



NEWSLETTER NUMBER 3
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Chairman's Foreword



For Nepal the year that started with such promise for 'Visit Nepal 2020' sadly had that imaginative project cancelled within three months. The Nepal government had little alternative with the global spread of Covid-19. Even with only 16 reported cases in Nepal so far (as at 14th April) it was right to take such protective measures.

With poor availability of healthcare facilities and lack of medical infrastructure Nepal is likely to suffer greatly from the easily-spread virus. It also means that British NGOs working to help Nepal are going to find tasks that were never easy in the first place become even more difficult. Economic weakness and high unemployment in the UK will make it harder to raise the funds needed so urgently. Nepal is now a net importer of food, so life will quickly get progressively harder both in the towns that rely on tourist income (of which there is now none) and in the hill villages where the young who have gone abroad to seek their fortunes become less able to find work and send money home. Even jobs in the more developed countries of the Middle East are likely to be harder to come by due to the present low price of oil.

BRANNGO's aims are now more relevant than ever. Every NGO will recognise the need to cut costs, avoid duplication and at the very least to learn from each other and compare experiences. We must also work together to exploit any help that the British government can provide. To do this we need strength and that means strength of numbers. We have made a reasonable start so far with our 50 members but to become a really representative force we must have more and we know there are over 800 active UK charities that say they have interest in Nepal. Splendid! Come and join us and let us go forward in our separate but coordinated ways to help the government and steadfast people of Nepal that have now been friends of Britain for over 200 years.

My best wishes to you and your families. I hope you stay safe and well.

David Thomas



Editorial



As David Thomas says above, our lives in the UK and those of many people in Nepal are now dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the time of writing (mid-April) the impact on health in Nepal seems mercifully small and of course we all hope this is how it remains. However, the worldwide impact will significantly affect the funding and fundraising of NGOs/charities working in Nepal. The Institute of Fundraising reported 43% of the UK

charities surveyed were seeing an increase in demand for their services but a 48% decline in voluntary income. The UK Chancellor has announced a £750m package of support for frontline charities and indicated that they may also qualify for the support offered to businesses, but the advice so far has not made it clear in detail how allocation of this money will be prioritised. BRANNGO has been publishing information and updates about Covid-19 status and mitigation policies on its website and Facebook Group, and a short summary appears later in this newsletter. We are in touch with DFID to keep abreast of Government policies and plans for assisting NGOs operating in Nepal as these unfold and will continue to keep members informed of any progress.

One unfortunate effect of the pandemic is that we have had to postpone the BRANNGO conference planned in May, due to be held at the Nepalese Embassy in London. We hope to be able to reschedule this later in the year, but this will of course depend on UK Government restrictions. We shall of course publicise the new date when known through our usual channels.

We are very privileged to have a special message in this edition of the BRANNGO newsletter from His Excellency Dr Durgabhadur Subedi, Nepal's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Kingdom. Dr Subedi has been a strong supporter of BRANNGO since its inception in 2018, and he and his staff at the Embassy have done a great deal to help the Chairman and Committee move things forward, including the hosting of BRANNGO conferences at the Embassy. We are most grateful and greatly look forward to working with him and his team in future.

Many of you know already that we have moved the BRANNGO website to a new platform, and I have included a short brief on what it offers in this newsletter. It remains work in progress but we shall continue to develop its functionality and resources for the benefit of BRANNGO members as well as enhance and develop use of the BRANNGO Facebook Group. Our published action plan has collated many elements of our strategy as a basis for driving things forward, and the strategy itself will become better articulated and more clearly communicated over the next few weeks. A key element of it will remain the building and strengthening of collaborative links with other organisations that have similar interests.

We have reduced the size of this newsletter from A5 to A4 size to make it more easily readable online, a step we have taken in response to feedback in order to save a few more trees and reduce production costs. From now on we shall also make the newsletter available more widely to ensure wider distribution of news about BRANNGO and the benefits of membership. As the Chairman mentions above, we are very keen to welcome new members to the fold. If you wish to join, or know of anyone who would like to, please see the details of how to do so on the back page of this newsletter, or you can apply online from our website at www.branngo.org.uk.

I hope that you and your families manage to avoid Covid-19 and are able to live reasonably comfortably and well in spite of the many restrictions. We shall get through this and out the other side!

Nick Hinton



Message to BRANNGO
from the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
Nepal to the UK
His Excellency Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi



The United Kingdom occupies a very special place in the affections of the Nepali people. Nepal also holds a very special place in the hearts of the British. Ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations, friendship, mutual understanding, cordiality, cooperation and respect for each other's national interests and aspirations have guided our relationship.

Relations between Nepal and the United Kingdom can be traced back to 1792 when the two countries signed a Treaty of Commerce. Formal diplomatic relations were established between the two countries with the signing of the Treaty of Sugauli in 1816.

