



July 2011 Newsletter

I arrived in Kathmandu in February for what was going to be one of the most exciting trips yet for Help Rural Nepal.

Due to the hard work and generosity of our donors and sponsors, we had raised enough money to buy computers and books for the primary school library, and install the solar panels. We also had enough funds to donate books to the secondary school's library. We just had to organise it all to arrive at the village!

After Shital and I had bought the books and arranged for them to be transported by bus to the village, I set off on the 8 hour journey to the village with our new volunteers, Phil and Vanessa Hughes and a young friend Robbie.

The children at Shree Aanku Primary School were on holiday having finished their end of year exams and the school was a hive of activity. The classrooms were being painted and the carpenters were finishing the desks and benches for the classrooms and the cupboard for the library books was nearly completed.



We were invited to the school prize-giving ceremony and welcomed with garlands of bougainvillea flowers. The top two children of each class were also given garlands and red tikka on their foreheads and the biggest award went to 'The Topper' - the student who had the highest marks in the whole school. It was a lovely occasion.

A few days later the truck arrived in the village with the solar panels. the



two computers and Deepak, our young computer expert. We all gathered to watch the solar power system being installed and cheers went up when the power came through and the first light was switched on!



The computers were set up quickly and in no time at all Deepak had a crowd of children around him reading Nepali words from the computer screen.

These were magical moments for us watching their faces finally seeing 'The Computer' - they all knew it was coming but most had no idea what 'It' was!



Phil and Deepak soon had music playing and photos on the screen and the children tried their hand at Paint programme. And for the

children who couldn't get near enough to see the screen, we opened the boxes of books.



It was an Aladdin's Cave... Soon children were sitting down reading, looking at pictures or even just holding the books - this is a whole new world for most of them.

The books include a variety of Nepali and English stories, science, history, animal and nature books for all ages and with the cupboard completed, Vanessa began cataloguing.

During the mornings we closed the doors and with small faces peering through the windows, Vanessa sorted the books while teacher Sangita began her computer lessons with Phil.

In the afternoons we opened the doors to the enthusiastic children who flooded in, brimming with excitement.



The following day we all went to Shree Achane Higher Secondary School where I handed over the new books for their library and two donated computers (Phil had brought one from the UK and the second was donated from a Nepali NGO). It was a lovely ceremony with tikka and flowers. The school Principal and the English teacher both thanked Help Rural Nepal for the kind donations and the invaluable help to the school. Deepak, a former student at the school, spoke of the huge importance of computer access for the students.

Deepak, having already downloaded suitable software onto the computers, is setting up the library lending/cataloguing system on the computer for the school.



The school was celebrating their 50th Anniversary the following weekend and we were invited to the three day event. We were all looked after so well and enjoyed sharing the excitement of prize-giving, dancing and

singing displays and even a visiting politician arriving by helicopter!

With celebrations over, Vanessa and Phil began the huge task of sorting and cataloguing the books in the secondary school library. With help from school staff, Vanessa and Phil managed to complete the job before their time in the village as over. The school was so grateful to them and the library is now open to the students. After three busy weeks in the village, Phil and Vanessa finished their stay in Nepal by trekking the Annapurna Circuit. They will be long remembered in the village where they made good friends and worked so hard at the Primary and Secondary schools. Help Rural Nepal would like to thank them for all their wonderful work



Back in the UK, fundraising has been going well.

Over the Easter weekend Kate Fradley successfully completed the Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race. Kate finished the 125 miles in 28hours, 8 minutes and 6 seconds, a remarkable achievement and we thank Kate and her sponsors for raising over £1500 for Help Rural Nepal.

Katie Scott, Rachel Bright and Emily Cooper ran the Hell In The Middle run and also raised £1500. Many thanks to them.

A quiz night held in Barrow Gurney raised £700. We thank the quizmasters for hosting such a fun evening and congratulations to the winning team- Rosemary, Di, Cynthia and Lindsay!

Our next main event is a Fire Walk to be held in the Chew Valley on September 17th 2011. Sponsored volunteers will be bravely walking barefoot over hot ashes having received training and support from a professional company. If you are interested in the challenge of fire walking or would like to come to support or sponsor those who do, please contact us for more information

A group from the ERM Foundation is already training for the London to Brighton Cycle race later this year and we wish them good luck.



Help Rural Nepal has just received its Charity registration which will be a huge help to fundraising and we can now collect gift aid. There is still work to be done and our future plans include solar panels for the secondary school and the health post.

On behalf of the community in Dhading, we would like to thank all the runners, canoeists, quiz teams, volunteers, sponsors, donors and ERM Foundation for the great work you have done for Help Rural Nepal. None of these achievements would have been possible without you.

With Best wishes and thanks from us, Pam, Fliss and Catherine, at Help Rural Nepal

Pam Raffety
July 2011

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[< previous](#)

[next >](#)

