

Rotary Club of Dronfield Earthquake Newsletter 6 Saturday 5th December 2015

Please copy to groups, clubs or individuals who might be interested

If you would like to read all previous newsletters, tracing the course of our Appeal, go to
http://www.dronfieldrotary.org.uk/nepal_earthquake_appeal.htm

Foundations already dug for 'Dronfield's new school'



On a safe hilltop site ...



from this



to this. Why no roof? See below.

Stage One has begun! In Talmari Village, the first digging is shown towards the £40,000 new school supported by the community of Dronfield and local groups.

The new site is on a hilltop, well away from the landslides which are threatening the 'old' site. The village of Talmari owns the land, and as their contribution to the school has undertaken to cut timber from their community forest. This will be shaped into windows and doors at the local carpenter's yard. The work is overseen by the village committee, the Head Teacher Jagat Lamichhane, and a supervisor from the Rotary Club of Pokhara Fishtail.



Village committee



Head teacher....



Nepali classrooms are very bare ...

Several members of the Pokhara Fishtail Rotary Club visited Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School in October. Many of them are educationalists and they were particularly impressed by the use of posters, diagrams and maps on the walls. Nepali classrooms are very bare. Several Dronfield schools are running projects to buy posters for the walls of the new school. In addition Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School has undertaken the challenge of raising cash to complete the new school roof, which will cost almost £5,000. If you're a Dronfield parent please support these fundraising efforts by your sons and daughters.

Local Knitters send baby clothes: Many thanks to Dronfield Knitting Group, and Ann Lomas of Mansfield, who sent hundreds of baby clothes over to a Pokhara orphanage. They were very 'warmly' received!

Days for Girls project: Whilst in Nepal, several members of the Inner Wheel Club of Dronfield took the opportunity to deliver materials for the Days for Girls project. This involves making reusable sanitary pads using a sewing machine. Many girls in Nepal keep away from school for several days a month, and this project provides a cheap and effective way of helping them. There are now plans to start a scheme in (among other places) Talmari district and Prithvi Rupa school, perhaps using micro-loans.

Meeting the students of Prithvi Rupa School: *thank you Dronfield!*



A group of Dronfield and local people visited the old and new school sites in November. They were met by an enthusiastic local village population, the town band, as well as all the pupils of the school. Not surprisingly, they were over the moon to see us as they'd been given the day off lessons!

The visitors found the 'old' site to be cracked, particularly upstairs. The upper floor has been declared unsafe by the Government, so at present all pupils are crammed into the ground floor which will continue to be used for Lower School lessons. The nearby hillside is indeed very steep and vulnerable to landslides (in the earthquake, more people were killed by landslides, loosened by the tremors, than were killed by falling buildings). They then visited the new site.

More pictures of the visit to school are on

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1047333051953663.1073741831.951273581559611&type=3>

Nepal battered by shortage of petrol and cooking gas



Our efforts to build the school and help a village are threatened by difficulties with Nepal's southern neighbour, India. Nepal has agreed a secular constitution at last; however India wants Hinduism to dominate, as it is in India itself. Some blame India, some Nepal. The impasse has resulted in a blockade of the borders, slowly depriving Nepal of supplies. Since Nepal has no sea coastline, and the Himalayas are a massive northern border, the country is slowly choking. The worst possible scenario is that Nepal grows dependent on China, who is all too keen to fill the needs; but as was the case with Tibet, China's grip on a small neighbour, once tightened, may never be loosened ever again.

Our photographs show endless, long, patient queues of Pokhara citizens, waiting for what supplies there are left. Bus services are stopped; pupils must walk miles to school and back. The effect of this action on the new school is that progress may be delayed. Cement is currently four times its usual price, and steel reinforcing rods, essential to the building process, are very scarce. It's hoped to establish the foundations before the monsoons next June. We will keep readers informed about progress.

Are you old enough to receive the Winter Fuel allowance? Do you really need the £200? If you are seeking a worthwhile cause, please consider our ongoing Earthquake appeal (details below).

EARTHQUAKE Please continue to support us.

Online payments: Send cash by credit transfer to 'RCD BENEVOLENT FND' Sort code 405240 Account 00027635 It's very important that we know who has given. Please therefore include the reference 'QUAKE' then your name. Within your bank transfer page there will be a choice 'Make Payment' or similar where you can give your identity.

Cheques: Make payable to the charity account 'Rotary Club of Dronfield Benevolent Fund', and post to 'Dronfield Nepal Earthquake Appeal, 31 West Croft Drive, Inkersall, Chesterfield S43 3GA' along with your name. Please email the Treasurer (below) to give early notification of monies being sent. If you are an individual donor and qualify for Gift Aid, email our Treasurer at treasurer@fishtailfund.com for a Gift Aid form.