



NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2020

# Message From The Chairman

David Thomas



Dear Friends,

2020 began for all of us in UK cradled in a wave of optimism and so it is with our young organisation of BRANNGO and indeed for our friends in Nepal.

'Visit Nepal 2020' aims to increase income from tourism from 3% of GDP to 10% and the involvement of UK with Nepal grows and grows. With possibly up to 200,000 Nepalis now living in and contributing to this country it is only right that we seek to help Nepal in its own development as well.

Much has happened since our last newsletter as Nick Hinton describes in his Editorial, but for BRANNGO there were three particularly important events. One was certainly the acceptance by Nick of the post of Honorary Chief Executive. We are fortunate indeed to have a person of Nick's ability coupled with his experience of Nepal and the Gurkhas as well as his business familiarity with IBM. We look forward to his continued direction that has already made a considerable difference. Another is the contact we have made through David Morrall with the NGO Federation of Nepal [NFN] and Association of International NGOs [AIN] in Nepal. Both hold great promise for the future and we hope that 2020 will see a real growth in trust and cooperation for the future. Thirdly, there has been the contact we have established between BRANNGO and the Nepalis now living in the UK. This is a most promising link especially for charities thinking of expanding in Nepal or starting operations there but much needs to be done to establish proper ways of working through our different organisations.

Of course, making contacts is one thing but putting them to good effect and use is quite another and we shall be refining our own structure and working on this throughout the year.

As at the end of 2019 BRANNGO had 48 members. Not too bad you might think for a young organisation. In fact not nearly enough when you consider that there are 1,039 UK charities that say they operate in Nepal and of which we estimate that 800 are really active. BRANNGO needs more members in order to be an organisation to be reckoned with in the future. We intend to attract at least 250 members by the end of 2020. If you know of any organisation or individual that would be interested in what we are doing in Nepal, do please encourage them to join us. The detail of how to do this is on the back cover, but otherwise please email me ([dthomas@thomas-s.co.uk](mailto:dthomas@thomas-s.co.uk)) or Nick Hinton ([njhinton@gmail.com](mailto:njhinton@gmail.com)) or Carol Clare ([CCLare@thomas-s.co.uk](mailto:CCLare@thomas-s.co.uk)) who will send out the details immediately.

The Britain Nepal Society [www.britainnepalsociety.org](http://www.britainnepalsociety.org) is also an established association that potential or existing members would find useful and may wish to join. If so do please contact their Honorary Secretary Mrs MJ Streather on [secretary@britainnepalsociety.org](mailto:secretary@britainnepalsociety.org)

So, BRANNGO forges ahead with hope and promise for 2020. We have made a good start but much remains to be achieved as you understand and will see from this newsletter.

Finally, if there is any way that you think we could help you or your organisation in Nepal please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Thomas'.

DAVID THOMAS  
Chairman

# Editorial: Way forward in 2020



**W**elcome to the second BRANNGO newsletter. I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful time over the Christmas and New Year break.

There have been several changes in BRANNGO since the last edition. At a personal level, David Thomas kindly suggested that I should become the Honorary Chief Executive. I was delighted and honoured to accept and will do my best to lead forward successfully the many interesting endeavours that benefit BRANNGO members.

Progress on that score was greatly accelerated by the highly successful conference and workshop we had on 9th October, as reported elsewhere in this newsletter. The brainstorming session helpfully identified several requirements, including: a code of conduct and safeguarding policy; the potential benefits of BRANNGO promoting 'best practice' on issues such as fundraising and collaboration with Nepal government agencies; the need to become less London-centric; increased diversity among BRANNGO members and their commitment to a set of standards; and many other good ideas and proposals. All these actions and others have

been captured in a consolidated plan which is being pushed forward by a core executive team consisting of the Chairman, me, Carol Clare and David Morrall, with others consulted and co-opted as required. We meet at least fortnightly to review status and progress, which maintains good momentum in our work in the intervals between Committee meetings.

