

## CTAS NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

This past year has been quite a challenge for us all, with the global pandemic; personal and family matters: and the death of our oldest Trustee and long-time supporter - Nell Wilkinson. She will be sorely missed.



The trip to Nepal that was booked for late March into early April was cancelled due to the first wave of COVID restrictions: and sadly the Rotary group that were scheduled to come and visit our various projects that they have long been supporting were unable to travel.

Despite the difficulties throughout so much of this year, we are delighted to be ending on a positive note.

The lockdown restrictions in Nepal have in the main, for now, been lifted: and happily the death toll in Nepal from the virus is relatively low, with fewer than 2,000 officially reported cases. Currently UK citizens are prohibited from entering the country.

In the past week or so many of the schools have re-opened, and students are attending mornings only.



With travel once more allowed between Districts and the schools re-open our local NGO team has now been able to start work on one of our long planned water projects at the Mahendra Secondary School in the mountain village of Lahachok, which supports over some 315 students.

Our NGO chairperson and construction supervisor is currently in the village working with people from the local community to help build the 15,000 litre underground water tank, which will store a supply of clean drinking water for the school children: and bring running water to the toilet blocks, so improving the sanitation.



Access to running water is particularly critical at the current time, because one of the ways to reduce the transmission of COVID is regular hand washing.

The materials to build the tank have been purchased and delivered to the village: and the hard work of digging out (by hand) the ground has been completed.

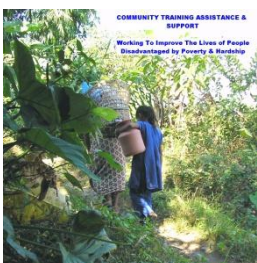
Construction of the tank walls (strengthened by rods) is now underway: and the job of plastering the interior tank wall will shortly begin, before constructing the roof and access hatch etc.



The school projects (daily tiffin and the supply of teachers) were suspended during the 6-7 months when all schools were shut, but we have just re-opened the kindergarten mornings only with a 50% lower (new year) intake than usual.

We also have the upstairs area available for the infants should more parents bring their children, as we are restricting classroom numbers to 15 or less. Our two kindergarten teachers and local administrator are keeping the situation under review.

We do not know how 2021 will unfold. However, we are optimistic with the more controlled and tighter approach that the Nepalese government takes to dealing with the pandemic in their country, that infection rates may remain low. This would enable us to complete the Mahendra School water tank project: and keep the kindergarten open all the time it remains safe to do so.



Thank you as always for your continued support, which enables us to make such a huge difference to people's lives.  
Wishing you a healthy New Year.  
*Michele Spencer (Chairperson)*

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