

# THE BHUTAN SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

Number 8

July, 1996

### Bhutan High School Pupils Helped by Trust Fund

At the Trustees Meeting held before the Annual General Meeting in February it was agreed that the Trust Fund would provide annually eight bursaries of £50 each for poor or disadvantaged High School pupils in Bhutan. This amount of money would provide for a school uniform and other basic expenses to help the pupil remain in full-time education. The candidates for the Bursaries will be selected by the Trust Fund Committee in Bhutan, chaired by Marion Young, the VSO Field Director. The first eight of these annual bursaries will be presented in August in Thimphu by the Hon. Secretary of the Trust Fund.

### *Photos of Bhutan at Christie's*

=====

An Exhibition of Photographs of Bhutan by Walter Lees  
will be held at  
Christie's, St. James,  
on 21st and 22nd October 1996.

Many of these excellent framed photos will be available for sale.

The Exhibition is open from 9.00am to 4.30pm on Monday, 21st October and from 9.00am to 8.30pm on Tuesday, 22nd October

### Contributions to the Bhutan Society Trust Fund

The Bhutan Society Trust Fund is grateful to the following who have contributed to the Trust Fund since its foundation:

Sir Nicholas Fenn  
Mrs. Mary Caroc  
Lord and Lady Wilson of Tillyorn  
Mrs. C. Heys  
Miss R.M. Leneil  
The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London.  
Dr. and Mrs. J. Berkeley  
Lady Anne Thorne  
Mr. Matthew Heasman  
Professor Ernst Sondheimer  
Mrs. Jennifer Isaacs  
Himalayan Kingdoms Ltd  
Mrs. Wendy Grant  
Mr. Peter Sutley  
Celia Henzman

Sir Edward Peck  
Mr. Chris Chadwell  
The Probosc Club of Guildford  
St. Paul's Walden Charities  
The English Speaking Union (SW London Branch)  
The Rotary Club of Ripley and Send (Surrey)  
Mrs. Doris Campbell  
Mrs. Genette Dagnoglou  
Mr. Peter Wilson  
Mr and Mrs. Robin Lee  
Mr. Alan Blatterbury  
Tormead School, Guildford  
The Rotary Club of Godalming  
Mr. Michael D.C.C. Campbell  
Probosc Club of Guildford

### Bhutan Society Members assist Bhutanese Monk

Chencho is a monk from Bhutan who is currently taking a short course in English at Richmond College thanks to the generosity of Bhutan Society Members Mrs. Doris Campbell, Mr. Michael D.C.C. Campbell, Mr. Alan Batterbury, Mr. and Mrs. Robin Lee and Mr. and Mrs. Bowes Lyon. They have all subscribed through the Trust Fund to help Chencho enrol in his English Course. Chencho, who is staying with Daiha Tsering from Tibet, attended the Simtokha Rigney School where he studied Buddhist philosophy and Dzongkha language and poetry. He then went to the Nyingmapa College, Kathmandu. Back in Bhutan in 1994, he worked for the Dzongkha Development Commission, drawing up the syllabus of the first Bhutanese Buddhist Higher Education Institute. We hope Chencho will be in England until the end of November, and that members will be able to meet him at the Annual Dinner on 8th November.

#### What has the Bhutan Society Trust Fund done so far?

In addition to the help provided to Chencho described above, The Trust Fund has so far helped in the following ways:

- It has sponsored the production the Brochure for a major exhibition of Bhutanese culture to be held in Paro in Autumn. This Brochure will be designed by a graphics artist Jacqueline Sherman who is a VSO Volunteer working in Bhutan.
- It has helped educate two students at the National Institute for the Disabled at Khaling (previously the School for Blind).
- It has assisted Sangs Dorji, the blind Physiotherapist who trained in the UK and is now back working in Thimphu.
- It has provided a quality hearing aid for a deaf boy in Eastern Bhutan, identified by his VSO teacher.
- It has helped initiate and sponsor the Inter-High School Debating Competition which involves all the High Schools in Bhutan. The Final is held each year in November in Thimphu.

If you haven't already done so, please try to make a contribution to the Trust Fund!

You can do so by a lump sum, or by covenanting, or by a GiftAid cheque.

If you have any questions please contact the Hon. Secretary, Friary View, Drummond Road, Guildford.

