

***Our apologies that this newsletter is later than usual.***

***We do thank you so much for all your support, and we wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.***

***If you still need some last-minute cards you can choose from those below and we will get them to you as quickly as we can.***



**A B C D E F G**

**CARDS A and B**, 14 X 14 cm, 10 Cards & Envelopes, £4.50 per pack of 10 + p&p

**CARDS C, D, E, F and G**, 11 X 11cm, 10 Cards & Envelopes, £3.50 per pack of 10 + p&p

Please contact:- [info@nlt.org.uk](mailto:info@nlt.org.uk) / 020 8940 1200 to order

### **\*\*STOP PRESS - Project Agreement Update\*\***

***Many of you have been praying with us for the successful completion of NLT's next 5-year Project Agreement between Nepal Leprosy Trust and the Government of Nepal. Our previous agreement finished in December 2017 and it has taken two years to work through the various issues raised by Government departments during talks since then. However, we are pleased to announce that the end has been reached and it appears that the new Agreement will be signed shortly. Our sincere thanks to all those who have stood with us in prayer.***

### **Child Sponsorship**

Many thanks to all those of you who sponsor children's education through our Lydia Children's Fund. This has been a positive way of helping dozens of poor families for the future. We have seen many good outcomes and are pleased to report that another group of these children has recently completed secondary education. We are grateful to the sponsors of those children who have chosen to continue sponsoring, and we are in the process of matching waiting children to them. If you would like to sponsor a child, please get in touch.

### **Speaking Team!**

Enid, Mildred, and Mike, would love to visit your church, school, club or group to share about the work of NLT, life in Nepal, etc, with a video and/or slides. We don't make a charge for this, but we do like to bring NLT handicrafts to sell!

**Help in the office at Richmond** is always needed. If you would like to spend a few hours a week helping with admin tasks, handicraft stock management and/or helping at fairs and events locally, please contact us by phone or email.

### **Twitter**



NLT has a Twitter account!

See the tweets on our website or follow us at:-

[@NepalLeprosyTr](https://twitter.com/NepalLeprosyTr)

**For information about NLT please phone us: 020 8940 1200 or email: [info@nlt.org.uk](mailto:info@nlt.org.uk)**

**If you would be happy to receive your copy of this newsletter by email and save NLT some postage, please let us know by emailing us at: [info@nlt.org.uk](mailto:info@nlt.org.uk)**

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# Nepal Leprosy Trust

*Changing lives*

## *Eileen 'didi'*



On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October Eileen Winifred Lodge, known affectionately by many as Eileen didi, passed away in Kathmandu. Eileen was 94 years old and had been quite frail for several years although her humour was often very apparent to her various visitors who dropped in whenever they could. Eileen especially loved cakes and sweets, and it was always a pleasure to see her face light up when these were presented. Her funeral took place at Koinonia Church in Patan on 16<sup>th</sup> October, at which a large crowd gathered to

celebrate Eileen's long life, and to say "goodbye" to this lady who has touched countless lives. Many people personally honoured Eileen with testimonies of their own experiences of her help, and the whole event was an unhurried tribute to Eileen's great example of faith combined with action. She was totally convinced that God had the answers, so instead of being overwhelmed by the needs of the many who came to her for help, she got on with the job of praying for and providing the answers. By that process many lives were restored from poverty, brokenness and despair, to lives with hope, dignity and a future.

Eileen was buried on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October at a smaller ceremony in the grounds of Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara, where she wanted to be laid to rest. This was the first leprosy centre that Eileen helped establish together with Betty Bailey in 1957. Eileen worked there in challenging conditions for 12 years, serving the many desperate people affected by leprosy who came for help. In those days the treatment and management of leprosy was in its early stages, but Eileen was part of that pioneering work. She soon wanted to see leprosy services reach further east in Nepal, which led to the establishment of Nepal Leprosy Trust in Kathmandu and the UK, and enabled Eileen's envisioned referral centre, Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital, to be built in southeast Nepal. Eileen later moved on again to establish a new work with Nepal Leprosy Fellowship in the far east of Nepal, continuing her desire to see leprosy treated properly right across Nepal.

Eileen served in Nepal for 66 years, and her great legacy is that the works she helped establish will go on changing lives for many years to come. Knowing her was a privilege, which for many of us changed our lives, and we remember her with fondness and awe.



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## Envisioning trips to Nepal

As we write this, our first “envisioning trip” in 15 years has just ended after the group of seven visitors completed two weeks of exploring Nepal and seeing NLT’s work at Kathmandu and at Lalgadh Hospital. They spent time in the historic parts of the Kathmandu Valley, and took an exciting mountain flight to see mighty Mount Everest and the neighbouring Himalaya from close up. The journey south to Lalgadh by road took them winding through the hills down into the hot and flat Terai region. At Lalgadh they met the NLT staff and saw the hospital in action, and met patients who were visiting for treatment or staying as inpatients. The group joined in with



Mountain flight

the party to mark the Programme Director, Dambar Aley’s retirement from NLT after 28 years, and ate lots of great Nepali food.

Apart from exploring the hospital, the group also visited several remote villages where our self-help groups are active, and where communities are engaged with NLT’s Village Alive Project (VAP). These villages are all very poor, but are enjoying some of the benefits of improved life and opportunity through working together in Village Alive. Villagers proudly showed off the livestock they had reared with a VAP loan, and their new toilets which have improved sanitation and hygiene in their village. There were emotional moments as our visitors met with real, serious poverty and saw what it means for a family to have literally next-to-nothing, and yet be enabled to rise above the challenges in their lives with some dignity and a sense of purpose.