The United Kingdom is the first country in the world with which Nepal established diplomatic relations. The United Kingdom is also the first country in the world to establish an Embassy in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. The

UK is the country where Nepal established its first diplomatic mission (Legation) in 1934, which was elevated to the level of Embassy in 1974.

The United Kingdom has been one of the biggest bilateral development partners of Nepal. It has contributed significantly to improve the socio-economic conditions of the Nepali people. It has continued to provide substantial development cooperation to Nepal. The United Kingdom's valuable assistance has been utilized, in line with the priorities of the Government of Nepal, in critical sectors of development including vital infrastructures, agriculture, education, health, transport, and telecommunications.

The United Kingdom is one of the major trading partners of Nepal and Nepal's trade with the United Kingdom is increasing. However, the trade balance is not very encouraging. Nevertheless, it is heartening to note that the annual British aid is on an increasing trend.

Over the years, the close and cordial relationship between Nepal and the United Kingdom has grown manifold to cover diverse fields. Growing people-to-people ties and exchange of high-level visits have contributed to make the relationship deeper and more dynamic. Besides the cooperation on development, the United Kingdom has also been a highly valued partner in Nepal's efforts to institutionalize democracy.

The Nepali people value the moral and substantial support received from the Government and people of the United Kingdom for their efforts towards strengthening democratic foundation and its institutions. The Government and people of the United Kingdom have welcomed the historical transformation in Nepal taking place in recent years as a milestone in Nepal's history.

As Nepal and the United Kingdom enter a new era of their close, cordial and cooperative bilateral relations after celebrating the two hundredth anniversary, the historic bond and cordial ties of friendship will reach a new high in the future.

The present Government of Nepal has set the economic development of the country as its primary goal. Its major focus is to give momentum to the economic development of the country, the pace of which unfortunately

remained sluggish in the past owing to the protracted political transition in the country.

Our efforts are directed towards projecting Nepal as an attractive destination for foreign direct investment in the productive sectors of the economy and infrastructure development in the context of political stability, achieved following the results of the recently-held provincial and federal elections.

The basic thrust of our economic and trade policies have been guided by the unprecedented economic transformation that is taking place in our part of the world. As you all know, Nepal is geographically sandwiched between two gigantic neighbours, India and China, and is in a unique geopolitical setting between these two emerging powers of the world. We feel that Nepal is lucky to be located between these giant economic powers, which offer immense potential to add value to Nepal's economy by forging collaboration on trade, transport, tourism and hydropower.

We know that an enhanced trade and investment régime is essential for attaining high economic growth rate. For this purpose, the Government of Nepal welcomes external cooperation and investment promotion in terms of national interest and priorities if we cannot afford to mobilise resources domestically.

Nepal has been pursuing a liberal foreign investment policy and been striving to create an investment-friendly environment to attract Foreign Direct Investment into the country. Foreign investment is encouraged in various sectors such as hydropower, tourism, agriculture and non-timber based high value products, development of education and health-related facilities, financial service, information technology and biotechnology-related industries.

We have been introducing liberal economic policies to facilitate trade and investment in Nepal by reducing tariffs, simplifying tax regimes and focusing on the development and operation of trade-related infrastructure.

It is heartening to note that Nepal's trade with friendly countries other than India and China is also on the rise, as it is in the case of bilateral trade between Nepal and the United Kingdom. There are provisions for full convertibility of Nepali currency in current accounts, provision for maintaining foreign exchange accounts for earnings from exports, time-bound duty refund scheme

on exports and de-licensing of imports, all key factors contributing to the diversification of Nepal's foreign trade.

I am pleased to see that the Nepalis are now a fast-growing community in the United Kingdom. Because of Britain's liberal policy of multiculturalism, the Nepalis are enjoying being an integral part of the British society. The Nepalis have also contributed to create a cultural mosaic in Great Britain.

I am pleased to note that the Nepali diaspora, the size of which is more than one hundred thousand in the United Kingdom, is not only active in promoting the Nepali language, culture and customs, but is also a vital link in our bilateral ties. Through their engagements in social, cultural, and commercial affairs in the United Kingdom they have brought our two cultures and countries closer together.

In this context, I urge and encourage the non-resident Nepalis living in the United Kingdom to utilize their knowledge, skill, technology and capital for the social and economic development of Nepal.

I also encourage all the friends and well-wishers of Nepal and the Nepali people, particularly prospective British and European investors and entrepreneurs, to scale up investment in hydropower, tourism, health, education, information and communications and other priority sectors of the country.

I assure the British and European traders, investors and entrepreneurs of the fullest possible support and cooperation of the Embassy to their future plans to establish and expand trade and investment in Nepal.