Our relationship with the Nepal Embassy in London continues to be very close, and we are remain very grateful to the Ambassador, His Excellency Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi, for his continued support and interest in BRANNGO. We also continue to work very closely with the Britain-Nepal Society (BNS), and in this newsletter you will find an article kindly submitted by the Chairman, Andy Sparkes, giving his perspective on how BNS and BRANNGO collaboration works.

BRANNGO's liaison with other organisations is also gathering speed. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) which will enable the two organisations to share information and forge more productive links of benefit to BRANNGO members, and are working to develop similar links with the Association of International NGOs (AIN). We have established a strong relationship with the Britain-Nepal Chamber of Commerce (BNCC) and are working with them on a plan to help BRANNGO members with contacts and advice that leverage BNCC's extensive knowledge and expertise. We are in addition

building productive links with the Non-Residential Nepali (NRN) organisation in the UK with a view to getting their feedback on what opportunities there are in their communities for NGOs in Nepal and how best to progress these. We are very fortunate that Tulsi Shahi, a Nepali systems engineer working with Inmarsat in the UK, has joined us specifically to help forge these links with NRN.

We have also been working to improve our online capabilities. Our Facebook group continues to be a very active channel for the exchange of ideas and information. The website has had a facelift and now has a dedicated Members' Area in which privileged information can be accessed, including material from conferences. We have nearly completed an interactive database of UK NGOs working in Nepal which we expect to make accessible to BRANNGO members very soon. Discussions are taking place about moving the website and database on to a new, unified platform which will enable us to provide more extensive functionality and simplify administration.

As always, I welcome feedback on this newsletter or BRANNGO generally and please get in touch if you would like to submit articles or notices. My contact details are: email [njhinton@gmail.com](mailto:njhinton@gmail.com); phone number +44(0)7808 247861.

Kind regards,

Nick Hinton  
Honorary Chief Executive

# BRANNGO Conference & Workshop - October 2019



The conference venue at  
Thomas's Academy

The fifth BRANNGO conference and workshop was held on Wednesday 9th October 2019 at Thomas's Academy in London. 38 people attended. The majority were BRANNGO members but some non-members were also there. BRANNGO welcomes non-members to events both to participate in specific agenda items and also to learn more about the organisation and the benefits it offers).

The conference opened with a welcome from the Chairman, David Thomas, who explained how BRANNGO strategy and plans are developing (see his foreword and the editorial in this newsletter for more details). He said that in addition to being informative the conference was intended to be interactive in order to gather feedback from attendees on how BRANNGO should develop.

Membership of BRANNGO currently stands at 42 but there is scope for considerable expansion given the circa 800 UK charities operating in Nepal. David Morrall then explained the day's agenda and emphasised that BRANNGO will develop in line with members inputs in conferences of this sort and also to the membership survey being run by Sara Parker. Nick Hinton, the editor of the BRANNGO newsletter, spoke briefly about the first edition which had just been published, and highlighted how valuable members' input will be to its future success.

Fabienne Poulet then gave the keynote address on Donor and Government Fundraising. Fabienne has over 24 years of fundraising experience for a wide range of voluntary organisations with particular expertise in statutory funding for UK and international projects and trust fundraising for small and medium-sized charities. Her main area of expertise is developing applications for UK grant-making trusts and European foundations, lottery and landfill community funders, as well as bid

and tender writing to central and local government, to the European Commission and occasionally other European governments. She is also a trainer on a range of fundraising issues including developing fundraising strategies, preparing tenders and bid writing.

Her talk covered several topics but focused particularly on The Department for International Development (DFID) and the Small Charities Challenge Fund (SCCF). She explained that the Fund had been set up to deal with a perceived gap in the grant-making apparatus between very large charities and those that are very small and therefore difficult to work with. She emphasised that in seeking grants, NGO activity and plans must be shown to align with DFID's goals, particularly the alleviation of poverty but also issues such as disabilities and gender issues. Bids need to stand out as exceptional in order to get funding, which is capped at £50k. Her contribution to making a successful bid would generally be by helping to improve existing bids rather than devising new ones.

