



CHILD ACTION NEPAL

Newsletter No 5

March 06

Vacation in Chitwan

Last year we all went to the Royal Chitwan National Park in the South of Nepal. From 19th century the Chitwan Valley has been a centre for hunting trips by British and Nepali aristocrats. In 1911 King George V and his son (later Edouard VII) killed 39 tigers and 18 rhinos during an 11 days safari. In 1973 it was proclaimed a National Park and in 2000 a census found that there were 544 rhinos and around 80 tigers in addition to 50 other species of mammals and over 450 different types of birds.

Our children love nature and were very excited to go to Chitwan. This time I booked a bus with air conditioning

A well deserved break at the Riverside Resort



On our way to the river island



Bathing with the elephants

We had long walks in the park with a guide describing the fauna and the flora to the children. We also had many elephant rides in the jungle. The children saw rhinos and monkeys as well as many birds and butterflies. They also enjoyed themselves in the river and had a bath with the elephants using their trunk like a shower. It was a great experience for them and a healthy vacation far from polluted Kathmandu. They really enjoyed being in the jungle and except for a nice couple from Canada, we had the whole resort for ourselves.



and it proved to be a good idea as we had a 9 hours trip ahead of us. On our way we stopped at the Riverside Resort and the children had a lot of fun in the swimming pool before having a healthy lunch.

Our hotel in Chitwan was inside the park on an island in the middle of Narayani River and we had to get there by boat. We were two or three per cottage, the youngest ones with an adult.

Jungle trip on elephant's back



Please do not hesitate to send your comments to info@childactionnepal.org.uk
Child Action Nepal, Reg. charity number: 1097447, www.childactionnepal.org.uk
c/o Florence Krief, PO Box 39679, London W2 6YP Tel. 07773 277 647



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Binita

Binita had a horrible start in life. She was barely born that her mother, a poor farmer from the Eastern part of Nepal, threw her into the river. A neighbour passing by rescued her and took care of her until she was four years old. A few years after the death



of her husband, Binita's adoptive mother decided to remarry. She could not keep Binita anymore and left her with her old father.

When she was five years old, Binita started working as a servant. She had a very hard life and was often beaten.

Four year later her keeper, who was getting too old to take care of her, brought her to LBU. At 9 years old Binita never had been to school. She started in Nursery and as she was working hard, we managed to make her jump a class every year. She is now in Class III and we are very proud of her.

The little farm girl is now a young adolescent who takes care of herself and of the younger children at LBU.

News from Nepal

After 10 years of war, Maoist rebels control much of Nepal. They successfully terrorised candidates and voters in last month municipal elections. They rely on support from downtrodden and marginalised people who have yet to benefit from global capitalism. It is no accident that Maoism is strongest in places with feudal tradition, skewed land ownership and wide gaps between the rich and the poor, including Nepal, India, the Philippines and Latin America.



Priestess

Street market

Therefore any improvement in the current Nepalese law is very important especially when it regards women who make half of the population.

For example, women can now sell or handover ownership of their property without consent from their father, husband, son and unmarried daughter. In addition, women under 35 are no more required to obtain their parent's or husband's consent to apply for a passport. Another welcome improvement is that the Nepalese Army cannot recruit young boys aged under 18.

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Tihar 2005

Tihar is a five-day festival. It is all about worshipping animals such as crow, dog or cow, and worshipping the Hindu Goddess of Wealth (Goddess Laxmi). Laxmi Puja is one of the most important days of the festival.

At LBU, like in every household in Nepal, we decorated our house with thousands of oil lamps, candles and garlands. We put pictures and icons of Laxmi with flowers, incense, oil lamps, a bell and money in the

office. Then Kalpana, our oldest girl, performed Laxmi puja at dusk. She uses her hand covered with red mud to make a symbolic foot-print on the floor entering the home and makes a trail leading to the Puja room. From that day, our children left every late afternoon to sing door to door giving blessing to the family in return for money or homemade treat. These days they were very happy and proud because they collected a lot of money (all given to our House Manager who either put it in their saving boxes or will it to organise a day out).

The final day is Bhai Tika Day, sisters give tika (a coloured powder placed on one's forehead), and mala (a necklace of flowers) to brothers along with wishes for long life and prosperity.

As Rolak, our house manager, is my "Bhai", I also performed puja. Like the girls with each of the boys, I circled Rolak who sat on the floor 3 times dripping oil on the floor from a copper pitcher. Afterwards, I put oil on his ears and hairs and finally gave Tika: I dipped a small stick in the tika base (made from rice paste), then brushed vertically on his forehead, then using a different stick, I applied 7 colours on top of the base. Then in a rather less traditional fashion, our boys and girls exchanged the gifts I brought back from London.



Kalpana, Reshma and Tulasi (Rolak's wife) prepare the malas



The boys are ready for puja

After puja it is time to unwrap the presents



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Thank you for your support

Last summer as the weather was very warm, we organised our annual fundraiser on a ship on the Thames. More than hundred people came to support us, have a drink and a diner of homemade food on the breezy deck.



We would like to give a special thank you to the Bryant Family who contributed a lot in making this a successful event as

well as Sue Chopping and Paola Giovanelli for the delicious buffet and White House Production for the two plasma televisions. We look forward to seeing you this summer!



Sponsoring a child

Any donation is welcome and even £10 or £20 makes a difference. However, should you wish to sponsor a particular child and follow his/her progress as he/she grows up, the cost is £40 a month. If this amount is too much for you, you can co-sponsor a child with friends or family or we can arrange for you to have a co-sponsor.

Gratefully yours

Florence Krief



CHILD ACTION NEPAL Standing Order Form

Our website now accepts on line donations!

Name(s) and address of the account holder

Title:.....Forename:.....

Surname:.....

Address:.....

.....

Postcode:.....

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Name and full address of your Bank/Building Society

To: The Manager.....

Bank address.....

.....

Postcode:.....

Bank/Building Society

Account number:

Sort code:

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society:

Please pay* monthly/quarterly/yearly from account

number above, the sum of £.....to Child Action

Nepal's account at Caf Bank Ltd:

Account No: 00010441 Sort code: 40 52 40

until further notice starting from:

DD MM YY

(date of first payment**)

Signature:Date:

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I want all donations I have made since 6th of April

2005 and all future donations to be Gift Aid until

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and the income tax and/or capital gains tax I pay

will be at least equal to the tax that the charity will

reclaim on these donations.

Signature:Date:

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Please do not send this Standing order form

direct to your bank. When completed and signed

please return to: Child Action Nepal c/o Florence

Krief, PO Box: 39679 London W2 6YP

* Please delete unwanted options.

** Please allow three working weeks from date of

signature

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