I am delighted to highlight the establishment of the Britain and Nepal NGOs Network (BRANNGO) as an important development in enhancing the existing excellent state of bilateral relations between Nepal and the United Kingdom in general, and particularly in promoting economic and social development of Nepal through the substantial works and activities of the British non-governmental organizations. I am so pleased to recall that the BRANNGO was established with my advice and support. It was indeed my dream to constitute an umbrella organization to gather, coordinate and guide all the British NGOs which are working for the good of Nepal and the Nepali people.

I also assure BRANNGO and, through it, all the Nepal-related British NGOs of the Embassy's necessary assistance, coordination and cooperation, in support of their present and future works and activities contributing to the development of Nepal.

The Embassy of Nepal is pleased to work together with BRANNGO and is ready to disseminate necessary information and offer coordination pertaining to the economic, social, educational, and cultural development of the Nepali people.

The Embassy of Nepal has started to organize a series of Nepal Development Conferences in London, to complement the efforts of the Government of Nepal to achieve the national aspiration of 'prosperous Nepal and happy Nepali'. The first Nepal Development Conference was organized on the auspicious occasion of the Republic Day of Nepal on 28th of May 2018. We have hosted eight series of Nepal Development Conferences focused on bilateral political, economic, cultural and social relations and cooperation between Nepal and the United Kingdom.

With these few words of greetings, goodwill and good wishes, I would like to congratulate Mr David Thomas, the distinguished Chairman of the BRANNGO, who I regard and respect as the good and great friend of Nepal and the Nepali people, for his wise and able leadership. I also take this opportunity to appreciate all the works and activities of BRANNGO. I wish BRANNGO great success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Durga Bahadur Subedi', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Kingdom
12 April 2020

Brief Curriculum Vitae of His Excellency Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi

Ambassador of Nepal to the UK

His Excellency Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi has been serving as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nepal to the United Kingdom since 2016. He is also the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nepal to Ireland and Malta and serves as Nepal's Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Energy Council (ERC), the International Coffee Organization (ICO), and the International Tea Committee (ITC). In addition, he served as the President of Promotion and Market Development Committee of the ICO from 2018 to 2019. His Excellency has been serving as the President of the Statistics Committee of the ICO since 2019 October.

Dr Subedi entered the Foreign Service of the Government of Nepal in November 1987 and has served in various capacities. He completed his PhD in 2008 on the topic of Foreign Policy and Diplomacy of Modern Nepal (1951-2000). He also received Master's Degrees in International Relations from the University of Leeds in the UK and in Public Administration from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. In addition, other academic courses and global studies that Dr Subedi has undertaken include Multilateral Diplomacy, International Cooperation and Development, and Crisis Management, at New York University in the USA, Sophia University in Japan, the United Nations University in Japan and Louisiana State University in the USA.

Besides his involvement in diplomacy, his areas of interest are literature and culture. Dr Subedi has led various research and publications ranging from diplomacy to socio-economy, to human rights, literature and culture. He has edited numerous books and journals and has authored several books including collections of his own poems and non-fiction books on literary, diplomatic and cultural history. His literary works are both in Nepali and English. Three of his latest publications in English are '200 Years of Nepal-Britain Relations', published in 2017, 'The Embassy of Nepal in the United Kingdom', published in 2018, and 'Selected Poems of the Famous Irish Poet Michael D. Higgins', published in 2019. Dr Subedi is also a recipient of numerous awards and recognitions in both the creative and diplomatic fields.

The New BRANNGO website

By Nick Hinton (BRANNGO Webmaster)


As many of you are already aware, we took a decision early this year to move the BRANNGO website to a new platform. This was primarily to enable more functionality to be delivered (which would not have been possible on the old technology), but another consideration was to move it out of the Thomas's Schools IT system. Although there is nothing in the website likely to be distressing to young children, NGOs often deal with distressing topics and to avoid the (albeit remote) possibility of children coming across such material, in the interests of safeguarding it seemed sensible to move it.

I'm pleased to say it is now up and running at www.branngo.org.uk. Some aspects, such as the look and feel of the formatting, are still being worked on and are likely to change, but the basic structure and functionality are in place. This will enable us to now concentrate on developing the content, mainly for the benefit of BRANNGO members who have access to the secure area in which most of the 'value-add' material resides.

The website has been designed to complement the [BRANNGO closed Facebook Group](#). It does not therefore have the facility currently for comment or discussion as the expectation is that this will take place in Facebook. However, if there is a demand for this, perhaps in the form of a 'members only' chance to comment in the secure area, this is something that can be added later. Similarly, although the website provides access to online versions of BRANNGO newsletters, the site is not intended to duplicate their function either.

I'd like to take you on a brief tour of the website as an introduction for those BRANNGO members who have not yet visited it, and also to describe to non-members what is available in the hope it might persuade you to join. There is also a [7-minute YouTube video](#) giving a guided tour if you would prefer to watch something rather than read this article!