Having a rest



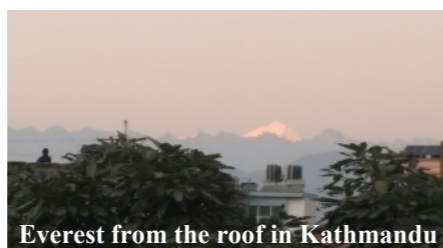
Jungle Walk in Chitwan

The group joined in with Nepali Saturday (their day of rest) church, and experienced the difference in culture between western ways and Nepali ways of doing church. After six days of intense exposure to NLT’s work, the group then unwound and spent two days at Chitwan National Park, exploring the jungle on foot and on elephants, and seeing crocodiles, rhino, deer, leopard, and a few other things before returning to Kathmandu.

This discovery trip was a success, and our visitors all felt that it had built something new into their outlook and appreciation of life. They found it particularly intense at Lalgadh, as they were faced with numerous situations that showed what it means to suffer from leprosy in an environment where it is deeply ingrained to fear leprosy and be antagonistic towards anyone affected by it.

The Nepali team did a brilliant job of organising the activities, and our visitors were full of praise for them. Mike and Sue Wells and Enid also did a great job of looking after the group, and we are grateful to them for enabling this trip to happen.

*If you would like to see something of life in Nepal and also learn about the work of NLT then please get in touch with us at: [info@nlt.org.uk](mailto:info@nlt.org.uk) or 020 8940 1200. We are going out to Nepal again in February 2020, and could take you with us. If you are interested then let us know.*



Everest from the roof in Kathmandu

## World Leprosy Day 2020 on 26 January

Last year some of you supported NLT and *World Leprosy Day* by holding coffee mornings in your various settings, and this was great for raising awareness and also for raising some much needed funds for the work of NLT. We wondered whether on WLD 2020, those of you who knew Eileen Lodge might also consider commemorating her contribution to leprosy work in Nepal, which spanned more



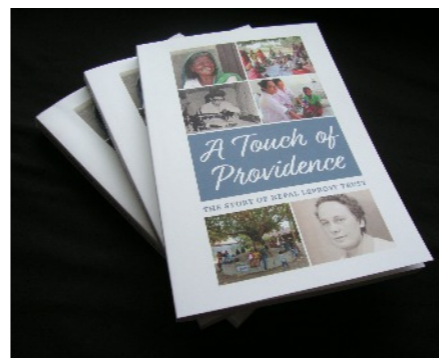
than 65 years. We can supply leaflets, pictures, presentations, and NLT handicrafts to sell.

*If you would like to host an event - however simple - on our behalf, please let us know: [info@nlt.org.uk](mailto:info@nlt.org.uk) / 020 8940 1200*

All funds raised will help Nepal Leprosy Trust to continue its work in Nepal amongst some of the poorest people in the world.

## A Touch of Providence

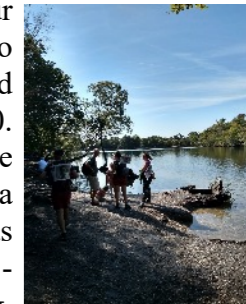
This book contains many pictures and interesting reports from the early days of Eileen’s work in Nepal. It gives a fascinating insight into life in Nepal and charts the early years of NLT and the growth of Lalgadh into one of the world’s busiest leprosy centres. We will be printing more copies very soon. If you are interested in buying a copy, please let us know.



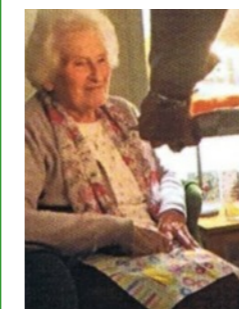
## NLT Annual Sponsored Walk



Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September saw a group of people and a dog emerging from cars into lovely sunshine at Langley Park in Berkshire. Most of us were unfamiliar with Langley Park and its neighbour Black Park, so it was great to discover such lovely places tucked away so close to the M25 and M40. There were countless trees, some lakes, and a great view of Windsor Castle, and we had a cream tea in a pleasant corner near Pinewood Studios. As always, all funds raised help the work of NLT. Please do join us next September - it is a good opportunity to catch up with the work that NLT is doing.



## Goodbye Mary



Our dear friend and long term supporter Mary Wotton passed away on 10th September 2019 after a battle with cancer. Mary faithfully prayed for NLT from before it even became a charity, as she had prayed for Eileen from the 1960s. She helped us in the office and at fairs, and had a lovely sense of humour that always lifted us in stressful moments.

Mary will be sadly missed by all at NLT, but we rejoice that she is now with her Father in Heaven.

## Dambar retires after 28 years of service



Dambar Aley has served with Nepal Leprosy Trust in Nepal for more than 28 years, having begun at Lalgadh with Hem Pradhan as a Leprosy Paramedic. Dambar and Hem lived in Lalgadh village from 1991 to survey the area for people affected by leprosy and to prepare the community for the establishing of Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital. Long before the hospital was finished, people who had heard about the work began to come for help, and were treated in a simple bamboo and thatch clinic at the edge of the site by a small but growing team of medics.

By 2000, Lalgadh was becoming one of the busiest leprosy centres in Asia and it was clear that Eileen had built it in exactly the right place. From 2005 Dambar became the Acting Programme Director and then Programme Director at Lalgadh, and continued in that role for the rest of his service, facing many challenges and helping to guide the organization through many difficulties. Under the leadership of Dambar and his team, Lalgadh has developed into a well known centre, with its programmes being replicated by other centres around the world. Over 35,000 new cases of leprosy have been diagnosed and managed at Lalgadh, and around 200,000 people affected by leprosy have been treated and supported.

Dambar’s retirement was marked by a party that included our envisioning trip visitors. We all wish Dambar the very best in the next chapter of his life.