



Transformed: Young ones at the Bhalam Armala school in Nepal built by Guy's Trust send their best wishes to Vicky Joseph, pictured right with Guy and husband Tony

Life-changing projects will live on in memory of Guy

By John Lawrence

An East Finchley charity that has worked hard over 11 years to build schools and libraries for disadvantaged children and communities in Nepal and Cambodia has taken the decision to wind up its operations.

Guy's Trust was set up by Vicky Joseph and her husband Tony in memory of their son Guy, who was tragically killed, aged 25, in a paragliding accident in 2011. They wanted to reflect his interests as a teacher and conservationist and operate in parts of the world where he had travelled.

Over the years, the charity's supporters brought in almost £1million to fund the construction of three schools,

four libraries and a computer room in Nepal, and five schools and a library in Cambodia, all of which continue to flourish.

But sadly now Vicky, of Southern Road, N2, has been forced to step back from running the charity due to ill health. She will be handing over any remaining funds to the trust's partner charities Pipal Tree and the CAIRN Trust, both of whom work in Nepal.

Talking to *The Archer* from hospital, Vicky said: "I'm absolutely gutted to be giving it up. It's such a big part of my life and I'm proud of what we have achieved and I will miss it. Sadly I don't have a choice.

Highlights

"In 11 years, we did more

than I ever thought possible. The highlights for me were going out to Nepal and Cambodia and getting our hands dirty on the building projects alongside a lot of supporters and local people.

"Then day by day running the charity from home I learned a lot of new skills, like building a website and organising events. It was a full-time job."

Vicky, who had been working on refugee befriending projects, recalled how Guy's Trust was created in those first terrible days following her son's fatal accident.

"When we got the news that Guy had been killed it was one

of the first things in my head that I wanted to do something in his memory," she said.

"We called a meeting with all of his friends and talked about ideas. They all wanted to get involved. I had meetings with my friends in the charity world and we had something set up within two months.

Manta ray

"One of the first things we did was some work on saving the habitat of the manta ray in Indonesia. That was something Guy had started and was one of his great passions as a marine biologist. Then we went to Nepal because that

was where he had been living and Cambodia because he had spent time there and I wanted to branch out."

Although the activities of Guy's Trust are coming to an end, the school and library projects it has already completed will continue to make a huge difference to the lives of hundreds of children and families for years to come.

And Guy's name will live on in other ways. The trust's partner charities have suggested using the leftover funds to plant a forest in southern Nepal in his memory. "We'd be very happy with that," said Vicky.

Warm space glows with guests and hot topics

By Diana Cormack

The first warm space session of the year at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2, took place on Thursday 11 January. It was a very cold afternoon so the free tea, coffee, mulled fruit juice and cakes prepared by organisers John and Sandy Barker were particularly welcome.

Sandy envisaged the opening session to be one where topics for future gatherings could be discussed and had asked local actress Carolyn Pickles to introduce this. After a few well received suggestions people began to question Carolyn about her career, which proved to be of great interest and they learned that she is now writing a book.

This linked well with another guest, the poet Fleur Adcock, who is having a new book published this month when she will be 90. As well as telling us intriguing facts about her life, Fleur read a couple of her poems, both set in East Finchley. All this evolved into exchanges about people's memories of the area, where they lived, why their family had moved here, with one 82-year-old having spent all her life locally.

There was a warm, friendly atmosphere and time just flew



Social space: Fleur Adcock reads her poetry at Holy Trinity Church. Photo Mike Coles

by. Proposed topics for January included Universal Basic Income, craft work, local and family history. February is scheduled to start with a free manicure session, then another local family/history session, discussion on the Trinity Road underpass upgrade, an art round-table and finally a community grants drop-in session at the end of March. However, if you

want to just sit quietly, do a jigsaw or read a book you are very welcome

These warm spaces are hosted for the Grange Big Local project and are held on Thursday afternoons (except half-term) from 3 -5pm in the church's warm and cosy community space. The space is wheelchair accessible. For more information email john.sandy@clara.co.uk

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