The **public pages** of the website are fairly simple and conventional. The homepage gives a brief profile of BRANNGO and currently has a sidebar with links to information about Covid-19 in Nepal:



BRANNGO

ABOUT BRANNGO MEMBERSHIP AND BENEFITS CONFERENCES AND EVENTS CONTACT US MEMBERS AREA (LOGIN REQUIRED) ▾

Welcome to the website of the Britain-Nepal Non-Governmental Organisations Network

- BRANNGO brings together UK charities, other organisations and individuals who have a shared commitment to helping the people and country of Nepal. Its goals are to promote best practice, avoid duplication and otherwise help NGOs to better serve, work with, and learn from the people of Nepal. BRANNGO is not profit-seeking.
- BRANNGO achieves all this by exchanging information, facilitating dialogue and encouraging collaboration between NGOs through conferences, working groups, newsletters, and social media.
- BRANNGO also maintains close working links with British and Nepalese Government departments and embassies, the Britain-Nepal Society, the Nepal Federation of NGOs, the Association of International NGOs in Nepal and other agencies involved in charitable work in the country.
- By clicking on the links above you can access information about future and past events, the benefits of membership and how to apply. The members' area contains a wealth of more detailed material that provides much of the additional benefit that comes from membership.
- For further information or queries please send a message using the 'Contact Us' link above.

Covid-19 in Nepal

- The Nepalese Government website reporting the status of the pandemic in Nepal is [here](#).
- Glacier Trust reportage about Covid-19 in Nepal is [here](#).
- Additional reports and links are in the BRANNGO Facebook Group [here](#). (You will have to request access if not already a member).
- British Government advice about travelling to Nepal is [here](#).

The ribbon menu at the top of the page offers links to: a page describing the benefits of membership and how to apply for it; a page with details of planned BRANNGO events and notices of events being held by BRANNGO members or associates; access to BRANNGO newsletters; an online form to submit any questions, comments or queries; and a link to the Members' Area.


To access the Members' Area (or any of the pages in it) you need an ID and password. These are issued automatically to existing and new members of BRANNGO (let us know through the 'Contact Us' form if you haven't received yours yet). You only need to log in once in each session; once you are in you have access to all the secure pages without having to log in again.

Members have special access to useful information. There is a library of briefings about matters to do with Nepal and NGO operations there, which is constantly being added to. A number of 'useful links' are also available on this page. Our database now has details of over 1000 UK NGOs known to be operating or to have operated in Nepal, and the BRANNGO staff have an extensive rolling programme to check and enhance this information. As this

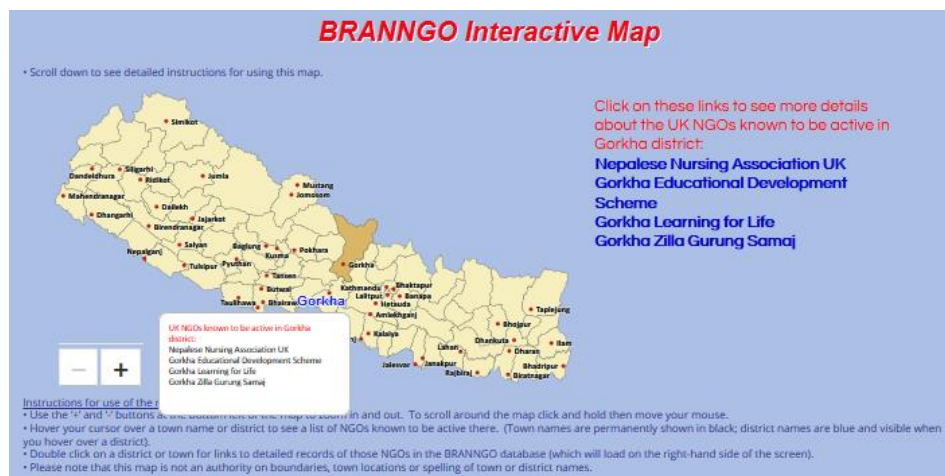
newsletter is publicly available, GDPR prevents me from showing you a real entry, but I hope this screenshot of the dummy entry for fictional 'Dhading Water Improvement Bureau' gives you an idea of what is available:

BRANNGO Interactive Database – Display Full Record

• This page shows full details of an individual record when selected from search results. Click [here](#) to return to the database homepage/search form.

