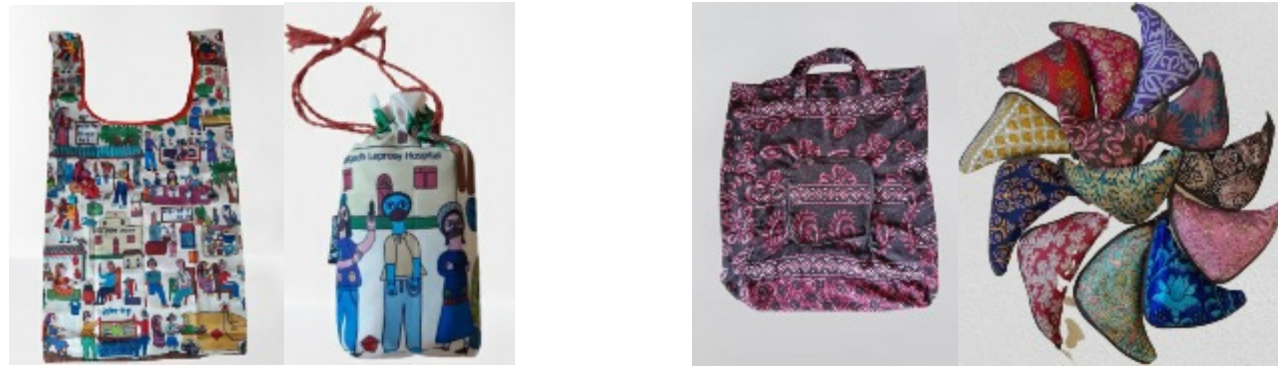


Two new shopping bags added to our shop!



The pictures on the left show our new 'Maithili Bag' (£6.50 plus p&p), with scenes from our work at Lalgadh illustrated in the traditional Maithili art form - captioned in English on one side and in Maithili (Sanskrit) on the other. It folds into a decorative little storage bag. The pictures on the right show our new 'Sari Bag' which is made from sari remnants, so every bag is different. The bag folds into itself via a zip on the front, making a little triangular pack (£5.50 plus p&p).

Child sponsorship

This continues to be an excellent way of lifting people out of poverty. Every year, some children finish their education support and go on to further education or employment, while other younger children join the scheme. We are grateful to every sponsor who supports children in this way; and if you would like to start helping a child, please get in touch.



Amazon has a way of donating to charities called Amazon Smile. If you shop through Amazon, please consider using Smile <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>, and select NLT as your chosen charity. It won't cost you any more, and Amazon will send 0.5% of the net value of eligible purchases to NLT.

A Touch of Providence


A history of NLT, full of photos and fascinating stories, from the early days in Kathmandu, and then the vision and establishment of Lalgadh Hospital. Amusing accounts of different people's experiences add colour to this wonderful story. Only £10 including UK postage. Discounts available for multiple copies.



Speaking Team!

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 workshops!

Twitter

NLT has a Twitter account! 
See the tweets on our website or follow us at:
[@NepalLeprosyTr](https://twitter.com/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 updated between our newsletters.

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

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

Changing lives

There is still so much left to do...

The responsibility recently given to NLT for leprosy work in all eight districts of Madhesh Province has necessitated starting new leprosy work in the four districts where we had not worked much before. This has brought us face to face again with heart-breaking stigma in areas where our self-help group network has not yet reached. This is Sangeeta's story.



Sangeeta is 37 and is from the 'untouchable' Sada caste in a village several hours from Lalgadh. She is a mother of four children, and has to work hard at farm labouring jobs to earn food for the family, as her husband and her father-in-law spend most of their own earnings on alcohol. Her children are bright and have been doing well at school.

Sangeeta has suffered from leprosy for several years, and is physically damaged by it in her hands, feet and eyes due to not completing a full course of treatment when it was first diagnosed - probably at a health post. More recently, she received ulcer treatment at Lalgadh in 2020, and was very happy afterwards to return to being a mother.

