



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2019

A Message From The Chairman

David Thomas



Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to you, thanks to Nick Hinton who has taken on the job of Editor of our quarterly newsletters. This is an exacting task that I know he will fulfil to the greatest benefit of BRANNGO and its members. Nick is a fluent Nepali speaker with a great sympathy for Nepal having amalgamated two Gurkha battalions in 1993 and become the first Commanding Officer of the 1st Royal Gurkha Rifles. When he later retired from the Army he worked for IBM for 20 years. We are fortunate indeed to have his experience both as a BRANNGO Committee Member and now as Honorary Editor.

On behalf of us all I must record our thanks to His Excellency Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi, the Nepal Ambassador to Britain for the help and support he has given to our burgeoning organisation. He has already hosted two Conferences for BRANNGO at the Nepalese Embassy as part of his Nepal Development Programme. Both have been most successful.

Our thanks also go to the Britain Nepal Society [BNS] and Andy Sparkes CMG their Chairman for their help in getting BRANNGO going. Roger Potter the former Chairman is a member of our Committee and I am one of BNS, so we have a close liaison.

Perhaps all this sounds rather formal but in fact our ways of working are not formal at all. BRANNGO succeeds through personal contacts and although it has taken time to develop a modest structure, we are set to move rapidly ahead. We need now both to retain our existing membership and to gain more members. Our survey of charities shows that the groups with the greatest number of potential members are concerned with SDG3 'Health and Safety' and SDG4 'Quality Education'. So, these are the subjects to be given a focus in our interactive conference on 9 October 2019. Working groups will be formed following discussions. A preliminary talk on fundraising will also be given that will be of interest to all.

We propose to make the membership fee for the founder members who have joined us in our first year valid for two years rather than one as they heard very little from BRANNGO while we were mainly concerned with the mechanics of getting the organisation going. The early tasks are now completed and we look forward to expanding our membership and working groups.

Yours ever,

DAVID THOMAS
Chairman

Editorial



Welcome to the first BRANNGO newsletter! I am most grateful to those who have contributed to this edition, and already have some material lined up for the next one in January. Thank you for your support.

BRANNGO's mission is to exchange information and insights among NGOs, share knowledge and good practice by bringing practitioners together, and encourage collaboration to increase impact and avoid duplication. The Committee recognises that good communications are essential to achieving those goals. In this newsletter you will find a report of the very successful BRANNGO conference held in July at the Nepalese Embassy in London, but formal events of this kind are only one element of the plan. This newsletter and its quarterly successors will be an important component and the BRANNGO website, which is in the process of being upgraded and enhanced, is another.

We also tap into social media through our active Facebook group. Details of these channels are in the 'References and Links' section of the newsletter below.

