

APRIL 2016

# khandeLight

## NEWSLETTER



“All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded to the individual”

Albert Einstein



*Teenage Girls' Fair*

In October 2015 Trustees Peter and Bridget Gough and Michelle Renwick together with Michelle's husband Steve, travelled to Rajasthan. Attending a monthly meeting of 700 villagers, being guests at a teenage girls' festival, visiting our three vocational training programmes, meeting with families in one of the poorest villages and addressing an assembly at one of the local Secondary Schools (in which we have



*Beauty parlour training*

those girls undertaking training in Tailoring, "Beauty Parlour" (weddings are a huge industry in India) and computer skills (we let the boys join that one, too!).

The excitement and optimism resulting from these new and very marketable skills was tangible and infectious.

The commitment, insight and generosity of our supporters have proved to be sound investments in the futures of thousands of the world's poorest and vulnerable people and a model for other communities to follow. Thank you.



*Computer training*

sponsored 50 pupils) were all part of our trip. It was the most exciting and inspiring visit to the Khandel area since we started in 2000.

In order to tackle poverty in the area we have, with the help of our loyal supporters, helped to create the foundations of water, sanitation, housing and health and are now building on these and have not only grown aspirations but also created opportunities for hundreds of young people to enable people to be the best they can be.

We met several recipients of our 860 student bursaries (many of whom are girls) as well as



*Tailoring training*



"Since Khandel light was formed 15 years ago we have raised an astounding £826,000. These funds are predominately raised by personal donations from both individuals and organisations. Monthly standing orders account for a staggering £12,000+ per annum. All personal donations benefit from Gift Aid so completing Gift Aid forms increases the income to the charity by up to £5,000 per annum. Every pound earned can do so much for the charity so no matter how big or how small each donation is it really does make a difference to so many people." **Karen Marriott, Treasurer**



"We have sponsored several teenage girls' events over the last 15 years, all with the aim of sowing seeds of aspiration in a climate of gender inequality. But to hear the girls taking the microphone one by one to empower each other was moving and enriching; the best harvest we could have hoped for" **Peter Gough, Chair of Trustees**



"During my first trip to India in October 2015 I was constantly singled out for praise for simply being a man and I could see at first hand how difficult it is for women to get any recognition for their achievements. The entire country is biased towards men from the moment you arrive at the airport and the porters rush to you for your luggage only to leave the women of the party to carry their own" **Steve Renwick**



"It was great to visit the UK in September 2015; the first time I have been out of India. I like Khandel light's kind support and co-operation towards mankind and I feel very proud to be associated with such an amazing charity" **Bageshwar Verma, Nirman Sanstha Khandel, Khandel light's partner NGO**



*Bageshwar Verma, Sir Oliver Heald QC MP and Rameshwar Lal Verma at the Palace of Westminster.*



*Teenage girls leaving the October 2015 Teenage Girls' Fair on the roof of a jeep!*

Khandel light is a local international development charity formed in 2000 to encourage and facilitate the desire of many people, in the new millennium, to tackle global poverty in a direct, responsive and sustainable way. Poverty is more than a lack of money; it is also a lack of capability and opportunity.

Through the harnessing of skills and influence in our local and extended community, Khandel light has enabled thousands of people in rural India (home to a third of the world's poor) to move from simply trying to survive to a belief that they can realise their dreams.

After addressing, the basic needs of water, sanitation and housing we have particularly focussed on the education of young people and the inequalities of caste and gender. When we first became involved with our adopted community of 35,000 people, as few as 40% of girls went to school and girls as young as 10 were getting married. Now, 100% of girls go to school and it is rare for any girl under the age of 18 to marry.

Through educational bursaries and recently initiated vocational training courses, we are ensuring a sustainable, independent and fulfilling future for hundreds of young people and their communities.

## Coming up! London Marathon April 24th 2016

Khandel light has 5 runners this year.  
To sponsor please go to:

[www.virginmoneygiving.com/johnadamson1](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/johnadamson1)

[www.virginmoneygiving.com/natasha-partos-SAVMLMBONDS3332016-1830](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/natasha-partos-SAVMLMBONDS3332016-1830)

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

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

Simon Oughton "The Pheasant" Great Chishill  
Royston Herts SG8 8SR

  
**khandel light**  
ACTION NOW FOR A HEALTHIER FUTURE

[www.khandel-light.co.uk](http://www.khandel-light.co.uk)

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