

A selection of summer shoppers for sale!



BCL 004A BCL 004D BCL 004G-1 BCL 004G-2 BCL 004G-3

Cost of these lovely shoppers: £25.00 + p&p. Contact: info@nlt.org.uk / 020 8940 1200 (note that the NLT office is not being used, but has an answerphone. If you need to telephone, please call Mike on 07932 621391)

Child Sponsorship

Sponsorship of children's education continues to be a valuable way of helping young people out of poverty. We are grateful to everyone who supports in this way and can assure you that it makes a real difference to lives. One of our children, brought up in an orphanage in Kathmandu and sponsored by an NLT supporter, recently started working at Lalgadh as a nurse. More recently we have been able to extend support to children living in the communities around Lalgadh. Shanti and Punita, pictured here, are part of that group. If you would like to know more about sponsoring a child, please do get in touch.

Shanti 7 years



Shanti has had leprosy but has received treatment and has no disabilities. She has a brother aged 14 who works as a labourer to help support the family. Their parents are elderly and poor and their father is unable to work regularly. Some of Shanti's other siblings died very young.

Punita is Shanti's cousin and lives with her grandmother, because her own mother died in childbirth. Punita has also had treatment for leprosy. Shanti's mother practised self-care with Punita to help prevent Punita developing deformities and disabilities.



Punita 6 years

Speaking Team!

When things are back to normal, Enid, Mildred, and Mike, would love to visit your church, school, club or group to share about the work of NLT and life in Nepal, and show you the NLT handicrafts made by our Fair trade workshop!

Twitter



NLT has a Twitter account!

See the tweets on our website or follow us at:

@NepalLeprosyTr

For information about NLT please phone us: 020 8940 1200 or email: info@nlt.org.uk

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

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

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Telephone: 020 8940 1200; Email: info@nlt.org.uk; Website: www.nlt.org.uk

(During the current situation, for telephone calls please ring Mike on 07932 621391)

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Nepal Leprosy Trust

Changing lives

Nepal and Covid-19



K.P. Subedi ready for action

The Coronavirus - Covid-19 - has been a wake-up call to the world, reminding us that we cannot rely on life being always predictable and controllable. In the West, we are reeling from unexpected intrusion into our lives and businesses and from the strange feeling that life is somehow "on hold". We are very aware of many people fighting on our behalf for the sick and vulnerable, and our Government is working hard to find a way through for us, and we worry that things may not be the same afterwards. For countries like India and Nepal, and for Africa, so frequently hit by the sudden challenges that nature throws at them, this is yet another challenge to face. This challenge however is hard to

measure, hard to see, and is no respecter of the rich or the poor. Nepal does not have the facilities taken for granted in the West, with very few tests available, few ventilator units or ICU beds available, and very little data on the presence of Covid-19. Nepal is reliant on food coming into the country from India, and subsistence farmers are facing the last months of the dry season. A one-week "lock-down" is about to end and another may begin. Food prices are starting to rise as food stocks become more scarce as transport is impacted. Many people do not have water available in their homes and have to get it from a source nearby. Most people will not have significant household stocks of food, so whereas lock-down for most of us may mean a slightly boring and lonely time, for many in Nepal it may mean serious hunger and thirst. An easing of the lock-down may improve food supply but allow the virus to spread with disastrous effect. A long lock-down could bring famine.



Lalita teaching villagers



Lots of signs

At Lalgadh, Dr Graeme and Dr Krishna and their team have gone to great efforts to prepare for people coming with respiratory problems, and the infection control measures have been tightened up to cope with the threat of Covid-19. They have fitted extra wash basins for hand-cleaning, prepared protocols for all aspects of patient care and ward disinfecting, and each ward has a nurse assigned to oversee these tasks. There is a temperature monitoring station for arriving outpatients, to detect any patients with fever. As with the rest of the world, obtaining sufficient supplies of masks, etc. has been difficult and only partially achieved, and an additional £17,000 is needed for that. Suman Tamang, the Support Services Manager, has been working flat out with his team to manage the physical alterations required, and to source necessary supplies. The Community Team has been teaching villagers about the importance of hand-washing.

At this stage there is no indication as to what is coming, but it is likely to be difficult and protracted, in a situation where the 'cushion' of resources for both the ill and the well is already very thin.

Please do pray for the people of Nepal that Covid-19 will not be devastating, and for our medical staff at Laladh along with the medical staff at other mission and government hospitals. As we see what Covid-19 is doing to Italy and Spain, we can only imagine the effect it could have on a country like Nepal. If this happens at a time when the West is totally focused on its own problems, there may be little outside help available for Nepal. The team at Lalgadh would be grateful for any help towards their costs of preparation for Covid-19, and most of all, for your prayers at this difficult time. They need wisdom and courage as they face this new, potentially overwhelming challenge.

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A New Chapter for Mainuddin



Mainuddin

Some of you will have already seen this story on our website, but it is such a great story that we included it in the accompanying Review of 2019 and will share a brief version here. Mainuddin is a man who has been connected to Lalgadh since he first came to NLT 27 years ago for help with ulcers caused by leprosy. This was before Lalgadh was even officially open! He had already known much suffering, and ostracism from family and community, and could not even go to school; but the little team at Lalgadh happily gave him the limited help that they could at that time. The most important thing they gave him, though, was a promise that they would “always look after him” - words that were music to his ears and the first ‘caring’ words he had heard for a long time.

