

CTAS NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2011

During this visit there were severe problems with lack of electricity due to load setting, which meant that often there was no electric for up to fourteen hours per day.

A combination of solar charged battery power and trying to ensure one was in the office at the times that there was electricity, went some way to circumventing this frustrating problem.



Our water project in Pipaldali is progressing well. The channels to take the pipe runs from the main collection tank to the 36 dara (standpipes) have been dug on the steep slope, and the security fence has been put in place around the tank. Once the joining and testing of the distribution pipes is complete the fence wire will be tightened and the height of the fence extended.

Unfortunately the project has not quite reached the stage we had hoped, due to exceptionally bad weather and sadly an accident, which befell one of the key workers (not I hasten to add, while working on this project).



We have commissioned the Nepali plaque in memory of Claire Ivory a past president of Seaford Martello Rotary, who has donated generously to assist with this project.

I hope that by my next visit, and assuming the weather is clement, all the work to bring the water to the individual standpipes will have been finished, and the old roadside tank will also have been refurbished.

It is easy to forget when reviewing progress from the UK, how torrential rain and small landslides, coupled with lack of electricity for large parts of the day, can so easily interfere with project timescales.

Our water supply to the Rato Paiera and Hanumantole tanks continues to flow daily, although the actual timing of delivery of the water to these tanks fluctuates with the patterns of the electric load setting schedules.

Our further assessment of the potential Tutanga water project suggests that we may not proceed with this, as we have not found a sufficient level of commitment from within the local community. Our limited resources need to be used to benefit the maximum number of people, in a way that is sustainable beyond our initial assistance and input.



Another water proposal has been brought to us, and during this trip I visited the village of Lahachowk to meet with the community leaders. The village has flowing water and a number of standpipes, but no efficient means to collect this water, so much is wasted. The villagers have requested that we help build a tank to store the water and so make it easier for these fifty or so houses to collect and use the water.



We continue to support the Rato Paiera kindergarten with the children's daily tiffin (lunch): and thanks to the monthly donations from one particular sponsor we were able to repair the broken netting on the school's front door. This will prevent mosquitoes entering and small children escaping!

As always, thank you for your financial support and other gifts and donations, which enable us to continue our work.

Michele Spencer
(Chairperson)