous donations many of the people who travel miles, usually on foot, to the Health Camps, would not have received essential health care for, in many instances, life threatening health problems. As we go to press we have just received a very generous donation of £17,500 from The Scottish Foundation for Surgery in Nepal towards the above running costs.

West Yorkshire Scouts - the group raised funds for and built the hostel at Melamchigaun School. They have pledged to raise funds of £500 per annum, for three years for the hostel matron's salary.

Dave Bell has cycled from Lands End to John O'Groats to raise more funds for **Ghunsa School**. **Ghunsa Health Post** is also being rebuilt fol-

lowing the remarkable fundraising efforts of the **Rushton Project** Fundraisers - a group based in Haslemere, formed by CAN volunteer Dr Barbara Rushton and admirably administered by Jane Barber.

Grantham School Group took out the Mountain Rescue Stretcher to CAN's Porter Rescue Shelter at Gorak Shep and also raised funds for CAN.

Doug gave a lecture for Northampton Rotary, organised by **Michael Stead**, raising enough money through matched funding for a planned hydro-electric power plant below Ghyamrang. The sale of electricity to homes, sawmill and rice mill will provide funds for the Health Post.



Patients queuing at Ghyamrang Health Post

Four Acre Trust fortunately for us is one of the few trusts to fund salaries and has significantly contributed to the cost of our nurses' salaries for the last five years and, hopefully, well into the future.

Regular Standing Order Payments have sadly declined recently but we hope for an increase as the UK financial and economic situation improves. In the circumstances we are especially grateful to those people who have found it possible to maintain their committed giving via this method.

Volunteers - we must thank our willing band of volunteers who help to sell CAN goods at various events, often at very short notice. We are delighted that **Di West** has maintained her contact with CAN after many years of "service with a smile" to CAT trekkers.

Lecture Organisers - the result of all the hard work putting on the 30 lectures last Autumn (2008) is shown on the back of the Autumn List for 2009. £56,000 was raised. **Maggie Burgess** (Promise Nepal) especially put in an enormous amount of time into organising the Tibet night at the RGS.

Lectures for 2010 are already being organised but with plenty of dates still to fill. If you have the opportunity and energy to put on a lecture in your area for CAN or in conjunction with your local charity, do get in touch. Doug's lectures are invaluable not only for the cash generated on the night but also from the many intangible benefits that arise spontaneously afterwards from additional donations to volunteers helping out here and in Nepal.

Autumn Lectures 2008 - Financial Breakdown

Date	Venue	Tickets Sold	Income	Hall Cost	Total Ticket Sale	To CAN (G)	Percentage	Auctioned Prints Net Profit (I)	Total Sales Cards and Nepalese Goods (J)
22.10.08	New Mills	180	£1,630.00	£80.00	£1,550.00	£775.00	50/50 CAN/ROKPA	£2,330.00	
23.10.08	Salisbury	Private	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	CAN	£1,075.00	
25.10.08	Wakefield	65	£625.00	£0.00	£625.00	£625.00	CAN	£2,215.00	
26.10.08	Peebles	168	£1,824.00	£108.10	£1,715.90	£857.95	50/50 CAN/ROKPA	£425.00	
27.10.08	Langholm	111	£1,332.00	£444.00	£888.00	£444.00	50/50 CAN/ROKPA	£170.00	
28.10.08	Irvine	79	£828.00	£297.43	£530.57	£265.28	50/50 CAN/ROKPA	£0.00	
29.10.08	Kelso	121	£1,452.00	£132.31	£1,319.69	£659.84	50/50 CAN/ROKPA	£675.00	
03.11.08	Dumfries	129	£1,555.00	£264.38	£1,290.62	£645.31	50/50 CAN/ROKPA	£1,590.00	
6.11.08	Glasgow	239	£2,034.00	£1,195.00	£839.00	£839.00	CAN/TISO	£2,340.00	
07.11.08	Edinburgh	230	£1,958.00	£751.00	£1,207.00	£1,207.00	CAN/TISO	£2,000.00	
10.11.08	Aberdeen	102	£1,284.00	£500.00	£784.00	£392.00	50/50 CAN/ROKPA	£500.00	
11.11.08	Dundee	88	£1,320.00	£280.00	£1,040.00	£520.00	50/50 CAN/ROKPA	£1,572.00	
12.11.08	Lochgelly	81	£1,143.00	£200.00	£943.00	£471.50	50/50 CAN/ROKPA	£1,845.00	
13.11.08	St Andrews	94	£1,585.00	£200.33	£1,384.64	£692.32	50/50 CAN/ROKPA	£135.00	
15.11.08	Fort William	55	£825.00	£325.50	£472.50	£236.25	50/50 CAN/ROKPA	£115.00	
17.11.08	Inverness	115	£1,604.00	£0.00	£0.00	£802.00	50/50 CAN/ROKPA	£975.00	
17.11.08	Skye	88	£1,344.00	£337.00	£1,006.82	£503.41	50/50 CAN/ROKPA	£185.00	
18.11.08	Oban	103	£1,266.00	£0.00	£1,266.00	£633.00	50/50 CAN/ROKPA	£1,844.00	
20.11.08	Kendal MFF	0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	n/a	£800.00	
21.11.08	Kendal MFF	0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	n/a	£1,725.00	
22.11.08	Worcester	190	£600.00	£0.00	£1,600.00	£800.00	50/50 CAN/HIM trust	£1,485.00	
26.11.08	Oxford	310	£3,300.00	£167.50	£3,133.00	£3,133.00	CAN	£290.00	
27.11.08	Exeter	230	£2,300.00	£693.95	£1,606.05	£1,606.05	CAN	£1,900.00	
28.11.08	Pateley Bridge	220	£2,261.50	£222.50	£2,039.00	£1,539.00	CAN/W'harfedale	£3,215.00	
30.11.08	Hartlepool	0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	D S Lecture	£440.00	
02.12.08	Berwick	200	£1,660.00	£0.00	£1,660.00	£1,660.00	CAN	£165.00	
03.12.08	Chichester	64	£649.00	£250.00	£399.00	£200.00	50/50 CAN/Promise Nepal	£65.00	
08.12.08	London RGS	418	£9,360.00	£2,286.00	£7,074.00	£3,537.00	50/50 CAN/Promise Nepal	£4,355.00	
09.12.08	North Berwick	130	£2,600.00	£1,544.37	£1,055.63	£500.00	50/50 CAN/LST	£2,345.00	
11.12.08	Forfar	185	£1,830.00	£29.36	£1,800.64	£1,251.64	70/30 CAN/Rotary	£2,155.00	
12.12.08	Totals	3995	£49,169.50	£10,308.73	£38,230.06	£25,795.55		£38,931.00	£4,903.00
	Total to CAN: G+I+J								£69,629.55

Expenditure		
Framing Costs		£3,840.00
Advertising Lectures		£2,079.00
RGS Tickets and Invitation Cards		£176.00
DS Travel, Accom., Books, Posters, etc		£6,750.00
Nepalese Goods Costs		£628.00
Total		£13,473.00

Net Profit to CAN from Autumn Lectures 2008	£56,156.55
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