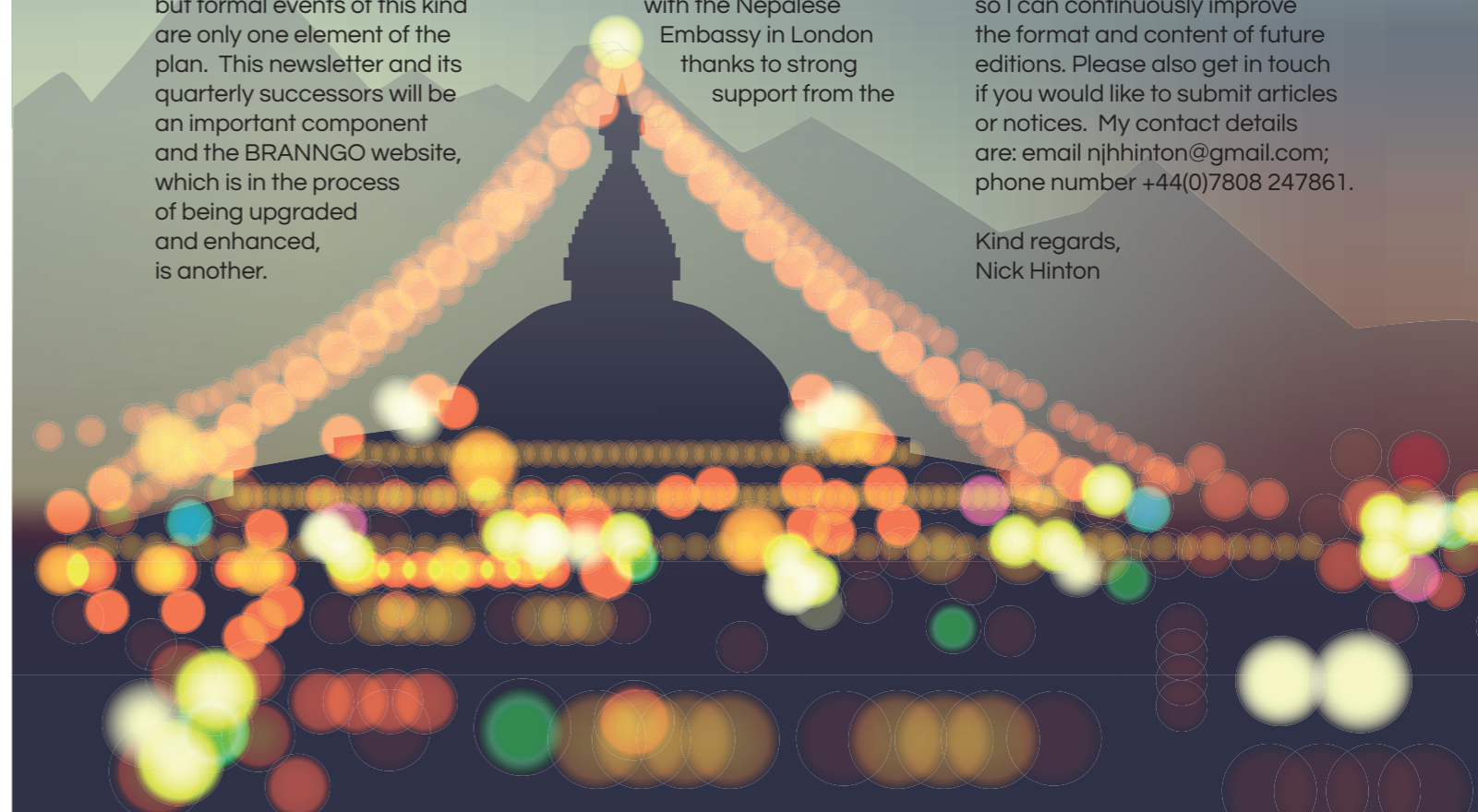
As David Thomas indicates in his Chairman's letter, analysis of UK NGOs active in Nepal shows a high proportion of them work in support of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Health and Wellbeing), and 4 (Quality Education). BRANNGO's efforts are therefore focusing initially on these areas. The next conference, on 9th October 2019 (details in the 'Notices' section below) will foster achievement of BRANNGO's mission in relation to these SDGs through the formation of working groups aligned with them. This will bring the relevant BRANNGO members together to develop and progress a joint programme of exchanging information and collaboration, which is where the real value of BRANNGO will become apparent.

Another dimension of BRANNGO's activities is external alignment with other organisations. We are fortunate to have excellent relationships with the Nepalese Embassy in London thanks to strong support from the

Ambassador, His Excellency Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi, and through them are developing contacts with the Nepalese Government. We also have close links with the British political and diplomatic establishments, as shown by the presentations at the July BRANNGO conference by Mr Marcus Jones MP and a former UK Ambassador to Nepal, Mr Andrew Sparkes, who is also Chairman of the Britain-Nepal Society. An article in this newsletter summarises the work of the NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) and the Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN), both of which engage in activities that are complementary to those of BRANNGO. At the end of the day however, BRANNGO's work is focused on assisting individual organisations to be successful. I am therefore very happy to include some reports from specific NGOs in this and future newsletters, on the basis that they will provide ideas and insights at a practical level into how coordinated activity can be beneficial.

I am of course very keen to have feedback on this newsletter so I can continuously improve the format and content of future editions. Please also get in touch if you would like to submit articles or notices. My contact details are: email njhinton@gmail.com; phone number +44(0)7808 247861.

