

Chairman's Report

Another year has gone by - so what have we achieved apart from a new name for the charity? Well, quite a lot, but to deal with the name change first.

a new name

For many I'm sure, what we call ourselves is the least important thing about us. It's what we are here for that matters and what we do. And certainly we have had quite enough on our plates these past few years, raising funds, building support and developing and monitoring management and financial structures.

But few would disagree that DWA (Disabled Welfare Association UK) was hardly a descriptive title and possibly a misleading one. If we are to continue relieving hardship for Nepali children and provide security to increasing numbers, we can't ignore the importance of professional marketing. With so many good causes competing for attention we knew we had to find a name that enabled people to see at a glance who we are and what we stand for. Several were considered and one was approved by the Charity Commission. So it's goodbye to DWA and hello to **NEW FUTURES NEPAL** our bright, positive new name and banner.

increased funding

Our financial year ended on the 31st of July. As you will see from the summary on page two, funding income has risen by 37% to over £80,000! By drawing on reserves, this has enabled us to contribute nearly £90,000 to Nepali projects. And thanks to the wonderful work of Ram, Tilak and their teams out in Nepal, our new purpose-built home is very nearly finished (see this page).

more professional communications

The last six months have seen a necessary increase in what I loosely call our admin team, the generous band of volunteers who support the trustees and their spouses in running the charity. We have a new editor for our newsletter and other publications, to help us develop a more unified and businesslike profile. Our promotional DVD has been updated and a new one is in the pipeline.

but can we really make a difference?

Nepal features all too often at present in the media and you may wonder, with the political unrest there, whether your contributions really can make a difference. Let me assure you that they do. The trustees are very aware that events in Nepal need to be continuously monitored and at least one of us visits Kathmandu every year, often at our own expense.



As just one example of the difference we can make please read the progress update on Umesh. I think what he has achieved in the past year has been truly remarkable and there are many more like him ready to show what they can do with a little help from us.

Once again my thanks to everyone for your support and generosity in another great year of progress and achievement.

Lynne McCutcheon

Umesh a progress update

You may remember the young boy named Umesh who was born with shortened tendons in both his legs, making it impossible to put his feet flat on the floor. Your regular contributions and our alliance with John Grooms Charity made it possible to provide specialist help for Umesh and a successful operation was performed on his feet. In no time he was up and running around, playing football with the other boys for the first time in his life.

But the really surprising bonus has been the improvement in his school work. After his stay in hospital Umesh decided he wanted to become a doctor and help people in the way he himself had been helped. His exam results have been outstanding - he is leaping grades and attaining very high marks in all his school work.

The punch line in this tale is that the medical treatment cost £170 (yes English pounds). You can see the almost limitless potential for us to help lots more children in similar circumstances. So, do you have any friends left who still don't know about us! In case you do our new information leaflet is enclosed and we have plenty more if you need them.

New home... New hope...

Two years ago New Futures Nepal agreed to be the major funding stakeholder in the construction of a purpose built childrens home in Kathmandu. The home, to be managed by the Disabled Welfare Association (DWA) of Nepal would provide care for children of all ages who might otherwise face a life on the streets, coerced into child labour or trafficked into prostitution.

There was a particular urgency because the Hope Centre where we had been supporting fifteen similarly vulnerable children and carers was facing imminent closure. The new home, much larger than the Hope Centre, would provide long term security for the children, but it would also have the capacity to house more children in need.

Phase One of the project was launched in August 2004 when trustee Andrew Small spent a week with DWA Nepal. Our main objectives were to provide contract and project management skills, to assemble realistic budget forecasts for the whole of the project, to act as the financial guarantor for the land purchase, and to assist with the design of the new building.

The decision to be the major funding stakeholder meant committing £100,000 at a time when less than half of that amount was actually in the bank and readily available. Needless to say our wonderful band of event organisers, helpers and donors in

the UK rose admirably to the challenge and the 'funds gap' closed well ahead of schedule.