Joey Owen from Freedom to Learn then gave a presentation on their 'Act on Education' programme in Kavre, a step-by-step community-building model for public schools in Nepal based on 3 phases: consultation; advocacy; and change - the aim being to get children on a 'ladder of participation' that enables them to progress.

After lunch there were a series of short updates. Sara Parker from the Liverpool John Moore's University gave a short video presentation on the work she is currently doing and her research in Nepal. Pat Wherity from Kids at School in Nepal spoke about their outreach programme in Phulkharka and Tamang Kharka. Roger Potter spoke about the relationship of the Britain-Nepal Society to BRANNGO. Merlyn Hill from UK Cervical Cancer explained their activities and work on the ground. John Matthews



**David Morrall**  
Conference coordinator



**Fabienne Poulet**  
Keynote speaker



**Roger Potter**  
Speaking about the  
Britain-Nepal Society



**John Matthews**  
Presenting on  
Children of the Mountain

outlined the work done by Children of the Mountain and Janice Miller spoke about the functional learning and life skills education promoted by Kidasha. Mags Kelly of Snowland Journeys showed a film 'Children of the Snowland' that explains their work.

The second half of the afternoon was a collaborative session to answer the question 'What actions need to be taken, and by whom, to create and take forward a plan for BRANNGO working groups that will optimally contribute to the organisation's aim and activities?'. Attendees were split into 3 groups of approximately 10 people and gave feedback to the plenary session after about 30 minutes discussion among themselves. A number of detailed recommendations were made, including the following:

- Put in place policies to safeguard ideas.
- Create and implement a BRANNGO code of conduct as a framework around which people can gather.
- Consider online workshops and idea sharing.
- Conduct consensus-forming activities.
- Link working groups with NFN and AIN
- Promote diversity of BRANNGO members e.g. through a recruitment drive within Nepali diaspora. Specify actual commitments to diversity within the group. Encourage diverse inputs from both public and private members.
- Make links with UK-based Nepali-staffed NGOs.
- Use BRANNGO to facilitate a strong team based on individual expertise.
- Share what works and what doesn't.
- Discuss UK partnerships prior to Nepali partnerships – then share Nepal-based partnerships within working groups areas of expertise and interest.
- Clearly define contextual 'silos' of common expertise, focus, interest and implementation and use these as a framework (e.g. model school framework of silos and

sub-silos) to optimise standardised models across contexts.

- Adopt a common BRANNGO fundraising strategy based on best practice, and codify this in a 'Collaboration handbook'.
- Define what we can do in the next 6 months and set objectives to complete before next conference.
- Move away from being London-centric; foster Nepal-Scotland society linkages; consider mobile workshops.
- Implement a Memorandum of Understanding with the NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN).
- Create a database of potential partners in the UK and in Nepal, (i.e. who/what/where) including EU, US and possibly Indian and Chinese organisations.
- Obtain ground-level intelligence from each organization: where are you going and when?
- Put in place a BRANNGO Calendar for all members.
- Put more emphasis on working together by getting in the same physical or digital room.
- Increase dissemination of information about politics, regulations, legislation, federal changes, key lawmakers.
- Make contact with other UK NGOs unsure of relevance of BRANNGO.
- Be cautious of political ramifications for individual Nepali expats; allow informal anonymous contributions.
- Fact-check BRANNGO members to ensure integrity of memberships and transparency of movement of finances, within the UK as well as abroad.

As explained in the Editorial, these items have been incorporated in a BRANNGO action plan which, together with several other action items, are the basis for BRANNGO strategizing and planning. Updates on progress will be provided to members on a regular basis.



