

## A selection of Summer Evening Bags



Silk teardrop bag

*Beautiful silk bags for those summer evenings out - that we may be able to enjoy soon...*

(Approx 26x17x13cm)

Cost: £9.00 inc p&p.



Raw Silk 'Thailee' bag

### Village Fairs are back!



This year we are looking forward to showing off the skills of our Kathmandu workers as we display NLT's fairtrade handbags, wallets, batik cards and fun felt items to people at Richmond Fair, Ham Fair and St Margaret's Fair. They happen during May, June and July on a Saturday, so do watch out for them, and come and see us if you are nearby!

### Child Sponsorship

Many thanks to those who sponsor children's education through NLT. It is such a positive way of helping dozens of poor families for the future, and we have seen many good outcomes. Every year, some children finish their education support and others join the scheme. Sometimes we have some sponsors waiting for children, and sometimes children waiting for sponsors. We are grateful to every sponsor who chooses to support children in this way, and if you would like to help a child please get in touch.

We apologise for the delay in sending some children's reports. The lockdown had a considerable effect on schooling in Nepal, and some children were sent back to their villages outside the Kathmandu valley. A few have not yet returned. As reports come to us, we will send them out to you as soon as we can.

### Speaking Team!

When things are back to normal, Enid and/or 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 at our fairtrade workshop!

### Twitter



NLT has a Twitter account!

See the tweets on our website or follow us at:

@NepalLeprosyTr

**If you are someone who prays for NLT**, we send out a monthly prayer letter by email. If you do not use email, we can post it to you if you let us know. It will help to keep you more updated with events in NLT and in Nepal.

**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](mailto:info@nlt.org.uk)

Nepal Leprosy Trust, 10A The Vineyard, Richmond, TW10 6AQ (England)  
Telephone: 020 8940 1200; Email: [info@nlt.org.uk](mailto:info@nlt.org.uk); Website: [www.nlt.org.uk](http://www.nlt.org.uk)

(During the current situation, you can also telephone Mike on 07932 621391)

NLT is a company limited by guarantee (no. 4046961) and a registered UK charity (no. 1081952)

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email, phone, or write to us.

# Nepal Leprosy Trust

Changing lives

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### World Leprosy Day screening of 'I am Belmaya'



The usual type of events to mark World Leprosy Day on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 were not possible with the ongoing pandemic. Coffee mornings, cake sales and handicraft sales could not be held. Wonderfully, we were rescued by the surprise opportunity to host a film screening, through our connection with a network of organisations working in Nepal. One of the group had helped a Nepali filmmaker called Bel Maya Nepali make an autobiographical documentary about her life and her struggles to become a filmmaker. We advertised it, and over 150 people signed up to watch the online screening of this poignant and fascinating film, raising about £760 for NLT, and another £760 for the film production company and Bel Maya herself. There was very positive feedback from viewers who were moved and challenged by the film, and the better understanding it gave of life in Nepal.

Thanks to all who supported this event.

### Colourful Kathmandu - support our batik makers!

Those of you who have visited Kathmandu know that it is a colourful place, especially in the markets and during festivals. Many of the products made in the NLT workshop reflect this colourful heritage, especially the batik cards, which are popular here in the UK. We have discovered that the range of card designs is much bigger than we realised, so we are going to stock a wider selection for supporters to choose from. These cards are handmade, and colourful themes include Christmas, animals, birds and flowers, etc. We are going to sell them individually, in themed packs at a reduced rate, or in selections of your own choice. Apart from being lovely cards to give to friends and family, this will be a big support to the batik producers, who have been struggling with low sales in recent months.



Visit our website for updates!



## Ram Rati - a new beginning

Ram Rati is an older lady, affected by leprosy, and living alone for many years since her husband abandoned her because of the stigma of leprosy. She lived with her parents after that, but when they both passed away the rest of her family were consistently unkind, along



Leaky roof and holes in the walls

with other people in her village. In her younger years Ram Rati earned some wages by working in people's houses, but with age and the onset of hand paralysis and drop foot caused by the leprosy, she was less and less able to work, with no one to look after her or support her. Her house was falling apart, with holes in the walls and roof, and her situation became desperate, made worse by the Covid lockdown.

Her plight was brought to the attention of Lalgadh's community team when they were taking food to various needy people in her village last year, and they brought food supplies to Ram Rati as well. An NLT supporter in the UK agreed to help her with a monthly pension as part of our 'Support a Granny' scheme, and this has made a big difference to her life as she can now afford the basic necessities.

However, her land situation was precarious and her house was in a very poor and insecure state, with animals and rain able to freely enter. The Lalgadh community team addressed this problem with further funding from the UK, and in the early part of this year were able to build Ram Rati a new house with a toilet, a bed-sitting room, a kitchen and a small verandah. This has further transformed her life, taking away the desperation that she previously felt and giving her a safe and secure home that is hers. The team have also organized some new bedding and will provide a new bed and stove soon, so that Ram Rati's life will be a bit more comfortable.