Kind regards,
Nick Hinton



BRANNGO Conference

18th July 2019



Some of the presenters during the playing of national anthems. Left to right: Mr Andrew Sparkes, former UK Ambassador to Nepal; Mr Marcus Jones MP; His Excellency Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi, Nepalese Ambassador to the UK; Mr David Thomas, Chairman of BRANNGO; Mr Rajendra Kumar Khetan, the Chairman of the Nepal-Britain Chamber of Commerce; Mr Kul Acharaya, Vice President for the UK of the Non-Resident Nepali Association; and Mr Sharad Raj Aran, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy.



The audience!

BRANNGO held its fourth conference (since its inception in May 2018) on 18th July 2019. By kind permission of His Excellency the Nepalese Ambassador to the UK, Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi, it was hosted in the Nepalese Embassy in London. The simultaneous Nepali Tea Festival being held there ensured conference delegates remained refreshed throughout the proceedings!

His Excellency gave a warm welcome to those attending and the presenters. David Thomas, the Chairman of BRANNGO, reminded the audience of the organisation's aims and explained that as membership increased it would facilitate greater collaboration between NGOs working in Nepal. To this end BRANNGO was developing use of a database ('INTERBRANNGO') to identify those with similar interests and help bring them together. At the same time, communication was being improved through enhancements to the website and a quarterly newsletter. Later in the proceedings David Morrell, one of the BRANNGO Committee members, led an interactive session promoting use of the BRANNGO Facebook page. The BRANNGO Committee was also working to build communities of interest around the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which would provide a useful and productive framework aligning NGOs working in Nepal with high-level Nepalese Government goals in this regard as well as providing a focus for inter-NGO discussions and coordination in line with the BRANNGO charter. Marcus Jones MP then gave a short talk on aspects of the Britain-Nepal relationship. His interest in Nepal is prompted by the existence of a large Nepalese

community in his constituency in Nuneaton. He spoke about the 2 countries' shared history and mutual interest in trade and tourism, highlighting hydro-electric power and Nepal's aspiration to become a centre for financial services as 2 particular areas of interest. He sees UK's role in this as helping Nepal to achieve stability and prosperity through a broad range of activities and collaboration.

Mr Andrew Sparkes, former UK Ambassador to Nepal and Chairman of the Britain-Nepal Society, then spoke about what the British Embassy in Kathmandu can do to help NGOs working in the country, highlighting the website (<https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-kathmandu>) as a useful first source of information. He gave advice on how to apply for UK Government funding, highlighting that you need a 'special selling point' if you want DFID funds. He mentioned that the Embassy has a small project fund but stressed the word 'small'. He also said that NGOs are a useful source of information for the Embassy and he welcomed them keeping in touch. Organisations such as the National Federation of NGOs (NGN), The Association of INGOs (AIN) and BRANNGO are also very helpful in promoting links with other organisations and the Embassy.

Dr Gillian Holdsworth, the Co-Chair of the UK Board of Trustees, gave a very interesting briefing on the Britain Nepal Medical Trust (BNMT). The Trust was founded in 1967 and had the treatment of tuberculosis as its main aim, but this extended into proactive preventative programmes including communications and training and it is now active in a number of other medical areas. A key element of the Trust's success

and longevity has been its emphasis on sustainability and its structure, with its executive arm well-established in Nepal but funding and governance driven out of the UK.

Mr Kul Acharaya, the Vice President for the UK of the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA), gave a presentation on his organisation, which was established in 2003 to unite and bind the Nepali diaspora worldwide. He pointed to the very comprehensive website (<https://nrna.org/>) and emphasised that NRNA is keen to collaborate with BRANNGO and its members in any way that might bring benefit to both organisations.

Mr Sharad Raj Aran, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy, then gave an interesting presentation on Nepali tea. After lunch – and tea – Mr Rajendra Kumar Khetan, the Chairman of the Nepal-Britain Chamber of Commerce, spoke about the role his organisation has in fostering collaboration between the 2 countries.