# World Child Cancer

## Closing The Cancer Gap in Nepal

By Nick Sankey,  
Head of Philanthropy & Partnerships

Each year, over 1,200 children in Nepal will develop cancer. Just 200 of these children are referred to a hospital that can treat them; 150 of them are seen at Kanti Children's Hospital in Kathmandu where less than 40% survive. Many children will die of a mystery illness without even receiving palliative care.

Despite this most childhood cancers, if detected early enough, can be cured. In high income countries, like the UK, over 80% of children survive. The overall survival rate in Nepal is estimated at below 10%. This gap is due to a lack of access to adequate care, cost of treatment and a lack of awareness of childhood cancer amongst healthcare professionals and the public.

In October World Child Cancer launched 'Closing the Cancer Gap' a UK Aid Match appeal that will see the UK government double all donations made before 21st January, so that World Child Cancer can begin working in Nepal in 2020.

The three-year project will build on the work of Prof Barry Pizer from Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool who has been working with Kanti Children's Hospital for 20 years. Together Prof Pizer and World Child Cancer will help improve the skills of the paediatric oncology consultants and nurses at Kanti and provide much needed equipment for the ward.



We will also invite paediatricians from provincial hospitals across Nepal to workshops on recognising the early warning signs of childhood cancer and appropriate referral routes so that more children are diagnosed and treated early on. By the end of the project we also aim to establish two centres at existing hospitals in Pokhara and Nepalgunj. This will give children and families who live outside of the valley access to maintenance chemotherapy closer to home, minimising travel time and costs. Support to families in treatment will help to decrease the number of families that abandon treatment due to cost, an issue that particularly impacts girls.

Over three years we expect to raise survival rates by 10%, increase the number of children seen each year by 25% and in so doing set up the programme for future growth.



You can donate to our Close the Cancer Gap appeal at  
[www.worldchildcancer.org](http://www.worldchildcancer.org)



# THE BRITAIN-NEPAL SOCIETY AND BRANNGO

By Andy Sparkes CMG,  
Chairman Britain-Nepal Society



**W**hen I was UK Ambassador to Nepal I rapidly became aware of the huge number of NGOs working in the country, founded by Brits or headquartered in the UK. This of course simply shows the long-established special relationship between the British and Nepali people in action. Generations of Brits visit this stunning country, aware that some of its best soldiers have been fighting for us for over two hundred years, and they want to give something back to its hardy, dignified, courteous but impoverished people.

But I also became aware that many of these British NGOs operating in Nepal were small, niche activities, based on personal contacts in certain geographical areas. Such NGOs often worked in sectors such as health and education without knowing enough about what else was happening in those sectors, or what other NGOs were doing which might dovetail with their own work. This also led to mutual frustrations with DFID. Small NGOs would wonder why they could not more easily get support from HMG's well-funded aid effort. DFID would find it difficult to get a handle on non-governmental British effort in Nepal, so as to align that effort better with priorities for development assistance agreed government to government. There was a coordination gap.

At the same time our smaller NGOs were finding it harder and harder anyway to operate in a vacuum, un-joined up with the wider picture. For a long time Nepal had been in political turmoil and NGOs had been substituting for government in providing for Nepal's large numbers of poor, especially those living in remote areas. With the end of Nepal's long transition, however, we entered a new era. Of course the problems of poverty remained, and remain, but Nepal now has a republican constitution, and has elected officials at all three tiers of government- local, provincial and national. The dominant party in all three is the Nepal Communist Party. To date it has not become totalitarian nor anti-market. But it does stem from the grass-roots and it does have an instinct for control, at all levels. Fair enough. This is Nepal and it should be run by those elected by the Nepalese.

It has therefore become more important for any NGO seeking to work in Nepal, however small, to operate with the blessing of the Nepalese government. Yes, there are problems of corruption as in any developing country,

but our NGOs must work with the structures in place. Not only will it be harder and harder to do otherwise but no development effort will be sustainable anyway without local buy-in. Smaller NGOs, especially start-ups, therefore increasingly need help and advice from others, a means of understanding the bigger picture and how to operate with the grain of republican Nepal.

