



## 2015 - Rameshwar Lal Verma - our best wishes and thanks

2015 is Khandel light's fifteenth anniversary, it is also the year Nirman Sanstha Khandel, the NGO (non-government organisation) we fund in Khandel, celebrates its 30th anniversary.

Khandel light has been working in partnership with Nirman Sanstha Khandel for the last fifteen years. Its Director, Rameshwar Lal Verma is a remarkable man who has managed change and development in the Khandel region with great optimism and faith in humanity.

Peter Gough says: 'Rameshwar Lal is one of the most remarkable men I have ever met. His dedication to the communities he serves is inspiring and his honesty and integrity without question. We could not have achieved what we have without our relationship of trust and compassion.'

Nirman Sanstha's achievements can be seen on the NGO's new website: [www.nirmansanstha.org](http://www.nirmansanstha.org)

Do visit the website and find out more about how the organisation works, it makes fascinating reading.

On this occasion the trustees thought it would be appropriate to use Rameshwar Lal's own words from his introduction to his current report, to explain more about what we do. Rameshwar talks here of his long journey with Nirman Sanstha.

'It seems so wonderful to me that I have completed 30 years serving in rural area. (The) monthly meetings on 15th of every month have become a big tradition. Even today it is so natural to feel pleasure ... and liking among ladies and gents ... participating in the meetings wearing traditional colourful dresses and enjoying this happy get-together.

'We could not have completed our... span of journey without the cooperation of hundreds of workers, intellectuals and people associated with Government and public. Today is the opportunity and privilege to honour those



deserving villagers, intellectuals and donors who helped in completing the voyage to date.'

'One of the great advantages of working together by taking all the participants in oneness has been that it has generated cordial relations among them and they help each other at time of need. The report card of 30 years devoted service to the society by Nirman Sanstha is now in your hands. ... this document of social works done during last 30 years by us is placed before you. Kindly guide us further.'

Khandel light's priorities have shifted over the years, from survival to development, but the progress report from Rameshwar lal reminds us of what essential services we have provided to date, and which we continue to fund and supply.

398 toilets

630 water tanks

438 roofs for the roofless

5,000 litres of water per month

– providing 430 families per year with clean drinking water

161,826 days employment since the scheme started

6,768 patients treated at special health camps

Adolescent girls' fairs

– 5,000 girls have participated

15 adolescent girls' groups running

in 20 villages – currently there are 502 girls participating on a regular basis. Meetings involve advice on health awareness, birth

control, and the distribution of sanitary towels without which the girls could not attend school

Emergency relief for villagers who have been the victims of - fire, drought, illness, sexual assault, harassment

3,677 women to date have learned to read  
- 300 adult women made literate every year



767 students have received educational bursaries since 2007. 110 will continue to receive bursaries this year, providing assistance to poor students and encouraging brilliant and talented students

Girl child project – the mothers of girl babies receive extra food in the first three months of the baby's life

Learn and earn –training for young people in computer literacy and tailoring. The tailoring students each finish the course, trained, and taking a sewing machine with them

Even though money goes a long way in India there are considerable costs involved to provide these services, which Khandel light has to guarantee. A small reminder of these costs:

**£3.00** One month's drinking water supply for a family

**£30** One month's salary for a health worker

**£26** trains a young person in computer skills

**£100** One water tank

**£100** One toilet

**£30** Funds a teacher for one tailoring course for 20 students

**61p** Provides a day's extra food for the mother of a girl child

**£24** Buys a sewing machine

We still need your help to continue to make a difference in Khandel. Thank you for your continued support.

## Marathon Matters

Marathon News – this year 4 brave runners pounded the streets of London to raise money for Khandel light. We are so grateful to them for all the blood sweat and tears they put in on our behalf, it's a gruelling training period and a hard race.

Over the last 10 years our runners have raised over £50,000 for the charity. We would not be able to meet our commitments in India without their hard work. So next time you are slumped in an armchair relaxing, raise your glass to our brave runners, better still, there's still time to donate!

[www.virginmoneygiving.com/bridgetgough1](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/bridgetgough1)

[www.virginmoneygiving.com/FatimaSantos1](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/FatimaSantos1)

[www.virginmoneygiving.com/JohnAdamson1](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/JohnAdamson1)

Thank you Rupinder, John, Fatima, and Bridget. You've done us proud yet again. Best wishes to Henrik who was unable to run as he was injured.



The good news is his place rolls over - he'll be running for Khandel light in 2016! Here are our runners' AMAZING times:

John Adamson	4:24
Fatima Santos	3:47
Rupinder Chana	4:40
Bridget Gough	4:23

## Khandel light - fundraising - a busy year

Khandel light had a great day out at the Saracens Rugby club. We collected over £1000. Our thanks to all our wonderful collectors who filled their tins, and to Saracens, we hope to see them again next year.

Our thanks go to Amy Lloyd a medical student at UEA – the University of East Anglia, who helped to raise £1000 for Khandel light at a fashion show.



## News

May 9th The Khandel light stall at Barkway Village Market – always a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and share our news.

May 16th Cokenach Open Gardens, Barkway – garden tours, cakes in the marquee, tea and music. Thanks to Jessica and Niels Povlsen and family for opening their beautiful garden on May 16th which raised over £1000 for Khandel light. Proceeds shared between the Friends of Barkway church and Khandel light

And they just keep on running... the Goughs will be out in force July 12th. The Goughs will be out en-masse for the 10k Vitality British 10k London Run. Peter, Bridget, James, Elle, Edward and Richard will be running for Khandel light.

[www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/gough6](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/gough6)

**Save the date – the ever popular Ceilidh takes place on October 31st, Great Chishill Village Hall.**

## Facebook

Thank you to all of you who have visited us on Facebook. Please remember to hit the 'Share' button. The more 'hits' we get, the more people hear about Khandel light, and learn about our work in Rajasthan. Please comment too, we love to hear from you.

## Schools

We are grateful to all the schools who support the charity, whether it be with non-uniform days, henna painting, cake baking, or just having a collecting tin. We really do appreciate your continuing support.

Khandel light values all the ways our supporters help with fund raising, and all of your donations, large or small, your cash, free time, energy and enthusiasm. Thank you for making a difference to lives in Rajasthan.

## About Khandel light

Registered charity number: 1083200 - [www.khandel-light.co.uk](http://www.khandel-light.co.uk) Contact address: 40, High Street, Chrishall, Royston, Herts SG8 8RP

Khandel light was established in 2000, to support the rural community in the Khandel region of Rajasthan. The money raised by Khandel light is channelled through a non-government agency, Nirman Sanstha [www.nirmansanstha.org](http://www.nirmansanstha.org) under the directorship of Rameshwar Lal Verma.

The trustees have changed over the years – although some are still standing. Currently there are 10 trustees, all of whom work voluntarily for the charity, taking no pay or expenses. Community: Dr Peter Gough (Chair) Kate Hurst (Vice Chair) Theresa Bland, Richard Bland, Theresa Mudie, Bridget Gough, Michelle Marriot, Michelle Renwick, David Marriot, Karen Marriot (Treasurer) Khandel light supports projects relating to health and the quality of life, access to clean water and sanitation, health care, education, training for employment and improving the status of women in the community.



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