Christopher Lavender then spoke in some detail about his experiences working for the Kadoorie Charitable Aid Foundation. He explained that the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (KAAA) had a community focus, as the name implies, providing training, advice and assistance. The Charitable Aid Foundation funds projects. Some 670 have been carried out worldwide of which approximately 200 have been in Nepal. He identified that many INGOs are inefficient, and that at the end of the day 'it's a people business'. Due diligence and field visits are therefore essential to ensure success. He gave some useful pointers on how to complete a proposal form

successfully, highlighting the need for credibility. Major Yambahadur Gurung then gave examples of some Foundation projects in Nepal.

After David Morrell's 'hands on' session encouraging the audience to log on and use the BRANNGO Facebook pages, His Excellency the Nepalese Ambassador then made his closing remarks. As well as thanking the presenters he gave an overview of the current situation in Nepal. He pointed out that the country is making a complicated transition to a peaceful, secure and stable democracy. There have been many improvements since 2015, and the multi-party system is essentially executing a liberal agenda. He mentioned that 2020 is a 'Visit Nepal' year, and encouraged everyone to try and do so!

By Nick Hinton



His Excellency Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi, the Nepalese Ambassador (right) presenting a kukri to Mr Marcus Jones MP

Opening Doors

The NGO sector in Nepal is incredibly interwoven. It can often be daunting for NGOs based in the UK to penetrate the web of organisations and procedures. Finding the right information, best practices or most appropriate partners is more of a scale than a binary state. BRANNGO has been able to begin opening doors with two major players in the I/NGO sector in Nepal; the NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) and the Association of International NGOs (AIN). BRANNGO will continue meeting with both organisations and bridging the gap between conversations inside and outside of Nepal. As we all know, things can be very different on the ground! More detailed information can be found through BRANNGO meeting reports, which start to illustrate the challenges facing all organisations operating in Nepal. The nature of these challenges should provide fuel for us all to look towards collaboration as a byword, and it is in that theme that I would like to raise two of the most pertinent points for all of those working in Nepal:

1. Due to federalisation there are many proposed legislative changes occurring that may impact thematic and geographic working areas, (especially for multi-district or provincial organisations).
2. Working groups of the NFN and AIN are currently looking at these, (and other Sustainable Development Goal related topics) in the ever-changing context of the newly rising federal system of Nepal.



David Morrall meeting NFN representatives

This may sound concerning at first, however it could also be the pathway to dynamic and collaborative problem solving. BRANNGO is currently looking for key UK members to spearhead our working groups, directly connecting with those of the NFN and AIN. The links made with the NFN will likely prove to be the most relevant to the majority of members, as they have chapters across Nepal and are buried deep, even at the municipal level. How BRANNGO facilitates these relationships and how members utilise them will determine the future of BRANNGO, but it should also promote the future of Nepal. The message from the NFN regarding collaboration, research, idea exchange, capacity building and localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals is a strong Yes! The age of 'gatekeepers' is slowly fading, and BRANNGO does not have this purpose either in spirit or action. The age of 'networkers' is now, but even the best need somewhere to network, and someone to network with. The expanding membership of BRANNGO means an expanding wealth of experience and contacts to draw upon. In the best interests of the Nepali people, we hope to keep growing and sharing with new or existing partners internationally, including the AIN, NFN and hopefully...you.

By David Morrall



David Morrall meeting with AIN

Free Disability Training in Nepal with MAITS

Does your organisation work with people with developmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy, autism and global learning disabilities? Are you looking for capacity building training? Multi-Agency International Training and Support (MAITS) can help!

MAITS is a global disability charity that improves the lives of people with developmental disabilities worldwide by providing free training.

Our team of 450 highly qualified volunteers from across the world train and support those working with people with developmental disabilities and their families, ensuring they access the health and educational services needed to reach their full potential.

We train healthcare and education professionals, community workers, families and carers by linking organisations that need training throughout the developing world, including Nepal, with our specialist volunteers.

Our training is tailored to the specific needs of the host organisation. If you have specific training needs around disability, please let us know and we can find a relevant trainer and provide a modest sum to allow the training to take place.