All the above means that BRANNGO's time has well and truly come. And as chairman of the Britain-Nepal Society I want to welcome and salute this excellent initiative, and the motivating energy of David Thomas in particular. He has not just had the vision, but he, Joanna and family have carried it forward with the same commitment which has made such a success of Thomas' London Day Schools and the Cairn Trust.

BRANNGO fills the coordination gap. It provides a network, and a forum for coming together, for the 1000 plus NGOs who do charitable work in Nepal, in a wide variety of sectors. It has already held several well-attended and successful networking events, in close collaboration with the Nepalese Embassy in London, helping to provide an audience and a focus for His Excellency Durga Subedi's series of development conferences. The stage is set for BRANNGO to go from strength to strength.

And that is a journey which the Britain-Nepal Society looks forward to undertaking together. The relationship between BRANNGO and the BNS is best described as symbiotic. BRANNGO grew out of discussions between David and Roger, my predecessor. Our goal is a win-win. BNS hopes that BRANNGO members will swell our own ranks, and by joining BNS also make useful contacts. Attending BNS functions should enable them to put the work that they as NGOs are doing in the wider context of Britain's relations with Nepal. BNS therefore looks forward to working more with David and Nick Hinton, BRANNGO's newly appointed CEO, as they continue to draw together the hundreds of flowers blooming in UK charitable assistance to Nepal.

The vision is clear. A path is opening up for BRANNGO to become a natural multiplier and one stop shop civil society partner for both the Nepalese and British governments.

**Jai BRANNGO.  
Jai Nepal.**



# Britain Nepal Chamber of Commerce (BNCC)



I am most grateful to Richard Pelly, the CEO of BNCC, for providing this note on his organisation and its activities. Discussions between BRANNGO and BNCC are at an early stage, but the intention is to build and maintain strong collaborative links based on purposeful activities such as seminars and workshops that will enable BRANNGO members to benefit from BNCC's extensive contacts and expertise in Nepal, and for BNCC to gain beneficial insights into NGO activities there which may be relevant to their members' interests. More about all this will follow as discussions continue – Ed.

The Britain Nepal Chamber of Commerce organises activities to help business organisations deliver their business goals, to become aware of business and investment opportunities and to promote their business interests with the relevant business communities.

It provides advice, information and assistance to its members working in liaison, in particular, with the Nepalese Embassy in London, with UK Trade & Investment, with DFID, with the British Embassy in Kathmandu, and with the Nepal Britain Chamber of Commerce

and Industry and the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry both based in Kathmandu.

BNCC is independent of Government. It is also independent of other authorities, but works in liaison, for example, with the Britain Nepal Society, the Britain Nepal Friendship society and other organisations with interests in the Nepal Britain interface and relations.



The Chamber's President is Adam Gilchrist (Veedon Fleece). Its programme is overseen by a committee of ten of its Members under the leadership of its Chairman, Kapil Rijal a businessman with extensive experience of business both in Nepal and Britain.

Typical activity includes networking meetings in London. For example, BNCC recently hosted a reception and dinner with Nicola Pollitt shortly

before she took up her appointment as HM Ambassador to Nepal. She spoke about her background and thoughts about Nepal, then listened to members explain their perspective of key issues hindering trade and investment between the UK and Nepal.

There are sometimes meetings at short notice on an opportunity basis when key people from Nepal visit London. For example, in early November BNCC members met with Nepalese Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr Yogesh Kumar Bhattarai. The crucial need for improvements to the airport facilities at Kathmandu was among the topics discussed.

The BNCC alerts its members to information relevant to the promotion of business between Britain and Nepal through email and social media. Its recent meetings have attracted significant interest from the Nepalese journalists.

The Nepalese Ambassador, who is the Patron of BNCC, has kindly welcomed members of BNCC to special events and trade and investment conferences at the Embassy in Kensington. These provide members with wider networking opportunities and another forum in which to draw attention to issues hindering business relations between the countries.

