

Newsletter December 16, 2016

Netra, Sarmila and I have just returned from a visit to Kangel in the Solukhumbu. There is no need for more photos about the roads, although now the road to Okhaldungha is sealed for most of the way the journey is much quicker. Bridges which were under construction are now proper bridges. We left at 4.30am and were in Okhaldungha by 12 noon with breakfast and dhal bhat (lunch for me) stops along the way.

		
Donation helped build benches for classrooms, which mean child can sit comfortably.	A laptop from Trinity GS. It was in BFCC, but was replaced by new donations	Jhuma washing dishes with her mother

We stopped in Nele overnight so we could visit the experimental farming place at Deusa. At the experimental farm there are classes in agriculture and we hope to enroll a couple of young men from Kangel. There is also a plan to help one of them attend university to study agriculture, but it costs around \$1000 per year. I think it is worthwhile if he returns to help Kangel. The farm has a young male buffalo which has been brought to the area to breed with local buffalo. Netra is thinking to buy a similar buffalo for Kangel. There is a charge of around \$10 if a calf is produced and apparently there are 400 buffalo in Kangel!

		
Clothing donated by trekkers	Heading off with goat and chickens	New top & jeans. Mum has a goat

On the way to Netra's house there was time to visit a school to check out the furniture which we had purchased. Lots of new desks and kids wanting their photos taken.

The next day we walked to a place called Mukli to teach about Days for Girls. Mukli can be seen from Netra's home on the other side of the valley, but it takes 2 hours to walk there. Fortunately the kits were waiting for us in Mukli. This was another successful presentation by Sarmila and we distributed 152 kits. On the way back we detoured to visit a school to check out some furniture which we had bought. We have helped six schools in Kangel with toilets, water, furniture ,

books, laptops and other equipment.

We spent another morning distributing 5 goats and 30 chickens to some of the poor families in Kangel. Jhuma Bhujel has been hired to help purchase the animals and collect money for a small micro finance cooperative. Her father helps run the Basnet family farm. There is still almost \$500 left from a donation made to BFCC in memory of Chris Howell. It is something he always wanted to do in Nepal.

We also visited a farm which was growing kiwi fruit, but not very successfully because they were not caring for the plants. Their main emphasis was on cardamon, which is quite profitable. Kiwi fruit is being grown successfully in the Solukhumbu, but the birds are a problem.



The boys we have chosen to complete a course at the agriculture experimental farm have both passed Year 12 at Kangel and are very keen to study farming. Jhuma Bhujel left school after Year 8, because her parents could not afford her fees. When she was a baby she fell into a fire and her face is scarred. I am very pleased Netra chose her to be involved with the goat plan. Suraj is a neighbour who has a kidney problem and has to wear a colostomy bag. He does not seem concerned that it is visible. He did not attend school this year, because his family thought he would die.



Cardamon grows quite well as an understorey of a local tree, which apparently grows very quickly and the price for the seed pods is high at the moment.