Our work in Nepal includes:

- Our regional trainers trained 25 community health workers, working across 22 districts in Nepal. These CHWs reached 900 children with disabilities in their own homes in the first year, promoting family and community-based care. The programme includes easy to understand resources for families. The entire programme is available in Nepalese; please contact us if your organisation may benefit from this.
- A special educational needs educator trained 116 teachers, parents and students at the SSDRC school, a non-profit centre for children with autism in Kathmandu. This series of workshops on various aspects of autism practice allows teachers to plan and produce tailored lessons that better support students with autism, enabling equal access to education for all.

Many more details are on our website at www.maits.org.uk

If your organisation can benefit from MAITS training or you are interested in volunteering for us, please contact us: email Emily@maits.org.uk, phone +44 2072588443.

A MAITS training class in Nepal

By Emily Wilcox



MAITS

MULTI-AGENCY INTERNATIONAL
TRAINING AND SUPPORT



Publications by Aidan Warlow



Aidan Warlow was the founder principal of Kathmandu University High School from 1998 – 2003 and afterwards founder director of the Department of Art and Design at Kathmandu University until 2007. He is still very closely involved with Nepal's schools.

Many readers of this newsletter will be familiar with his work 'Better Classrooms, Better Learning', a handbook of ideas for improving children's learning in primary

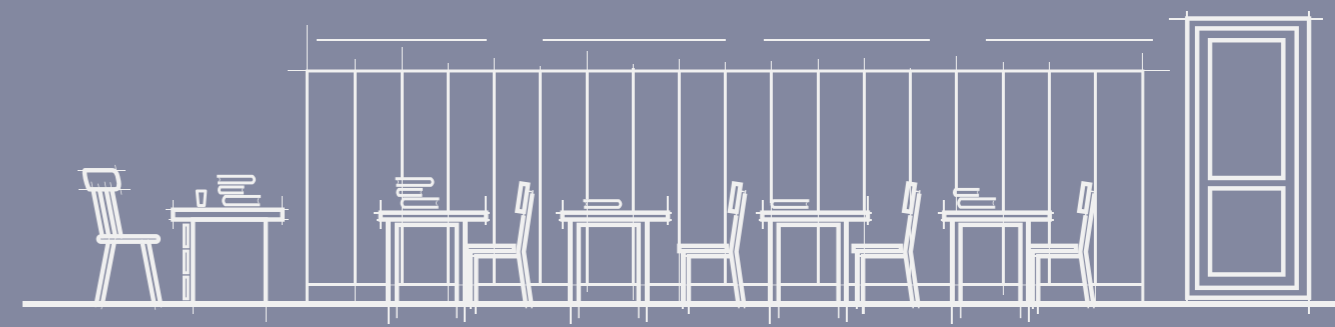
school, now in its 3rd edition and available in both English and Nepalese versions.

Aidan's second book 'Raising the Quality' suggests a strategy for primary schools in Nepal that will promote the Nepal Ministry of Education's vision set out in their document 'School Sector Reform Plan 2009-2015'.

His 8-point strategy covers practical issues such as buildings, equipment and teacher training leading to effective delivery of a balanced curriculum. It also advocates improved methods of examination and record-keeping, careful monitoring and support of children who drop out of school or who are in danger of abuse, and a system for monitoring schools and holding head teachers accountable for standards. Implicit in this is a system for

monitoring and licensing private schools and the contributions made by NGOs and careful selection and training of government school inspectors.

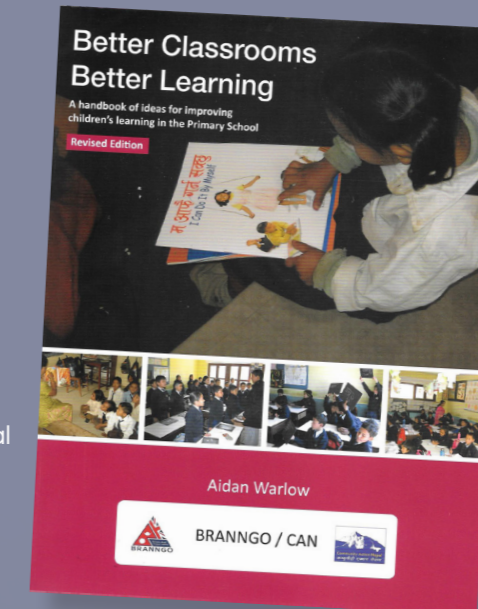
His most significant proposal is that the Nepal Government should identify and develop a number of outstanding schools, ideally at least one per district, to be exemplars of best practice. These 'Demonstration Schools' would be crucial in raising the standards of other schools. Aidan believes that NGOs have a very important part to play in setting them up by helping all schools achieve compliance with standard government guidelines, while also ensuring that available NGO funding and information is equitably and realistically shared between 'Demonstration Schools' and others.