Lastly, but importantly BNCC has organised and led occasional Trade delegations to Nepal. Twelve member companies participated in a four-day mission to Kathmandu in March 2016. The next is expected to take place during 2020.

BNCC offers membership for business organisations with an interest in the promotion of trade and investment between Britain and Nepal.

Small business (Up to 10 employees)	£150 per annum
Medium sized businesses (10-50 employees)	£300 per annum
Large businesses (more than 50 employees)	£400 per annum

If you are interested in becoming a member of BNCC contact its honorary Chief Executive, Richard Pelly, [rcpelly@btinternet.com](mailto:rcpelly@btinternet.com).





## Nicola Pollitt British Ambassador to Nepal

**M**s Nicola Pollitt has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal in succession to Mr Richard Morris. She took up her appointment in November 2019.

Ms Pollitt comes to her new role from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) where she was Additional Director in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate. Prior to that, from 2016-2017 she was the Somalia Conference Coordinator and, from 2014-2016, Assistant Private Secretary to the Prime Minister. Previous appointments include Deputy Head of the FCO Crisis Management Department, Senior Policy Advisor for Afghanistan, Pakistan and India in the Cabinet Office, Head of the Political Team in Kabul, Second Secretary in the British Embassy in Oslo, Desk Officer for the EU Policy on Asia in the EU

Directorate of the FCO, and Head of the Child Abduction Unit, Consular Directorate of the FCO.

Ms Pollitt read law at the University of Cambridge in 1998-2002. She also has a diploma in French law from the University of Poitiers and studied for her secondary education at Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School. She is married to Mark Perrin and has one daughter and one son.

In a speech to the Britain-Nepal Chamber of Commerce (BNCC) on 30th October 2019, reported in South Asia Time, Ms Pollitt said Nepal today offers both challenges and opportunities. "Challenges include mountainous regions, the new federal system and unfortunately, widespread corruption," she said, adding jokingly "Opportunities include the government of Nepal which looks pretty stable compared with the British one." Ms Pollitt said

she had first visited Nepal in 1999 for trekking and spent three weeks there and was just back from Nepal after visiting projects supported by the Gurkha Welfare Trust. She recalled how she was coordinating the British government's response to Nepal's earthquake in 2015 at 10 Downing Street while her husband, a British Royal Marine, was deployed to Nepal to help on the ground.

"The British public's extraordinary response to the Nepal earthquake appeal reflects the deep love and affection British citizens hold towards Nepal." She advised BNCC members to bring people and ideas together to promote trade and investment between the two countries, saying "As Her Majesty's Ambassador to Nepal, I will work in a way that both countries' interests are served."

Sources: British Government website; South Asia Time dated 31st October 2019; Linked In public profile.





## 2020 - help save women's lives in Nepal



**U**K Cervical Cancer is proudly making it possible and even easy for people in the UK to help save women and girls in Nepal from the suffering and death caused by cervical cancer, the biggest cancer killer of women in Nepal. But Cervical Cancer should be almost entirely preventable and by volunteering your time and passion might just be the difference which can save a woman's life, so that her children don't have to grow up without their mother.

One of UK Cervical Cancer Trustees recently supported a cervical screening camp in the Tamang region in the mountains north of Kathmandu - on the first day 150 women attended, some having trekked 3 days to get to the screening. From those 150 women, 70 were given free medications, for various infections, STIs, thrush etc. and 9 were treated for cervical abnormalities which may have otherwise been precursors to cancer including 2 suspected cases of early stage cancer. The sobering realisation with those figures is that to see that many cervical abnormalities in UK you would have to screen nearer 6,000 women not 150 and a rate of abnormalities 40 times greater than in UK. How vital your work will be in helping reach out to these women, most of whom have never seen a qualified doctor or nurse in their lives. Without the help of people like you these women would never be screened and treated and would only know they have cervical cancer when symptoms become evident and painful - there will be no treatment available, just a painful horrid death.

