



St Patricks Day

Tom (Barre's father) arrived at the Talbot Centre on St. Patricks Day so we celebrated his arrival with a St. Patrick's Day party. He brought balloons, temporary tattoos and Ireland hats (for us). As always the balloons were well received by the kids, and they cued up while Julie covered them with tattoos. It wasn't long until the kids had stolen the Ireland caps from us and they still wear them now 1 month on. It was a really fun evening and Tom was well welcomed to the



Talbot Centre. He will stay for 5 weeks to help make the garden for the kids.



Holi-day

Holi-day is a Hindu festival where people throw water at each other and cover each other in bright colored powder – its like a great big colorful water-fight which the whole country takes part in. It is a national holiday and has a religious significance, but we're not sure what the water and colored powder has to do with it.

On the morning of Holi-day the kids got dressed in their oldest clothes whilst Gyaljen bought colored powder and we filled buckets full of water. We don't think the kids knew what was happening but found out quickly when we sneaked up on them



and dumped a big bucket of water over them. Shortly after this all the kids, staff and volunteers were soaked to the bone and colored a variety of different colors. After 2 hours of this we turned on the neighbors. The kids would supply us with buckets of water and we would rush out the gate and try soak as many of the neighbors as possible – but I think we were generally on the losing side. Some of the staff joined in and soon it was a water fight with about 20 of us on our side against 30-40 neighbors. The kids loved it.

Day out at the Football

Nepal hosted a major international football tournament in April (well a tournament between Nepal, Palestine and Kyrgyzstan). For our day out we took the kids to the opening game between Nepal and Palestine. I don't think any of the kids had been to a foot-



ball match before and they all had a great day. The younger kids were more interested in the crowd than the game, but Arun and Shamsir were glued to the match. The match ended up as a 0-0 draw but was still quite exciting.

Talbot Centre Staff

The Talbot Centre has 6 Nepali staff (plus Sioux of course) who all do a wonderful job and have made us so welcome over the past 2 months. Below is a little bit about each of the staff and what they do:



Santos (back) with Kalpana, Puja, Limi and Gyaljen (left to right)

Gyaljen (House Manager) has looked after the centre since August last year. He lives there full-time with his wife and 2 kids (Pasang and Nuri). He is responsible for the overall running of the Centre and all the staff report to him. He has great patience with the kids and is great at instilling good behaviors in the kids. In fact it is hard to imagine a group of 10-12 English kids behaving as well as the kids in the Talbot Centre.

Kalpana (Nanny) came for an interview for the cooks job in November, but on discovering she couldn't cook was given a weeks trial as a nanny for the kids. The morning after her interview she moved into the Talbot Centre. 5 months on and she has spent every night since in the Talbot Centre and is doing a wonderful job. She is very gentle and caring with the younger kids. Gyaljen and Limi now treat Kalpana like their own daughter.

Limi (Cook – and Gyaljen's wife) cooks at the moment whilst they are searching for a new cook. She is a very sensitive and caring mother, and she treats all the kids of the Talbot Centre like they were her own children.

Puja (cleaner) is a real character. She cleans the Talbot Centre and washes all the kids clothes, but in reality does a lot more than that. She is great with the kids and she is always making everyone laugh. She knows how to work hard and puts us to shame whenever she helps us in the garden. She works from 8 to 4 in the Talbot Centre and after work she goes home to cook and clean at her own house, and look after her 4 year old daughter.

Santos (part-time administrator) looks after the financial accounts for the Talbot Centre and preparing the progress reports for the children. He is great with the children and brings them for a day-out/adventure once every week. He is very keen that the kids discover and learn-from the world outside the Talbot Centre. He also works as a volunteer at a Buddhist Centre which he helped start and works part-time with another NGO with children.



Puja, Julie, Kalpana, Limi

Dipesh

Dipesh is youngest at the Talbot Centre. He is only 3 years old, but fortunately is at the Talbot Centre with his two brothers, Achit (5) and Arun (10). He came to the Talbot Centre in November soon after his mother abandoned her children after remarrying. His father is mentally ill and unable to care for the boys.

Dipesh is a real character and is always laughing, playing or chatting away to himself. He is well able to look after himself and sometimes it is hard to imagine that he is only 3 years old. He did cry a lot when he first came but now the only time he cries is when there is nobody around to lift him up to reach the water-tap to wash his hands. He is such a cute kid and everyone who comes to the Talbot Centre loves him – especially when he sings Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star to them.



News from the UK

The trustees would like to give a special Thank –You to;

Sally Reynolds for organising the Ladies do Lunch event held on the 19th April at The Cumberland Hotel, Bournemouth. The event went very well and was enjoyed by all who attended, the fashion show, food and entertainment was outstanding and nearly everyone won a prize on the raffle!

Thanks to all the guests of Ladies do Lunch for their generosity and donations; all the kind people and businesses who donated prizes for the raffle and auction.

To Tom from Ireland for raising funds at home and work by holding raffles and other events.

To Tom, Barre and Julie who have been outstanding volunteers at The Talbot Centre, Nepal and back in the UK.

Fundraising Events for 2009

20-23rd August – Bournemouth Air Festival

29th August – Street Collection in Bournemouth (please note this date has been changed from 1st August)

If you have any free time and could spare an hour or two why not come and lend a hand?! If you're interested please contact Phaedra on 07826541151 or Belinda on 07841828623.

On the 22nd – 24th July we had use of the Teddy Bear Stall in the gardens in Bournemouth Town Centre. I think I can safely say that all who helped out had a wonderful time and that some feel they may have missed their vocation as market stall traders! "Come and get your teddies - all for charity!" could be heard across the gardens and pier approach! A big thanks to Darren, Sarah, Mark, Michelle, Lee, Neil and Graham for giving up some of their spare time to help out, what a lively lot!!! Please see the 'in action' photos.

