

NEWSLETTER from UMNHET

The United Mission to Nepal Hospitals' Endowment Trust (UMNHET) was established in September 2000 and registered by the Charity Commissioners in November 2000.

Our chief aim then and continuing thereafter has been the raising of capital in order to gain sufficient interest on that capital so that a significant contribution, year by year, could go to the hospitals - especially to subsidise the cost of health care for those disadvantaged patients requiring financial support.

Our colour brochure, produced at cost by a generous printer, and the web page (www.umnhet.co.uk) so generously supported and maintained by Ian Linehan, have been useful tools for generating and maintaining interest in the Trust.

With the political uncertainty and anxiety in Nepal, with the structured changes in the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) and with major management changes in the hospitals administered by the UMN the task of fund-raising has not been an easy one. In spite of this the interest and support from our donors has been very encouraging and by August 2004 the capital raised is £77,174. When the tax has been reclaimed from the GiftAid scheme, and when interest has been calculated on the funds held in the Charity Official Investment Fund we will reach £80,000. If interest on £80,000 is calculated at today's rate that would give us approx £3,600 per annum for the hospitals' support. It is the trustees' intention to begin distributing the interest from July 2005

Interestingly most of the gifts have come from individuals and not large organisations and with a few from generous Trusts. Another thoughtful and loving source has been 'in memoriam' gifts from family and friends finding a comfort by celebrating a loved one's life in a positive way.

At the recent UMN reunion at Swanwick, attended by about 300 people, the Sunday morning service offering raised £7,000 of which half was donated to the UMN 50th Anniversary Appeal and the other half gifted to UMNHET. Margaret and Bill Gould have the UMN 50th Anniversary DVD's and the Anniversary Posters which they are happy to sell on.

Ian Davis, Margaret's brother and artist of the UMN notelets which have raised so much money for the endowment funds, has generously offered to accept commissions to paint a watercolour from a photo (or if local to Oxford from life) for UMNHET. The fee will be £200 and apart from costs he will donate the money to our Trust. Please initially contact the Goulds or other trustee for the address.

Since 2000 a trustee or trustees have either visited or worked in Nepal which has helped to foster and maintain good links with the hospitals, and a trustee is due to visit in October 2004. At no time have any of their costs/expenses been met by UMNHET.

John Butterworth MBA has been appointed as a trustee. His service was in Tansen Hospital as their Business Manager

September 2004