Organisation Name	The Dhading Water Improvement Bureau (dummy test entry)
Image or logo	
UK Charity Number	98765432
BRANNGO member?	No
Annual Income Bracket	10-25k
Grant-Making	No
Website	Link Text
Contact Name	Jill Smith
Contact Role	Chief Executive
Contact Email	jillsmith9458247@gmail.com
Contact Phone	09876 543210
Project 1	New water supply; Khaite/Dhading; contact Jill Smith (details above) for more info.
Project 2	Water filtration unit and supply; Gajurt/Dhading; contact Jill Smith (details above) for more info.
Project 3	Construction of water reservoir and ecology protection programme; Gumdi/Dhading; contact Jill Smith (details above) for more info.
UN SDGs	6 Clean Water and Sanitation, 14 Life Below Water, 15 Life On Land
Nepal Districts where NGO is active	Dhading
BRANNGO Member Number	9988

In addition, we have an interactive map which enables you to see which NGOs are active in a particular district, with links back to the full database records so you can look up the detail:



The Members secure area also contains: a library of presentations, videos and other material from previous BRANNGO conferences; a page setting out BRANNGO's Strategy and Plans and containing the minutes of previous BRANNGO Committee meetings; and a page with photos and short biographies of the Committee Members. Last but not least there is an online Membership List giving contact details of fellow members.

For those interested in the technical details, the site runs on Wordpress, hosted by LCN. Functionality is enhanced by a number of plug-ins, most of them standard code packages available at no cost, including the database. The interactive map is a customised plug-in created specifically for BRANNGO. To minimise costs we have not used a web designer, but relied on my technical expertise to make things work and input from more artistic members of BRANNGO and its Committee to fine-tune the look and feel of what is presented!

Like any website, ours will change and develop in response to the organisation's and members' needs and as more and better information becomes available. In the meantime, do please take a look, give feedback if you wish, and if you would like to contribute please let me know at: webmaster@branngo.org.uk

Responsible Volunteering in Nepal

By Martin Punaks

As development NGOs some of us rely on volunteers to support our work in Nepal. A few decades ago volunteering in low-income countries was automatically assumed to be a 'good' thing, regardless of what the volunteers were doing. But in more recent years international volunteering has come under a more critical spotlight – for good reasons. In this article I briefly discuss some of the ethical issues around volunteering in Nepal.



First, a little bit about why I am interested in this topic. My love for South Asia began in 1995 as a volunteer teacher in a Tibetan refugee school in Kalimpong, north-east India. A year later I volunteered at an orphanage in Peru with severely disabled children. Many years after this I became the Country Director in Kathmandu for Next Generation Nepal (NGN) – a US NGO which reunifies orphanage trafficked children with their families.



A big part of my job at NGN involved advising foreign volunteers in Nepal *not* to repeat some of the mistakes I had made as a volunteer when I was younger,

and instead advise them how to volunteer safely and responsibly. But what is the connection between orphanage trafficking and volunteering? Let me explain.



Orphanage trafficking began towards the end of the conflict in Nepal in the mid-2000s. 'Friendly' traffickers promised families safety for their children from conscription into the Maoist rebel army by taking them to Kathmandu to be enrolled into orphanages and children's home. From here the children were either trafficked onwards to India or sold as fake 'orphans' through a corrupt inter-country adoption industry. When inter-country adoption was banned in 2010 the traffickers needed a new business model and began to market orphanages and children's homes as destinations for well-intentioned tourists and volunteers to 'give back' to Nepal through their time and money. But instead of helping supposedly 'orphaned' children, the foreign volunteers were actually creating the incentive for children to be separated from their families and institutionalised in profit-making orphanages. 80% of these children were not orphans, and even the ones that were could have been living with other family members, with the right support. In some cases the children were starved and mistreated simply to elicit higher donations from unsuspecting foreigners. In other cases, they were treated materially well, which only further hid the underlying trafficking and family separation.



People often say to me: “But what about the good children’s homes? Surely it’s okay to volunteer there?” Unfortunately it is not this simple. Despite the best intentions of people running ‘good’ children’s homes, 80 years of research shows that institutional care hampers the physical, emotional and intellectual development of children. If the funds that go into supporting the 500+ children’s homes in Nepal were redirected into supporting vulnerable families, in most cases these children would be happier and experience better life chances. So by volunteering in or financially supporting children’s homes, one is bolstering an outdated system of care which actually harms children.

In December 2019 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously passed a resolution calling for an end to children’s institutions globally. Reputable organisations such as UNICEF and Save the Children strongly advocate against orphanage care and volunteering. Of course this change cannot happen overnight, and the respectable children’s homes which NGN works with in Nepal are gradually reintegrating their children with their families.

So volunteering in orphanages and children’s home is *never* a good option. But what can volunteers do in Nepal which is safe and ethical? Much depends on the approach taken by the volunteer. Here are a few tips:

- A volunteer’s motivations will likely be a mixture of altruistic objectives to help others and personal objectives based on the kind of experience they want to have. Both are fine, but there has to be an honest conversation about this. The volunteer should reflect on whether volunteering in Nepal

is really the best way to achieve these objectives. Would volunteering at home, or just being a responsible traveller also fulfil these aims?

