



# NEWS

## Spring 2019

Here's news from Corin's latest visit to the Yolmo Valley, Nepal, in early 2019. He visited for ten-weeks to continue the charity's work supporting schools to integrate IT and computing into their teaching and administration.

### Teacher Training Courses

Training in IT and Computing took place over two-weeks at the end of the school year, based at Melamchi Ghyang School. Head teachers, computer studies teachers and other teachers attended from **20 local schools** around the region for the residential courses.

In total **40 teachers attended** and were split into different groups depending on their existing skill level, agreed in advance with the Municipality:

- \* Head teachers with no or minimal computer experience were taught basic IT skills
- \* Local teachers in a variety of subjects, with existing IT skills
- \* Computer Studies teachers wanting to increase their skills
- \* IT-literate headteachers were trained in the use of the school administration software package (and took copies of the software away with them).

All the courses were delivered by Nepali trainers: three are IT Officers in their Municipality and the fourth was a degree qualified teacher from the School.

### Schools Software Package

Our schools admin. software package is now being tested in six schools. Corin gained the support of the head of education leads and the Municipality. The package now includes data for students, hostels, and fees. Conversations will be ongoing with the schools and district education department to distribute the package into more schools; with the growth of the internet in the district, there is potential to be linked to a central server within five years.



## School Update

In April headteacher Purna Gautam received the exciting news that he was to be awarded the national Peoples' Hero Award by Nepali-based media corporation Republica, along with a substantial grant to support the work of the school. This is acknowledgement of his dedication to developing the school, and broader education services, over 30 years. We add our congratulations to those of many people in Nepal around the world who have been so impressed by the achievements of Purna at the school

A new classroom block is being constructed by Caritas and is due for completion before the winter; this will provide flexible, insulated and earthquake-proof rooms.



## Village Update

Four years on from the earthquake, rebuilding homes continues steadily and it is anticipated that by the end of 2020 all the homes in the village will have been rebuilt and the temporary tin huts will be a memory. It will return to being a place of peace and beauty.

## The Charity's Next Targets

- Expand the teacher training to a more ambitious programme of training for groups of 25 teachers for 5 days.
- Complete the development of the Schools' Administration Software package to include exam results and liaise with Nepali education officials regarding dissemination and training
- Organise two UK-based fundraising events in autumn 2019 and 2020



## Donations

We appreciate the continued support to our work in Nepal and if you are able to offer a donation they can be made via:

- Cheque: 'Yolmo Connect', posted to Elston, Stoke-on-Trent. ST4 5HB
- Paypal: Yolmo Connect – links on the website
- Direct bank payment: 'Yolmo Connect', sort 089299, a/c 65704147
- Gift Aid: if you are a UK tax payer please do let us know

Thank you