Immediately the land was purchased, DWA Nepal contracted with a Government-listed builder and an aggressive 6-month completion target was agreed. Attention then turned to the building programme as we watched the perimeter wall, foundations, drainage system, access road, walls and roof all start to appear at a pace that would be the envy of any would-be developer.

In May this year, right on schedule, the children and carers relocated from the 'old' Hope Centre to their new home...an amazing result for any organisation. The partnership between New Futures Nepal and DWA Nepal was a great success, making a difference to many young lives for years into the future.



Treasurer's Report

Wow!!!

What can I say? Well done and thank you to all our supporters who helped make our second year as a registered charity truly remarkable and memorable.

Without your support we would not have been able to fund all the projects or build the new home so soon. I have been amazed by the support and encouragement given to the trustees plus the generosity of individuals and organisations. This has entailed not only the giving of donations, but also time to organise events, promote us to others and help in many other ways.

At present we have sufficient resources to fund project commitments in the short term. To grow the charity, take more children into the new home and consider other new projects, New Futures Nepal needs to expand and increase the fund raising base while continuing to restrict costs.

The 'Sponsor A Child' scheme and regular monthly donations are effective, consistent and tax efficient ways of giving, enabling us to budget funding and plan our cash flow. If you wish to join one of the schemes or obtain further information please contact any of the trustees or myself by e-mailing finance@newfuturesnepal.org

If you are already giving may I ask you to review your gift in relation to inflation in Nepal (currently 20% per annum) so that your gift maintains its effectiveness. You will need to contact your bank and advise them of the change.

Should you wish to organise a fundraising event, any of the trustees would be happy to provide advice and support as needed. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

Paul Crook
Treasurer

Provisional Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st July 2005

	2004/05 £	2003/04 £
Bank balances brought forward	53,771	7,849
Income		
Donations, fundraising etc	60,920	33,180
Legacies	10,000	21,000
Tax refunds	9,560	4,488
Total Income	80,480	58,668
Outgoings		
Funding of Nepal projects	89,117	9,313
Fund raising event costs	5,944	1,790
Management Costs	3,164	1,238
Administration Costs	497	405
Total Expenditure	98,722	12,746
Net income (outgoings) for the year	(18,242)	45,922
Bank Balances carried Forward	<u>35,529</u>	<u>53,771</u>

Notes:

- Income increased substantially through increased regular donations, and initiatives such as the 'Sponsor A Child Scheme', the 'Smith Project Appeal', and many fund raising events.
- Fundraising costs increased due to
 - increased participation at the charity's 'Castleton 2005' fundraising weekend in February,
 - the cost of two Nepalese fundraising dinners in Manchester and Bristol.
 - The repayment of some trekkers charity trek deposits due to its deferment.
 - A supporter chose our charity to raise funds in the Across the Divide Expeditions Ltd's open event challenge. We agreed to pay £1,170 towards the challenge costs provided a minimum of £2,500 was raised for us. In practice the participant raised significantly more than the minimum.
- Management costs increased due to a trustee having to fly to Nepal to oversee the 'Smith Project' before final approval to proceed by the charity. We sent out two publications last year which increased printing and postage costs.
- The charity's administration cost was just 0.6% of total income. All trustees are unpaid volunteers.

A fundraising tour

We had an exciting few months earlier this summer when Ram Thapa came to the UK. He spent a hectic 12 weeks travelling between the top and bottom of the country talking to church groups, Womens' Institutes and new and old friends and supporters. We found it very useful to be

able to discuss first hand our projects and the situation in Nepal and, as a direct result of his visit, received some generous donations and offers of help from new supporters. We also had a lot of fun but we think Ram was glad to be returning to Kathmandu for a rest!

Mixing business with pleasure

Once again this year we held our Annual General Meeting in Castleton as part of a fun and fund raising weekend. And very successful the weekend was, in spite of adverse weather conditions which prevented many supporters from attending.