- The priority in any volunteering placement should *always* be the needs of the local community over and above the volunteer's experience. Furthermore it should fit into the broader development plans for the community and ensure it does not put a local person out of a job.
- Volunteers should mitigate the risks of white-saviour syndrome by approaching their placement with a learning mindset. Local people are the experts on their own lives, and volunteers are there to learn as much as they are to serve. The book, *Learning Service: The Essential Guide to Volunteering Abroad*, by Kathmandu-based British author Claire Bennet, delves into these ideas in much more depth.
- British volunteers should always be mindful of their privilege and power in relation to the Nepali people they are volunteering with. This can manifest itself in all sorts of subtle ways, from local people feeling they have to say 'yes' to photographs when they don't really want to, to more dangerous situations, such as volunteers performing medical procedures or prescribing drugs, simply because they can, without understanding the local health context, and with no regard to local referral mechanisms.

When done well, volunteering can be a positive experience for both for the volunteer and the local community. But when done badly, it can be a disaster and undermine the principles we stand for as development NGOs. Let's make BRANNGO an organisation which champions responsible volunteering.

If you would like more information about these issues, please see NGN's publication, *The Paradox of Orphanage Volunteering*, or read some of the articles on my website: <https://www.martinpunaks.com/blog>. Thank you for taking the time to think about this important issue.

[NGN's website is at <https://www.nextgenerationnepal.org/> - Ed]



By Barbara Datson

I founded Chance for Nepal in 2006. While in India in 2002 I had met Dr Ines von Rosenstiel, the founder of Medical Checks for Children which sends doctors and non-medics to villages, schools and orphanages around the world. She invited me to be part of a mission to Nepal later that year, which led to a regular annual visit, fundraising activities and the foundation of Chance.

Since 2002 the NGO has raised over £850,000 to improve the lives of children in Nepal. It has 5 main areas of endeavour: health; education; skills training, street children and rabies prevention. Delivery of aid, support, education and training opportunities to individuals in need and their families relies on partnership and collaboration with several established and trusted organisations, schools and hospitals in Nepal.



A special visitor to the burns unit at Kanti Children's Hospital

Chance for Nepal provides educational sponsorships from nursery to completion of bachelor degrees. An amazing 28 children receive educational sponsorship through Chance with the help of English sponsors.

In 2003 MCC introduced me to Wendy Marston, founder of what became Burns Violence Survivors Nepal (BVS Nepal). Since then Chance has raised funds for patients' skin grafts, weekly physiotherapy, counselling and food hampers, as well as emergency help for families including medicines, transport and food. They have worked particularly closely with the Bir Hospital and Kanti Children's Hospital, the only hospital in Nepal specifically for children.

The Tiffin programme provides meals for schoolchildren and the charity is also involved in the provision of drinking water, classroom equipment, teachers and teacher training to Nepalese schools.



Tiffin Meal Programme – Shree Secondary School - Chitwan

In 2015 the NGO became involved with GMIN (Grassroots Movement In Nepal) who build schools and health posts in remote areas of Nepal.

Chance has funded 5 new school wings in the Surkhet District and two health posts, both in the Dang District.

Partnership with WEGAIN ZONE in the Boudhanath area of Kathmandu has contributed to their fight to get government backing to ban the sale of glue to children under 18 and their hostel.



The new school in Sanney, Surkhet

Chance also supports Papa's Home, a children's home for 23 orphaned or unsupported children by funding all the food and a monthly activity programme in Kathmandu.

In 2004 I was introduced to the SHENPEN organisation, set up by Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche to help the poor and under-privileged in Nepal. It is run by Western volunteers who live and work in Nepal. By 2006 Chance had become their main fundraiser and they became partners in 2006. They have carried out several joint projects, mostly related to education, skills training and 1000 rabies vaccinations for stray dogs in Kathmandu.

Partnership with the Women's Cooperative Society (WCS) has enabled 5 training sessions per year, each one lasting 4 days, to take place on elementary and advanced vegetable farming and management, benefitting 260 women a year notably in Sankhu, Palobari and the Tamang Community in Bhardeau, Lalitpur (both in the Kathmandu Valley).

These activities all require funding for which Chance for Nepal undertakes a wide range of fundraising activities. Dr Shamila Strestha, now a GP and one of the doctors from the medical team I led in Kathmandu in 2012, ran the Paris Marathon for Chance that year and the Berlin Marathon in 2014. In 2015 Tom Cullingham, reading media and film making at University, directed the film 'Maya' for his final year degree which went on to win several awards. Jane

and Brian, Landlords of The Keep in Guildford, host regular quiz nights which support the education of two children at Triple Gem School as well as supporting other projects. Annalise Kerr ran the Everest Marathon and Ashley Sault trekked the Annapurna circuit, both in 2019.



Skills training in vegetable growing and management

We are also very fortunate in having had Joanna Lumley as a patron since 2008. She is very supportive and remains deeply involved, getting personally involved in fundraising including 2 events with her as the focus at The Club at The Ivy which included a very popular auction promise of cocktails for two with Joanna. It received such keen bidding that she kindly offered to repeat the promise – twice! The last event she did for the charity raised £55,000.