There are so many practical and manageable ways that you and your organisation can help, you will be making a real difference, because just £10 can save a woman's life. Maybe you can fundraise, holding a morning tea or coffee party at home or enter a charity run, walk or ride, help with administration and awareness raising, engage with community groups, or even perhaps joining one of our fundraising and awareness development adventure trips scheduled for the Autumn of this special year to actually see the work you have helped support in magical Nepal.

We also see an opportunity of working with other BRANNGO Organisations to help us to achieve our objects of saving lives and suffering. This could be helping to train people to work in the medical centres that we have helped to develop as well as spreading awareness of this dangerous illness and the ways it can be dealt with.

Remember that this is the Nepali Government's special year of "Visit Nepal 2020" so there is no better time to get in touch with us and have a chat about how your passion and maybe just a little of your time and generosity can truly save lives.

Best wishes and thanks for your future support.

Melvyn Hill  
CEO  
UK Cervical Cancer  
01603 250948  
07968 348184



# THE BRANNGO MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

**D**r Sara Parker and Dr Angela Daly from Liverpool John Moores University are undertaking a survey on behalf of BRANNGO to get feedback on the work that we are all doing in Nepal and the successes and challenges that we face.

This survey will help us find out more about what BRANNGO members want and how we can best support you in the coming years. Please answer the questions as fully as possible and Sara and Angela aim to feedback to you all in the new year.

We shall leave the survey open and do hope you and other members of your organisation can complete this. We value the voices of all so we would welcome more than one person from your organisation completing the survey.

The survey can be accessed on this link which is also available in the BRANNGO Facebook group:  
<https://ljmu.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/branngo-best-practice-survey>

## About the surveyors:



**Dr Sara Parker** has been working in Nepal and researching around issues of gender education and development for more than 30 years and also has a small company and foundation Fair Connections and is currently leading a Large British

Academy GCRF funded project exploring the cultural beliefs, stigmas and taboos surrounding menstruation in Nepal and has Co-authored a number of articles about education and gender in Nepal. Sara worked with Aidan Warlow in 2011 on the layout design on the excellent 'Better Classrooms Better Learning' book available from BRANNGO. She has also been working with Global Action Nepal and the Pahar Trust promoting child friendly learning through training teachers and donating WFTO fair trade certified puppet story sacks which are made in Nepal by Suryamukhi Handicrafts (Children Nepal) and Women's Skills Development Organisation. She is also an executive member of BNAC and BRANNGO. Please follow her on Facebook and Twitter for her current work: DignityWithoutDanger and @DWDNepal. See also [www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/staff-profiles/faculty-of-arts-professional-and-social-studies/humanities-and-social-science/sara-parker](http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/staff-profiles/faculty-of-arts-professional-and-social-studies/humanities-and-social-science/sara-parker) and [www.fairconnectionsfoundation.org/](http://www.fairconnectionsfoundation.org/)



**Dr Angela Daly** is a senior lecturer and researcher in Education Studies and Early Childhood Studies at the School of Education, Liverpool John Moores University. Angela works alongside partners in education and development combining participatory

learning in action and collaborative research approaches to create formative learning spaces with practitioners in education, international and community development. For further information on her research please see her LJMU School Education profile at [www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/staff-profiles/faculty-of-arts-professional-and-social-studies/school-of-education/angela-daly](http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/staff-profiles/faculty-of-arts-professional-and-social-studies/school-of-education/angela-daly)

# Future Events

## New Future Nepal

### Winter's End Peak District Challenge (20 mile) Weekend

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Hill Carr Barn, Barn Farm Camping, Birchover, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 2BL. Friday 6th to Sunday 8th March, 2020.

This self-catering weekend, staying in a heated barn in the Peak District (you will need to bring their own bedding), will allow attendees to meet fellow supporters while raising money for New Futures Nepal. The hike will be a 20 mile loop around the surrounding Peak District, and costs £40 (up to 2 nights accommodation and guided walk), with a £200 suggested fundraising target.

