



## NOTES FROM JOHN

**Namaste!**

The following Yak Yak newsletter is brief due to the current constraints on my time; however I hope it is of some interest. I have included some news on the situation in Nepal, including important updates on team members partners and programs.

Some of you may be aware of the recent changes in the management team. Having in recent years delegated some tasks to others it is time for me to be more directly involved and for the core team to be closer geographically. I suppose you could say COTM is coming home!

Moving forward I will take on the role of Chairman and lead a small, dedicated team from my base in Scotland. Many of you are aware of my personal story and contribution, and you will also know that the organization has never been about one individual. COTM has from its inception been a genuine team effort, our impact relying upon the efforts of trusted individuals fostering a collaborative environment. Our approach will not alter. The team that I lead will play a vital proactive role.

One of our priorities will be to re-engage with the community of supporters who have contributed to our success to date and to encourage you to join me in fund raising activities.

New Scotland based Trustees will shortly join the team but we need more. if you are interested in making a difference, are willing to challenge yourself, contribute proactively to the organization and appreciate the value of teamwork. Please contact me.

**07956 273126, [John@childrenofthemountain.org](mailto:John@childrenofthemountain.org)**

Ideally you should reside in the North of England or Scotland.

I will finish my intro with a request for support.

As I am sure you are aware COTM is a highly effective but not a large organization, outside Nepal we have no paid employees, and in the current environment we face the same challenges to our financial resources as other larger organizations. We will be honest and admit, while we do have some funded projects commencing in the near future, we will face real challenges to support the children and schools affected by covid in the immediate coming months.

I am therefore asking you, over the coming weeks to consider getting actively involved and to fund raise. Every donation you make, however modest, will support our direct hands-on community-based efforts to reach children. Not a single penny will be spent on admin.

You can either donate, start a campaign or join an organized fundraising event managed by our charity challenge partner. The website provides good guidance on how to get involved.

**Danybhat!**

**John**



**65**

CLASSROOMS



**35**

PRESCHOOLS



**500**

TRAINED TEACHERS



**500**

PRESCHOOL STUDENTS



**3000**

GRADE STUDENTS



## PROGRAM NEWS

Autumn has arrived in the UK and as I write this from my Home in the Scottish Borders, I am steeling myself for wetter and colder weeks ahead.

In Nepal the rains are receding, and the communities would usually be preparing for the increased mobility and activity that comes with drier conditions and less arduous travel, more trekkers, and traders. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic has once again devastated the trekking season and Nepal's rural communities are struggling to cope without remittances from overseas.

At this time of year, the schools would normally be reopened, and our programs be in full swing. Unfortunately, the pandemic has also severely disrupted the education of children with minimal school time in the past two years and the impact will be felt

for years to come. Most worrying is the increased dropout rate and the impact on older children especially girls.

[This report from the Nepali times is worth a read.](#)

During these challenging times its more important than ever that we turn our faces towards, not away, from those less privileged and do what we can to help children and communities recover from the pandemic. Once schools reopen a concerted effort will be required by us, parents, and the communities to support children return to school to complete their studies and to attempt to regain some of the loss suffered by younger children. This will be an immediate focus of Uttam Dahal our recently appointed in country Representative and our field team.

## TEAM NEWS

I am delighted to welcome Uttam Dahal to the team as our new in country Manager. Uttam has been a long-time supporter of the cause and quietly supported my efforts for over a decade. He will now be our representative in Nepal. Uttam is a resident of Kathmandu and has worked as a key member of the Early Childhood Education Centre based there. During his time there, Uttam oversaw numerous courses and his accomplishments range from pre-school mentoring, training facilitator and community healing. In recent years he has travelled to over 60 districts in Nepal visiting remote schools working to tackle socio-economic and cultural diversity issues within the country. Uttam will liaise with our two in-country partners and hold responsibility for program development and project governance.



## BOOK LAUNCH

I officially launched White chalk my book at Eastgate Theatre in Peebles.

The beautiful hardcopy is available with paperback and e-book coming to amazon soon.

I feel I have promoted the book enough, however as £10 from every hardcopy sold supports the team and children in Nepal, you will surely forgive me for continuing to share the link to the online shop

VISIT SHOP

If you are interested in joining us "get active get involved!" Contact: [info@childrenofthemountain.org](mailto:info@childrenofthemountain.org)



## WE HAVE A NEW PARTNER!

It has always been our view that there are far too many NGO in Nepal competing and diluting impact on the ground. We have long advocated for alliances, and we are now actively walking the talk!

Following our recent partnership with [www.pahar-trust.org](http://www.pahar-trust.org)

to build our schools we are excited to announce our second strategic alliance.

Reed Nepal [www.reednepal.org](http://www.reednepal.org) is our new Education program implementation partner. Reed have over two decades of experience in the field and are well placed to roll out our unique impact programs across multiple districts.

These two strategic alliances bring together three experienced organizations enabling us individually to focus on our core strengths while creating an alliance of impact on the ground! COTM will retain a program development and project governance capacity in Nepal.

## A NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM

I am very pleased to officially announce that COTM will partner with Rotary Austria and Rotary International, to provide a unique Creative Maths program across 25 schools over the 2022/23 school year. The program will be sponsored by Rotary Kathmandu and has a proven track record in India, measurably improving the numeracy of thousands of children in over 300 schools. The Austrian Yaks, all enthusiastic trekkers and climbers have named the program 'SUMIT UP!'



## EASY FUNDRAISING

Great news! You can now raise free donations for Children Of The Mountain with even more retailers via #easyfundraising, including Homebase, Deliveroo, Disney+ and many more. Click here to see more of the NEW retailers that have joined

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/offers/new-retailers>.

If you are interested in joining us “get active get involved!” Contact: [info@childrenofthemountain.org](mailto:info@childrenofthemountain.org)