At the end of July she was brought to Lalgadh Hospital, barely alive, with serious infection linked to a bad ulcer, and extremely low haemoglobin levels due to near starvation. She had been forced out of her village a month before by the other villagers due to the nasty ulcer on her leg. Despite being ill, she was made to 'live', without shelter or proper food, amongst the burning corpses on the otherwise deserted river bank, where no one lived. She barely slept for fear. Her husband was told by the villagers to poison her so that they would allow him and his children to continue to live in the village. To his credit, he refused; but he beat Sangeeta badly because the villagers beat him for not poisoning her. Probably not seeing any alternative, he left her to die alone.

The children tried to get food for their mother, but were refused access to the village shop. They became desperate as they could see their mother was dying. The children are also barred from using the village water supply for drinking or washing, and barred from school.

Sangeeta has now been an inpatient at Lalgadh for a month, and has pulled through the crisis of her illness, but she is 'broken'. She is grateful for the fact that she is still alive, but her heart-cry is to be with her children and to resume being a mother to them.

Please pray for Sangeeta, and for a better ending to this sad story. Although it is distressing to read her story so far, we feel it is important to share this, as it encapsulates why it is vital to continue serving people affected by leprosy.

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NLT's 50th Anniversary event in June



Our long-awaited event on 11th June at Stoke Poges was every bit as enjoyable and encouraging as we had hoped for. It was a wonderful reunion with about 50 friends of NLT coming to share the day with us; and the glorious sunshine

was a bonus. We had hoped that Dr Krishna and Suman from Nepal would be able to join us in person, but the UK visa system, currently focused on Ukraine, meant that even 'priority service' didn't yield visas until two months after our event! However, the staff and Executive Board in Nepal did a great job of making short videos for us, which included lots of "Congratulations on 50 years!" greetings, and gave a lively overview of activities in Nepal. Mike Winterburn of NLT Ireland sent a video too, and we were delighted that Mary McElhinney from Ireland was able to join us and give a personal view of the work in Nepal, especially about the impact upon women and girls. There were several fascinating talks by those involved in 'the early days', and since, which brought to life the story of NLT from different angles. It was a great trip down memory lane, with humour as well as poignant reflections, and a challenging reminder of many wonderful things that God has done both for, and through, NLT.



The day was rounded off with an abundant afternoon tea, including Indian and Nepali snacks, lots of sandwiches, cakes, strawberries and cream. A special 50th birthday cake, made by the brother of a trustee and decorated appropriately, was cut and shared.



The day was rounded off with an abundant afternoon tea, including Indian and Nepali snacks, lots of sandwiches, cakes, strawberries and cream. A special 50th birthday cake, made by the brother of a trustee and decorated appropriately, was cut and shared.

Thank you to all those who came. NLT is very grateful for the generous hospitality and help given by members of Stoke Poges Church. It was an excellent venue for this special occasion, and we were all made very welcome.

NLT's sponsored walk 2022



NLT has organised a sponsored walk nearly every year for about 15 years. These have been opportunities to enjoy some beautiful countryside, get some exercise while chatting with friends, and raise some funds for NLT's work with people affected by leprosy. (Last year we walked in heavy rain, in Buckinghamshire, but still enjoyed it!)

This year's walk will be in October, and may be in a similar area to last year. There are some final details to resolve but check our website and let us know if you are interested in coming along.

Tribute to Bharat Pandit

We are sad to report that Bharat Pandit died from a heart attack on 9th July. Bharat joined the work at Lalgadh in the late 1990s, firstly as a leprosy patient and then later as a staff member, shepherding new patients through the outpatient department system. Bharat's life was devastated by leprosy when he was diagnosed as a young man at Lalgadh; but with the dignity and respect earned through his work, and his building a new life in the nearby town of Bardibas, he became an admired man of integrity, and a champion of people who were affected by disability and poverty. While working at Lalgadh, he met and married a young lady called Sarita, who was also devastated to discover that she had leprosy and thought her life was over - until Bharat convinced her otherwise.