Aidan's third publication is a basic but quite detailed short handbook 'Volunteer in the Classroom' for untrained Westerners working in schools in developing countries. Several Nepal NGOs are finding it very helpful.

'Better Classrooms Better Learning', (English version) can be obtained from BRANNGO (www.branngo.org); the Nepali version from Global Action Nepal (www.globalactionnepal.org). The other two books can be ordered from Aidan Warlow (aidanwarlow@hotmail.com).

By Nick Hinton



Future Events & Notices

• BRANNGO Interactive Workshop & Conference 9th October 2019

The next BRANNGO Conference will take place on Wednesday 9th October 2019 at is Thomas's Academy, New Kings Road, Fulham, London SW6 4LY. It will start at 1030 and finish at 1600 for delegates, but a Committee meeting will be held afterwards to include BRANNGO members wishing to attend, which will finish by 1700. A sandwich lunch will be provided and there will a modest conference fee per person.

This Conference will be in a different format to its predecessors, and will be run as an interactive workshop between speakers and delegates. The programme will be built around discussion and work related to UN Sustainable Development Goal (UN SDG) 3 (Health and Wellbeing) and UN SDG 4 (Quality Education).

Further details have been posted on the BRANNGO website (<https://www.branngo.org/>) and the BRANNGO Facebook Group (<https://m.facebook.com/groups/398627697164373>) shortly. The number of delegates will be limited to 70 in total so please book in as soon as possible and we shall look forward to having you with us. If you would like to reserve places please email: cclare@thomas-s.co.uk

• BNAC Lecture 14th November 2019

The Britain-Nepal Academic Council Annual Lecture will take place on 14th November 2019 at SOAS in London. The subject is 'Nepal's Contemporary Linguistic Landscape: Its Implications for Language Endangerment and Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education'. It will be given by Emeritus Prof. Dr. Yogendra P. Yadava of Tribhuvan University and Pragya, Nepal Academy. Details including contacts for more information and registration are on the web at <http://bnac.ac.uk/activities/17anl-14-nov-2019/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/428795644632842/>

• Pahar Trust Nepal event 23rd November 2019

The Pahar Trust Nepal (PTN) helps to provide schools for the children of the Nepalese mountain region. The year 2018 marked its Silver Jubilee, and formal events took place in Pokhara, Nepal, last November to celebrate its achievements, with 237 projects having been completed up until then.

On 23 November 2019, in the Isle of Man, a similar celebration event is planned from 7.30 pm at the Mountain View Innovation Centre, Ramsey, to recognise the contribution made to PTN's achievements by generous donations from members of the Manx public and from the Isle of Man Government over the years.

The occasion is also timely to confirm recent changes in governance, with Howard and Sue Green stepping down from their previous respective roles as Chair and Trustee; and each taking on a new role as Honorary President.

For further information, please contact Maggie Young (Trustee) by email (maggiemundern@hotmail.com)

• Kalaa Jyoti Presentation/Dinner 16th October 2019

Kalaa Jyoti (www.kalaajyoti.org) is giving a presentation on the Charity Art Training with orphans and deprived children in the, including a raffle, gifts and 3-course buffet dinner, on Wednesday 16th October 2019. The event will take place at the Gurkha Durbar Nepalese Restaurant, 30 Headley Road, Grayshott GU26 6LD from 1830 onwards. Adults £30, children under 12 £9 and children under 5 free. Reservations on 07894 715903 or email thegurkhadurbar@yahoo.co.uk. Raffle tickets will be available at the restaurant.

