



Guy's work goes on in villages hit by the virus

It's almost ten years ago since East Finchley residents Tony and Vicky Joseph set up Guy's Trust in memory of their son Guy who was tragically killed, aged 25, in a paragliding accident. Here, Vicky reports on how the charity has kept up its good work over the last 18 months. Guy's Trust focuses on projects that reflect Guy's life and since its inception has built three kindergartens and three libraries in Nepal, built five primary schools and a library in Cambodia and funded 30 marine conservation internships in Indonesia.



Balanced diet: A woman in Cambodia uses her bike to transport Guy's Trust flour and corn back to her village.

Sadly, the pandemic has meant that we have been unable to hold any live fundraising events or to visit their projects. It has also meant that for the past 18 months their kindergartens, schools and libraries have, apart from a few brief weeks, been closed. Despite this, the charity has kept working through local

partners and has provided much needed emergency support for the communities where their projects are situated.

Nepal

In Nepal, through a local organisation called the Child and Women's Empowerment Society (CWES), Guy's Trust



Southern Nepal: Many marginalised families are unable to access government support and are particularly desperate for the food aid and educational materials supplied by Guy's Trust.

has funded the design, printing and distribution of special homework books and crayons to the children missing out on school, and CWES have also helped to identify kindergarten families struggling to feed themselves so that the charity could provide much needed basic foodstuffs.

In impoverished southern Nepal, where Guy's Trust is currently funding the construction of a computer room in a new secondary school, many marginalised families are unable to access government support and were particularly desperate. To help them Guy's Trust joined forces with two other British Nepali charities and held a special appeal to provide emergency food packages for some 15,000 desperate people.

Cambodia

Cambodia has also been badly hit by Covid-19 with

continued with a project planned before the pandemic to fund the construction of clean drinking water systems to three of their schools. These schools were

If you would like to know more about Guy's Trust or to make a donation, please visit our website www.guystrust.org.



Cambodia: A family collects vital food supplies provided by the East Finchley-based charity.



Special appeal: Guy's Trust joined forces with two other British Nepali charities to provide emergency food packages for some 15,000 desperate people.

many families in the villages where Guy's Trust's schools are located unable to afford food. Here too the charity stepped in and through a local organisation was able to provide food parcels to families who had lost their source of income due to lockdown.

While emergency needs were being met, we also con-

open briefly at the beginning of the year and the children were able to benefit from the drinking water but are now closed again as virus rates are increasing.

Tony and I are longing to visit the charity's projects but we must pay attention to lockdowns and increasing transmission of Covid-19. Meanwhile, the work continues.

Invitation to book signing

Local author Christina McLellan is hosting a book signing for her novel *Almost Human*, published in January of this year under the pen name HC Denham (*The Archer*, May 2021). Book lovers are invited to turn up for a drink and a browse at the Black Gull bookshop in East Finchley from 6.30pm on Sunday 12 September.

Because *Almost Human* was released in the middle of lockdown, Christina has only now been able to meet readers of her novel. She says: "The book seems to interest a wide range of people, not just those who are science fiction fans, as the action is set in a future which is almost upon us and focuses on the psychological effects on humans of living with sophisticated AI."

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