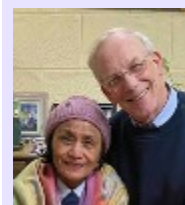
Bharat and Sarita represent much of what NLT's work at Lalgadh stands for, and we are greatly saddened to lose this wonderful man. Please pray for Sarita and their two sons, Prasanta and Prakash, who have been left behind so suddenly and unexpectedly. Our staff are also grieving at this loss.

Update on Ruku



Many of you will know of our nurse Ruku at Lalgadh, who has suffered from cancer for many years. She has been very grateful for your prayers, for support that some of you have provided towards the cost of her treatment, and for a long period of remission where she has been able to work normally in the community department at Lalgadh. In the last couple of months, the cancer has progressed, requiring more intense chemotherapy. It seems none of the public hospitals in Kathmandu have working machinery for chemo, so she has had to attend a private cancer hospital and is in her 3rd cycle of chemotherapy. Please continue to remember Ruku in your prayers. And if anyone would like to contribute to her medical costs, please get in touch.

Dr Graeme Clugston



Dr. Graeme has been back home in Australia since April undergoing treatment for multiple myeloma (blood cancer). He has coped with the chemotherapy well, and seems to be responding positively. Please continue to pray for him, for a good recovery, and for Graeme and Meena's future plans.

... and Dr David Shrestha



We are thrilled that David has now passed his Nepali medical exams, which means that he can work as a doctor at Lalgadh Hospital - his home from childhood. He did his medical training in Bangladesh and passed with flying colours, and now Lalgadh will benefit from the fruit of his hard work. Congratulations to Dr David!

2022 Envisioning trip

After our successful envisioning trip in November 2019, and then two years missed due to the pandemic, we have been planning another trip for November this year, led by a trustee who worked at Lalgadh in 2000. The planned dates are now finalised as the two weeks from 11th to 26th of November, working around the elections that have been recently scheduled for 20th November. There is also a strong possibility of a further trip in February/March 2023, which may be of interest to those unable to join the November trip. Whether you are an NLT supporter, or simply interested in Nepal, these trips provide an opportunity to explore some of this amazing country and see for yourself what NLT is doing amongst people affected by leprosy. There is still time to join the November trip. **Contact us by email or phone to find out more.**

Lab development needs

The laboratory at Lalgadh has become increasingly busy as the demand for many more tests linked to the dermatology and other work has grown. With help from friends at Indiana University, the lab has improved its histopathology (tissue study) work and equipment, but still needs to increase capacity in biochemistry, haematology, and parasitology. Our laboratory staff already have most of the skills needed, so the extra capacity can mostly be achieved with better equipment that automates some tasks that are currently done by hand using slow test kits. A list of suitable equipment has been developed, and NLT Ireland has raised €38,000 so far, of the €48,000 needed. This leaves €10,000 still to raise, to bring the lab services up to a standard that will meet current and future needs.



St. Margarets Fair



The 2nd of July was a beautiful sunny day and Enid and Mike joined St Margarets fair for our only summer fair of 2022, to represent NLT. It was a very busy day, with hundreds of people coming out to enjoy the sunshine and many interesting stalls and activities. People are always surprised to hear that there is still leprosy in many parts of the world; and, of course, most are interested in Nepal. We had some good conversations and sold some Nepali goods. It was an encouraging day, helped along with Mike's egg and bacon butties and coffee!

Help for Bel and Maita

Some of you may remember that in 2020 we provided an electric wheelchair for Bel Gurung, a worker at the NLT workshops for more than 20 years. He and his wife Maita have a little plot of land not far from the NLT office and need to build a small house on it for themselves. They have some savings but need additional help, so we would like to raise about £4000 towards this need. If any of you would like to contribute, please do let us know.