Mainuddin’s connection with Lalgadh continued, and he became involved in NLT’s pilot Stigma Elimination Project (STEP) in 2002. This aimed at the social and economic integration of people affected by leprosy through self-help groups (SHGs). Mainuddin realised that he could help people with problems like his, and he learned to read and write and gained in confidence, taking an active part in his group. He was soon made leader of his group, which became the largest and most successful of the many SHGs formed and became part of the Federation of SHGs in Dhanusha district. This group has been involved in many community activities that have changed people’s thinking about leprosy. Mainuddin later became president of the whole Federation which, working in partnership with the Community Team at Lalgadh, has greatly helped the expansion of the SHG programme (there are now 113 groups).



Mainuddin at a community event



Sakila

Behind all this, Mainuddin’s home life has always been unhappy, and with deformity to his hands and the loss of one leg, he was resigned to never being able to have a wife and family of his own. His accommodation situation became difficult in late 2018, so NLT UK helped with funds to buy land for Mainuddin and to build a house for him. The work was carried out during 2019 and, while the house was being built, he proposed to a lady called Sakila, who is also affected by leprosy and has often been an inpatient at Lalgadh Hospital. Like Mainuddin’s, her life is also hard because

of the ostracism caused by leprosy. She accepted Mainuddin’s proposal, and they were married at their new house on 29th December 2019. The picture shows them together on Mainuddin’s motorcycle, which NLT gave him in 2018 to help with his SHG work.



Mainuddin and Sakila in front of their new house

This is a brand new chapter for Mainuddin and Sakila, and we wish them every happiness and success for their future together. Please pray that they will settle well into their new life together and new neighbourhood. Mainuddin is so grateful to all those who contributed to making this story possible.

Envisioning Trips

After the successful Envisioning Trip in 2019 we would love to do further trips so will continue to advertise the opportunity to visit the work in Nepal, and meet people like Mainuddin (above). However, we will wait for you to express interest before we make detailed plans. We already have strong interest for a visit in 2022, but if anyone would like to go sooner, then please get in touch.

Goodbye ...

To Freda Tobutt who died on 14th December 2019 aged 94, a godly lady with a good sense of humour. Freda supported NLT for a very long time and was a faithful member of our prayer group.



World Leprosy Day - January 2020



as nice handbags and wallets.

The coffee and home-made cakes were enjoyed by all and visitors were interested to learn about the work in Nepal. Thanks to everyone who marked World Leprosy Day in different ways and places.

We marked ‘World Leprosy Day’ in Richmond with another coffee morning at the NLT office and introduced some locals to the NLT handicraft goods such

Devotional notes

Martin Davies, a Trustee of NLT and a vicar, has written a set of Bible study notes suitable for individuals or study groups. They can be downloaded from the “Resources” section of the NLT website at: www.nlt.org.uk

A Touch of Providence

This book has many wonderful photos and interesting reports from the early days of Eileen Lodge’s work in Nepal. It gives fascinating insights into life in Nepal as it describes the growth of NLT and how Lalgadh grew to become one of the world’s busiest leprosy centres. If you would like a copy - £10.25 including UK postage - let us know.



A New Wheelchair for Bel Gurung

Bel Gurung and his wife Maita have worked in the NLT handicraft workshop in Kathmandu for more than 20 years. Bel has been wheelchair-bound all that time and it has been getting harder for him to get around. His old wheelchair has been repaired many times, and after an operation last year he was feeling tired and in need of something better.



Bel with his trusty old wheelchair.



With help from friends of NLT in Saltisford Church, we have finally been able to treat Bel to a new **electric** wheelchair. This has made a big difference to both his life and Maita’s (pictured together left with the new wheelchair) and they are very grateful to all those who helped make this possible.

Training Fund

There are many training needs in NLT Nepal, mostly related to the medical work carried out at Lalgadh. Generally, the doctors willing to work at Lalgadh have been supported in their training, either by NLT or by other similar organisation. We have had good service from these doctors, some of whom you may remember - Dr Yamuna, Dr Vijay, Dr Sofia, Dr Ram, Dr Aditya and others, but they have all moved on. All young doctors want to progress their training and if they cannot do it from NLT, they need to find another way. We have some small funds available for the more basic trainings, but cannot easily fund post-graduate training, which poses a problem for our doctors and other more senior staff. If they find funding elsewhere, it is unlikely that they will come back to Lalgadh, but if we can support them there is a good chance that they will. So we would love to be able to build up a useful fund that can support more trainings, to make the future of Lalgadh as a high quality hospital, more secure. This type of funding is hard to find, especially for overseas work like ours, and if you felt this is something you would like to contribute to, whether in a small or larger way, we would be thrilled.



Sofia Lama, Prakriti Subedi, Ram Gurung, Ananda Sunuwar, David Shrestha

Some of the young people helped by NLT to achieve their dream of becoming doctors.

Vitality Run 2020 - postponed

The London Vitality 10000 run was to take place on May 25th this year, but due to the Coronavirus it has been **postponed to the Autumn** - date to be confirmed.

We have 6 places, two of which are already filled.

Please let us know if you would like to run for NLT.