Saturday's main event was the hike to Edale and back via Mam Tor. Over thirty of us started out from the YHA in Castleton at 10am on Saturday. The walking was extremely difficult with a covering of ice everywhere and, in parts, snow up to 8 inches deep.



But everyone made it, arriving for lunch at about 12.30, then completing the circle back to Castleton by 4pm. Luke Bowen (aged 9) was in training for the SAS and carried a pack weighing one quarter of his body weight. With him on board there was no question of wimping out and getting the bus back!

The Annual General Meeting, held the following morning, was less heavy going and no less enjoyable – well, maybe a little! In fact it was a lively and stimulating event with a good turn out of about 25 guests attending. Andrew Small had put together a slick powerpoint presentation and Hazel Roy gave an interesting and informative talk on the hazards facing children in Nepal.

The whole weekend brought in over £8,000 which is a brilliant achievement.

A great fundraising effort

Lichfield Cathedral School adopted New Futures Nepal as their charity for last year's autumn term. Lynne McCutcheon, Angela Bowen and family went all out to interest the children in Nepali life and culture as well as the work of our charity in Nepal.

They were rewarded by a magnificent effort on the part of the pupils and staff. Lynne talked to the children at assembly and Angela set them targets and puzzles each week. The children themselves baked cakes, made jewellery and, most impressive of all, denied themselves their favourite pleasures for one week, raising sponsorship by doing so.

The finale was the packed Christmas Fayre at which various families and staff supported our stall and sold their own crafts and produce. The end result was a staggering £2,000 raised in just one term.

Can your school or your children's school adopt us for one term? If so we will work with you to keep the children interested and motivated and, in doing so, raise money for children less fortunate in Nepal.

Excellent school reports

Again this year all the children living at the Hope Centre have continued to progress well at school. All thirteen took end of year exams in April and all passed, meaning that they were able to move up to the next class. Eight of the children received marks over 80% with Umesh gaining 87%, Mingma 92% and Arjun 94%. For Umesh and Arjun this has resulted in a double promotion, progressing up two classes! An outstanding achievement since none of the children attended school at all prior to joining the Hope Centre.

Since then they have taken more exams in July and Mingma, Urmila, Mamita and Sahara all received distinctions.

Congratulations to all the children and thanks again to everyone who is supporting their education through annual donations and our Sponsor a Child scheme.

Fancy a challenge?

In June this year a team of six New Futures Nepal trustees and supporters entered the annual Photoplod challenge. This is a sponsored long distance charity walk of 42 miles along the South Downs Way, to be completed within a 15-hour time limit.

Starting at midnight our team (Rams Ramblers) comprising Charles Barton, Chris Hearn, Colin Culley, Steve Davis, Helen Crook, Rebecca Febry and our team leader Ram Thapa set off in high spirits at a cracking pace, picking their way through paths and dodging cow pats by torch light. Some of us had more success at this than others, noticeably Ram whose trainers miraculously remained white throughout the distance.

The whole team completed the challenge, achieving fourth place against some tough competition, most of whom were familiar with the challenge route. Despite our exhaustion we managed to celebrate in style at the award ceremony, feeling very proud of our achievement.

But to get to the real point. The reason we entered Photoplod (apart from the sheer pleasure of the challenge) was to learn something about how such an event is organised and promoted. It seems to us that this is exactly the kind of activity that would appeal to many of our own supporters. If Photoplod can raise £20,000 and upwards each year, surely so can we.

So the question is - do you fancy a challenge? Would anyone be interested in a marathon hike in aid of New Futures Nepal? If so we would love to hear from you.

A prestigious award

Earlier this year our treasurer Paul Crook was nominated by Coutts and Co for the annual Royal Bank of Scotland Community Action Awards. These are open to staff in the group who do community or charity work in their spare time. Paul was required to submit a 1,000 word application setting out what we are and his own involvement in the charity.