To purchase tickets (limited to 11 on a first-come first-served basis) please fill out the short survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GDKJ2WB>.

### NFN Live 2020

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Denstone College, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, ST14 5HN. Friday 27th to Sunday 29th March, 2020.

This weekend of fundraising & information is open to all. It's an excellent chance to engage with our trustees and other supporters, to gain a deeper understanding of NFN's projects and activities in Nepal and India, get to know the children in our two homes a little, hear about plans for the future, and relax and enjoy a friendly, safe weekend packed with as much activity as you choose. This weekend is financed by donations. The cost of the weekend is borne by NFN. Our guidance for donations is £100 for adults and £50 for children, but you can choose what you donate.

For more information and to find out how to donate, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YVKCXCS>.

### Raising Steam Steampunk Festival

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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: [www.raisingsteam.bandcamp.com](http://www.raisingsteam.bandcamp.com)

# Future Events



## Community Action Nepal

### Painting Exhibition

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From Monday 20th April to Friday 24th April, 10am 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](http://www.rgs.org/events)

## The Nestling Trust

### Burns Night

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The Nestling Trust is organising a Burns Night on Saturday 25th January 2020, in Market Lavington, Wiltshire, to raise money to build and establish a Health and Birthing Centre in Preeti, a very remote area in Ramechap, Nepal. For more information please see [www.nestlingtrust.co.uk/fundraising-events](http://www.nestlingtrust.co.uk/fundraising-events)

In a place where it's a struggle to survive The Nestling Trust and SITARA, our partner NGO, are working with the Nepal Government to provide a Health and Birthing Centre.

In Preeti and the surrounding villages, in the Ramechap region of Nepal, snow, ice and landslides make access tracks/roads impassable for up to eight months a year. Villagers have to trek for 40km to reach a medical facility. 30,000 people live in this area where lives are at risk every day because of lack of medical facility. The Preeti Health and Birthing Centre project will bring maternity services, medical care and health education to these very isolated communities.

For the first time poor and disadvantaged families will be able to access local safe and hygienic birthing facilities, ante and post-natal care, and general health care, including immunisation, wound care, treatment of acute illnesses, and contraception.

Health education, vital in reducing neonatal death rate and preventable illness, will be a key element of the project. Local nursing auxiliaries will be trained to work in the community and schools. The new facilities will be built in partnership with local non-governmental organisations and in line with Nepalese Ministry of Health requirements.

# Future Events

## Britain-Nepal Society Events 2020

The following events have been programmed by the Britain-Nepal Society (BNS). Updates will appear in future BRANNGO newsletters when available. Please contact the Secretary of BNS, Mrs MJ Streater, for further information, to register attendance or to join the Society (telephone 01189 343388 or 07956 217783, email: secretary@britainnepalsociety.org).

### **Annual Nepali Supper 20th February**

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The Annual Nepali Supper will be held at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD at 6.45pm for dinner at 7.30pm on Thursday 20th February 2020. The Guest of Honour will be our Patron His Excellency Durga Subedi, Nepal's Ambassador to the UK. Our Chief Guest will be Lord Ahmad who will invite Ian Atfield to speak. Ian is DFID's Senior Education Adviser for South Asia, based in Kathmandu. As the mastermind of DFID's "Girls' Education Challenge" he will talk about the drive for girls' education in Nepal and the region.

### **Lecture 28th May**

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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**

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Details of the Society's Summer Event are not yet confirmed.

### **Lecture 29th October**

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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**

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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.

# References & Links

## **BRANNGO website**

**<https://www.branngo.org/>**

The website includes information about the aims and organisation of BRANNGO, its constitution, and details of membership and how to apply (<https://www.branngo.org/membership-2>). It now includes a password-protected members' area with privileged access to conference reports and material, minutes of Committee meetings and other reports 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. 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/>

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/>

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>