References & Links

BRANNGO website

<https://www.branngo.org/>

The website includes information about the aims and organisation of BRANNGO, its constitution, and details of membership and how to apply (<https://www.branngo.org/membership-2>).

It is being updated to include a password-protected members' area with privileged access to conference reports and material, minutes of Committee meetings and other reports not available to non-members.

BRANNGO Facebook Group

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/398627697164373>

Please note that the BRANNGO Facebook Group is a Closed Group for which you have to apply for access, but it can be used not only by BRANNGO members but anyone who has a validated interest or involvement in NGO work in Nepal. Access is normally approved within 24 hours.

The Group is a forum for general discussion, a place to share useful information or items of interest for other users, and a location where photographs or documents can be posted.

A downloadable presentation on BRANNGO, its aims, organisation, membership and other material that members may wish to reuse has been posted at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UK.Nepal.NGO.Network/permalink/937932606567210/>

Other Links

British Embassy Kathmandu website:
<https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-kathmandu>

Nepalese Embassy London website: <https://www.uk.nepalembassy.gov.np/>

Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN): <http://www.ain.org.np>

National Federation of NGOs in Nepal (NFN): <http://www.ngofederation.org/>

Non-Residential Nepalis Association (NRNA): <https://www.nrna.org/>

UN Sustainable Development Goals:
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

UN Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal:
<http://www.np.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

Small Charities Challenge Fund (SCCF). If you click on this link and then on 'Nepal' you get a list of funds that DFID support:
https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/dfid-funded-small-charities-challenge-fund-sccf?utm_source=5f678268-01d5-4458-beb9-3eae1b669e38&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

BRANNGO MEMBERSHIP



Membership of BRANNGO brings all the benefits of privileged access to conferences, information exchange, networking and discussions that take place in pursuit of the BRANNGO mission and goals. Further details are on the BRANNGO website at www.branngo.org.

Membership Types

Associate Membership (£35):

For individuals - those who may be working in or Visiting Nepal or wishing to set up an organisation to help Nepal. Associate Membership will also be available to those individuals who have registered a charitable or other organisation that is still within two years of its registration date. They may also wish to be associated with or introduced to other members carrying out similar activities. They will be eligible to attend the annual BRANNGO conference of members, but not the BNS functions unless they have joined BNS separately which they are encouraged to do. They will be entitled to receive BRANNGO advice and information and will be eligible to join the BRANNGO Committee. Associate members will have one vote each at general and special general meetings and will be eligible to be elected to the Committee.

Full Members (£35):

As for Associate Members, but in addition full members must apply to become members of the Britain-Nepal Society. Full members may be joint where both persons are members of the same family and each will be eligible to stand for election to the BRANNGO Committee and have voting rights.

Group Members - Registered UK Charity (£100):

Registered UK Charities working in Nepal including schools, government bodies and philanthropic organisations.

Group Members - Others (£200):

Profit-seeking or other organisations wishing to have group membership of BRANNGO.

How to Apply

Please download the Application Form from <https://www.branngo.org/membership-2> and submit it with the relevant fee as indicated. If you have any queries please contact Carol Clare: Email: cclare@thomas-s.co.uk; phone: 07890 249872.

Data Protection

The BRANNGO database holds personal information primarily in order to contact its current and future members. BRANNGO will only use this information to contact you and to make returns required by law to Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and to the various Charity Regulators of the United Kingdom. BRANNGO is legally bound by GDPR to ensure that any data that it holds on individuals is relevant, accurate and not excessive. Additionally it must be fairly and lawfully processed, held for definitive purposes, be accurate and up to date, not kept for longer than is necessary, processed in line with your rights and must be securely held.

WE SHALL ENSURE THAT ALL DATA HELD IS TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE PRINCIPLES.

We shall never sell or misuse any personal data and whilst we do not intend to contact you often we require your formal agreement for us to use the information held for lawful purposes.

By signing the Membership Application Form you confirm that the details provided are correct and give your consent for BRANNGO to process the information for lawful purposes.