As a result of his application the DWA (as we then were before our name change) was shortlisted and Paul was invited to attend the Gala Awards Dinner and Ceremony in Edinburgh in January. This was a considerable achievement in itself as there were thousands of entries from across the Group's businesses in the UK and overseas.

There was even better news to come. At the ceremony Paul received the prestigious runner up prize, comprising a generous cheque to the charity and valuable publicity for our work. Well done Paul!

Nepalese Charity Trek

Sadly it has been necessary to cancel the trek planned for September 2005. We took this decision only after conducting a full risk assessment and consulting the Charity Commission. Charity Law states that risks which might be acceptable commercially are not necessarily acceptable for a charity to undertake and our prime concerns are for trekkers' safety and for the safety of the team in Kathmandu. We wanted everyone to get the most out of what may be a first visit to Nepal and fully enjoy the exciting and varied itinerary.

So our grateful thanks to Tracey Burge for her organisation and to those of you who signed up, committed and generally supported us. We will continue to review the possibility of a charity trek at a future date.

A fund raising idea

If you live in an area with Nepalese restaurants and a Nepalese community you might consider a fund raising event with their cooperation. Hazel Roy, who lives in Manchester, did just that.

Her first event was a relatively simple affair. Last November she collected together ten people happy to pay £20 for a Nepalese meal and a friend from the Nepalese Association raised a similar number. Then everyone met up for a meal in the Ghurkha Grill restaurant. A room was put aside for the event and the restaurant laid on a great spread, charging just £10 per head. The remaining £200 went to New Futures Nepal and this was supplemented by a raffle with theatre ticket prizes. Local theatres donated tickets for the Christmas shows and our fundraising went up to £350 from one great night out!

Inspired by this success Hazel mounted a more ambitious event last January. She hired the local Irish Club, recruited a friendly local Jazz band, an opera singer and four Nepalese dancers, plus the services of the Jai Kathmandu restaurant who charged just £8 per head for a banquet for 200 people. The Manchester Nepalese Association advertised the event in their local newsletter and the Chairman Puspa Shrestha coped with the bewildering complexities of booking a large contingent from the Nepalese community. The evening netted over £2000, though he warned there was a fair bit of advertising and badgering to do!

Two great events then - one small, the other on a much larger scale - but both highly successful in raising funds and spreading awareness. If you feel you could organise something similar where you live, we are sure Hazel will be happy to offer good advice.

A Night at Kathmandu!

In April, to coincide with the Nepalese New Year, a fund raising evening was organised by local trustees and supporters at the Kathmandu restaurant in Bristol.

Nepali restaurant owner Ashok Kumar agreed to allow the charity to take over the restaurant for the evening. The seventy local supporters who bought tickets were treated to an evening of genuine Nepalese cuisine, in an authentic atmosphere. Everyone enjoyed the evening with many positive comments on the delicious food, friendly atmosphere and great raffle prizes donated by local organisations. The evening also provided a chance for those attending to view our updated charity video and learn about the progress of our projects.

Photographs taken during the evening can be viewed on the Kathmandu restaurant website; www.kathmandu-curry.com

The evening raised £1,800 and was so popular that it may well become an annual fundraiser. So contact Helen and Paul Crook if you live near Bristol and would like to celebrate Nepali New Year with us in April next year.

Spreading the word

Occasionally the sheer fun and originality of fundraising events can overshadow the cause for which they were organised - the Women's Institute nude calendar for example; does anyone remember what that was in aid of? Well yes, actually, it was for leukaemia research, but you get the point.

Trustee Charles Barton is no killjoy when it comes to the fun side of fundraising (although no calendars are planned!) but he also believes strongly in spreading the word about why the work of New Futures Nepal is so vital. To this end he has been delivering talks in the area where he lives and they are proving very popular.

If you live in the region of Leicestershire, Northamptonshire or Warwickshire and know of suitable groups in search of a speaker, why not contact Charles and see if he can fit them into his schedule.

New Futures Nepal

Helping the most disadvantaged people of Nepal

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