Currently Chance for Nepal is supporting a new Community Hospital in Hetauda, in Makawanpur district, by donating 15 beds for the first phase. Unfortunately the project is currently on hold because of restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. Chance is also funding a therapeutic garden for the hospital which has been designed by Andy Sturgeon, 8-times Chelsea gold medal winner, whose company has embraced CHANCE as their charity for 2020. There is also an intention to fund a new school in Surkhet, the NGO's seventh since its inception. If you would like to contribute to these projects or Chance for Nepal's other activities, or simply learn more about the very significant contribution it makes to Nepal's children, please visit its website:

<https://www.Chancefornepal.org/>

Covid-19 in Nepal

(This list of useful links is also posted on the BRANNGO website where it will be regularly updated with additional information as it becomes available).

- Nepal Government Health and Emergency Operations Centre portal: <https://heoc.mohp.gov.np/>. Contains situation reports on the pandemic in Nepal and other information about current policies for containing it.
- The US Embassy in Nepal maintains a concise summary of the current situation and the Nepal Government responses: <https://np.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>
- British Government advice about travelling to Nepal is at: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/nepal>
- The UK Charity Commission have issued advice at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-charity-sector>. They also have a telephone helpline (0300 066 9197 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm) for charities with an imminent deadline for annual returns and accounts filing.
- Specific information on UK Government funding of NGOs and charities is posted at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-charity-sector#government-financial-support-for-charities>
- British Government (DFID) advice to suppliers is available in a download at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873276/PCD-Supplier-Comms-COVID-18March2020.pdf.
- The Glacier Trust has set up a forum for reporting on the situation in Nepal here: <http://theglaciertrust.org/project-news/2020/3/18/latest-updates-on-covid-19-from-our-partners-in-nepal>

- Philanthropia are providing a free course on 'Fundraising in the time of Coronavirus': <https://philanthropia.teachable.com/p/fundraising-in-the-time-of-the-coronavirus>
- Ian McClintock maintains a list of coronavirus funders at: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/coronavirus-charity-funding-announcements-ian-mcclintock/> which also points to several organisations offering tools and advice to help with financial management during the crisis.
- The Charity Tax Group have issued guidance for charity tax and finance professionals at: <http://www.charitytaxgroup.org.uk/news-post/2020/coronavirus-information-hub-charity-tax-finance-professionals/>
- Numerous organisations have set up crowdfunding initiatives or indicated that funds will be made available to mitigate the effect of Covid-19 on NGO operations. In relation to Nepal, some are: the Glacier Trust COVID-19 emergency response Crowdfunder at: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/soapandhope; Childreach Nepal fundraising for Hope for Children: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/covid19nepal> and Partners for Progress raising money to keep its operations going: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/partnersforprogress?utm_term=2XgXJvk6d. (Crowdfunder is making use of its services free to charities during the pandemic). Others will be posted on the BRANNGO Facebook Group when identified.
- The Gurkha Welfare Trust has useful updates on the situation in Nepal and is also seeking donations to support its ongoing operations there: https://www.gwt.org.uk/news/breaking-news-covid-19-and-the-gurkha-welfare-trust?fbclid=IwAR30gyKANJXu1UbDCzeiSq0uWMX2kXdRdhegacHvJF8iNMrA1D_VzPGeF4#CovidNepal
- ALNAP has a dedicated portal with links to numerous resources related to managing humanitarian organisations during the pandemic: <https://covid19.alnap.org/>

Future Events

BRANNGO Conferences and Events.

- Unfortunately the BRANNGO conference at the Nepalese Embassy scheduled for Tuesday 6th May 2020 has had to be postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic. We hope to schedule it later, possibly in June. Further information will be communicated when available.
- The BRANNGO conference on Tuesday 6th October 2020 is still scheduled. It will consist of the AGM, Conference and a Committee Meeting.

Events being held by BRANNGO members and Associates.

(If you would like to post a notice of your event on the BRANNGO website or in the next edition of this newsletter, please email webmaster@branngo.org.uk).

Britain-Nepal Society Events.

The following events have been programmed by the Britain-Nepal Society (BNS). Please contact the Secretary of BNS, Mrs MJ Streather, for further information, to register attendance or to join the Society (telephone 01189 343388/07956 217783, email: secretary@britainnepalsociety.org

- Lecture 28th May. A lecture will take place at the Medical Society of London, Chandos Street, London W1G 9EB on Thursday 28th May 2020. Details of the lecture and the speaker will be announced later.
- Summer Event. Details of the Society's Summer Event are not yet confirmed.
- Lecture 29th October. A lecture will take place at the Medical Society of London, Chandos Street, London W1G 9EB on Thursday 29th October 2020. Details of the lecture and the speaker will be announced later.
- Annual General Meeting 10th December. The Annual General meeting of the Britain-Nepal Society will take place on Thursday 10th December

2020 at the Embassy of Nepal, Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QU. Details will be announced later.