The next hurdle is to rebuild relationships with neighbours and family, who have become more supportive now that they understand her situation better. The difficulty is that Ram Rati has been so hurt by relationships in the past due to the stigma of leprosy, that she is reluctant to engage with other people very much. Do please pray for inner healing for Ram Rati, and for her to be able to engage with those around her in a healthy and positive way.

*Thanks so much to those supporters who have been a part of this story.*



Ram Rati and her new house

## Mainudin - update



Mainudin and Sakila

We mentioned in the last newsletter that Mainudin was facing treatment for cancer of the tongue and was due to go to Bharatpur hospital in India for this purpose. The first stage of this treatment has now taken place and Mainudin is going back for the next course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Because this treatment is very expensive, he has been worried that he would have to sell his small piece of land and maybe his house to fund this, but we have reassured him that we will endeavour to fund his medical costs so that this is not

necessary. After one year of marriage to Sakila and with a new child, his home (the first he's ever owned) is more important than ever. *Please pray for the success of Mainudin's treatment and for Sakila as she cares for their first child.*

## Covid Vaccinations

Staff at Lalgadh were pleased to be vaccinated against Covid in February, after a trying year of working hard to stay safe with masks and other PPE, along with careful patient-handling and frequent hand washing. After a long and anxious time, here are a group of our Lalgadh ladies with their vaccination certificates.



## A Touch of Providence



Don't forget to pick up a copy of this great book, full of fascinating stories of Eileen's life, the founding of NLT and the work at Lalgadh. Amusing accounts of different people's experiences add colour to this amazing story. Only £10 including UK postage. *(Discounts available for multiple copies)*

## Envisioning Trips

After our successful Envisioning Trip in November 2019 and a year lost to the pandemic, we are planning another trip in 2022, probably late in the year when the weather is better. If you are an NLT supporter or simply interested in Nepal and would like to join a trip, led by people familiar with the country and with NLT's work, do get in touch with us. It is an



opportunity to see parts of Nepal that you would never see as a tourist, and to understand a bit more of what NLT is doing for people affected by leprosy in this amazing but very poor country.

## Vitality London 10000 Run 2021



The Vitality London 10km run is going to take place on the 31<sup>st</sup> May, Bank Holiday Monday. NLT has 6 places reserved, and 4 or 5 planning to run. It is a great opportunity to raise some useful funds for the work of NLT, so please consider sponsoring our runners. There may be a space available if you would like to represent NLT; it will be an exciting atmosphere, and the event will be led by Sir Mo Farah. Any gifts with reference to 'Vitality' will be included in the sponsorship. We will put more information about our runners on our website soon.

## Badri's family - update

Many of you will remember Badri Shrestha, his wife Samwati, and their two boys, Subash and Sudeep - both affected by cerebral palsy and wheelchair-bound. In 2018-19 we helped them to build a new house in a better location, and stock up their shop which they can run at their house while looking after the

Badri at Lalgadh



Badri and Subash managing the shop

boys. In March last year the pandemic came with a lockdown, but (like here) shops in Nepal selling basic items have kept going - and Badri's shop has come through okay. Subash can help manage the shop himself now, and this has been very useful as Badri needed a foot drop operation. This was done by NLT's Dr Krishna, and Badri is currently recovering at Lalgadh.

## Handing over to the next generation

It is now 30 years since work began at Lalgadh. Some of the first staff were those Eileen Lodge collected together or recruited as young people, and sent for training in TLM hospitals in Nepal and India. Some came to her for work when they were expelled with many others from Bhutan in the 1980s during the 'ethnic cleansing' carried out by its Buddhist regime. These people included Nepalis originally from Darjeeling, who were recruited by TLM to its leprosy hospitals in Bhutan and were therefore already trained in leprosy treatment and management. In the early days at Lalgadh, they did various tasks related to the construction work; and a small team regularly went out into the surrounding community to raise awareness about leprosy and the availability of treatment at Lalgadh.

Since then, the work has grown dramatically, with some inputs from expatriates along the way, not least for the last 13 years by Dr Clugston and his wife Meena. But the backbone of it all has been our core team of Nepali staff who have grown with the work, and carried it through joys and sorrows to what it is today. Key members of this original team, including Dambar, Hem, Asha, Ravi, Nama, Ram Nanda, Ashok, Urmila, Purna, Ram Bahadur, and Ram Chandra, have all retired in the last couple of years, and Lalgadh is now being carried by other young men and women who joined during those first ten years and since, and who continue to carry the torch. *Do please pray for them as the work continues to develop.*