Britain-Nepal Academic Council.

The Britain Nepal Academic Council (BNAC) are holding their 18th Nepal Study Day on 4-5th May 2020 at University College London, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL. BNAC members can attend for free, others will be charged £35. If you wish to present a paper, abstracts are requested by 16th March. Full details are at <https://www.bnac.ac.uk/activities/bnac-nsd-cfp-ucl-2020/>

Community Action Nepal.

- From Monday 20th April to Friday 24th April, 10 am to 5pm daily, Community Action Nepal (CAN) has an exhibition of paintings of Nepal by Patrick Cullen, Tobit Roche and Tim Scott-Bolton entitled 'Out of Thin Air – paintings conjured from the Himalayas' in the Royal Geographical Society Pavilion, London SW7 2AR (Exhibition Road entrance) together with an exhibition of artefacts from the RGS Collections in the Foyle Reading Room.
- A private view of the exhibition and premiere of 'Out of Thin Air', a documentary film by Jack Hextall about the painting expedition in the Annapurna region, together with archival film from the RGS Collections will take place Tuesday 21st April, 6 - 9 pm. It will be introduced by Doug Scott CBE. This will be a fundraising event for CAN.
- For tickets and full information please see www.rgs.org/events

New Futures Nepal.

Raising Steam Steampunk Festival. Stoke Prior Sports and Social Club, Weston Hall Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, B60 4AL, Friday 8th to Sunday 10th May, 2020. Presented by GASP Radio, Raising Steam Downloads, and Tenebrous Texts, this three-day festival of Steampunk, cabaret, folk, and alternative music in its second year will be raising money for New Futures

Nepal. As well as great music, the weekend will also feature a Steampunk market, workshops, storytelling and more. Full weekend tickets £40 (includes a free music sample download), or £20 for single day tickets. Available at: <https://raisingsteam.bandcamp.com/>.

References and Links

(See p.22 above for links specifically to do with Covid-19 in Nepal)

BRANNGO website. <https://www.branngo.org.uk/>

The new BRANNGO website includes information about the aims and organisation of BRANNGO, its constitution, and details of membership and how to apply. A password-protected members' area with privileged access to extensive details of NGOs working in Nepal, briefings, conference reports and material, minutes of Committee meetings and other reports and data not available to non-members.

BRANNGO Facebook Group.

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/398627697164373>

The BRANNGO Facebook Group is a Closed Group for which you have to apply for access, but this is normally approved within 24 hours. You do not have to be a member of BRANNGO to join. The Group is a forum for general discussion, a place to share useful information or items of interest for other users, and a location where photographs or documents can be posted.

Other Links.

- British Embassy Kathmandu website:
<https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-kathmandu>
- Nepalese Embassy London website:
<https://www.uk.nepalembassy.gov.np/>

- Britain-Nepal Society website: <http://britainnepalsociety.org/>
- Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN):
<http://www.ain.org.np>
- National Federation of NGOs in Nepal (NFN):
<http://www.ngofederation.org/>
- Non-Residential Nepalis Association (NRNA): <https://www.nrna.org/>
- Britain-Nepal Chamber of Commerce (BNCC) (UK-based):
<https://nepal-trade.org.uk/>
- Nepal Britain Chamber of Commerce (Nepal-based):
<http://www.nbcci.org/#>
- UN Sustainable Development Goals:
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
- UN Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal:
<http://www.np.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>
- Small Charities Challenge Fund (SCCF). If you click on this link and then on 'Nepal' you get a list of funds that DFID support that could be useful: <https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/dfid-funded-small-charities-challenge-fund-sccf>

BRANNGO MEMBERSHIP



Membership of BRANNGO brings all the benefits of privileged access to conferences, information exchange, networking and discussions that take place in pursuit of the BRANNGO mission and goals. Full details are on the BRANNGO website at <http://www.branngo.org.uk/membership-benefits/>

Membership Types/Costs

Individual/Associate Membership (£35).

For individuals who may be working in or Visiting Nepal or wishing to set up an organisation to help Nepal. Associate Membership is also be available to those individuals who have registered a charitable or other organisation that is still within two years of its registration date.

Group Membership.

Group/Organisation Annual Income	Fee (£)
Up to £50,000	50
Between £50,001 and £100,000	100
Between £100,001 and £500,000	150
Above £500,000	200

How to Apply

Online application can be made on the website (link above). Alternatively please download the [Application Form](#) form and submit by post with payment as indicated. If you have any queries please contact treasurer@branngo.org.uk

Data Protection

Please see the BRANNGO website for full details of data protection issues associated with membership.