(You can make a donation for a specific purpose subject to the approval of the Trustees)

**September 24th 1996 at 7.30pm**

**Cash Bar open from 7.00pm**

at the National Liberal Club, Whitehall Place, London, SW1 (off Whitehall, opposite the Old Admiralty Building)

*Exhibition of his*

***WATERCOLOURS***

*of Bhutan including*

*Ganggar Punsum, Lhuntsi Dzong*

*and studies of the Dakpas of Sakteng*

*accompanied by an illustrated lecture*

*by*

*Michael Bloomer ARA*

*"East of Ganggar Phuntsun"*

**The Cash Bar will be open after the  
Lecture until 9.15 pm**

#### Books for Bhutan

Mrs. Genette Dagstoglu would like to thank all those members who responded to her appeal for books for Bhutan.

The first batch, several hundred books including general reading as well as science and other school textbooks was sent off six weeks ago and should be arriving in Thimphu at any moment.



The Bhutan Society  
Annual Dinner  
will be held on  
Friday, 8th November, 1996  
at 7.30 pm for 8 pm  
at the  
National Liberal Club  
Whitehall Place  
London, SW1

This will as usual be a Buffet  
Dinner. Further details along with  
booking instructions will follow in  
September, but please put the date  
in your diary.

## Auction in aid of the Trust Fund

At the AGM last March, discussion focussed on how we could best help our friends in Bhutan using the money so far available in the Trust Fund. The general consensus was that we needed to build up the Fund to produce an adequate income which could be used to sponsor a variety of educational and other projects in Bhutan. Those of you who attended the Annual Dinner last year will know that the Auction we held during the course of the evening raised over £800. I have been requested to organise another Auction at this year's Annual Dinner in the hope that we can boost the Trust Fund dramatically! This is my initial appeal to all Society members for gifts, suggestions and donations for the planned Auction which will form part of the evening's entertainment at the Annual Dinner on 8th November at the National Liberal Club. Your donation, no matter how modest or generous, will be very welcome. Please consider offering unwanted gifts, jewellery, porcelain and ceramics, prints, paintings, Bhutan or Himalayan related items and other gifts to be auctioned which might include, for example, one or two weeks in your holiday cottage, an airline ticket, or admission to places not usually open to the public, -- in fact, anything unusual or valuable!! Some of the gifts may best form the prizes for a Grand Draw to be held on the evening after the Auction.

If you would like further information, or if you would like to discuss a donation or gift with me, you can reach me, *Linda Li-Davies* on: Home: 01428 717059. Office: 01403 210585

(Note: Linda Li-Davis was elected as a Trustee of the Trust Fund at the meeting of the Trustees held in March. Linda is the Coordinator for South and South East England for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund)

### *Bhutan's National Assembly Meets*

The 74th Session of the Tshogdu (National Assembly) of Bhutan was opened by H.M. The King on 29th June. The National Assembly's 152 members met under the Chairmanship of the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dasho Pasang Dorji. The National Assembly was instituted in 1953 and is the supreme lawmaking body in Bhutan. Of the 152 members, 105 are directly elected by the people, 37 are Government representatives, including Cabinet Ministers and Dzongdas (District Governors) and 10 are representatives of the Monk Body. The opening sessions of this year's Assembly were dominated by the People's Representatives (*chimis*) expressing profound concern over the Southern Problem. The Speaker urged members to debate with the utmost sincerity to find an early and lasting solution to this problem which presents a fundamental threat to Bhutan's future.

## Newly-elected National Assembly Members



Three newly-elected women members of the National Assembly attend their first Session. From left to right, Leki Pemo from Dagana, Pema Chuki of Pansagatsel and Tshering, from Trongsa, were all elected to the National Assembly this year.

### THE BHUTAN SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

PRESIDENT: LORD WILSON OF TELLFORD (CMB)

VICE-PRESIDENT: JOHN GOBLEY

CHAIRMAN: SIMON BOWEN LPOV

HON. TREASURER: NICHOLAS AVOGDIS

VICE-CHAIRMAN & HON. SECRETARY: MICHAEL RUTLAND

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Michael Erwalowski, Lady Wade-Cory, Peter Li Nodup Dorj, Sonam Chokki,  
Peter Lofling, Marianne Gould, Helen Lee*

The Bhutan Society of the United Kingdom was founded on 06 October 1992 in a response to the growing connections between the two countries. The Society held its inaugural Meeting in London on Bhutan National Day, December 17th, 1992.

#### The Aims of the Bhutan Society are:

- to encourage and promote knowledge and understanding of the Kingdom of Bhutan, its history and its culture
- to encourage cultural and educational links between the peoples of the Kingdom of Bhutan and the United Kingdom
- to act as a link between all people, particularly those in the United Kingdom, who are interested in or who have connections with the Kingdom of Bhutan
- to promote and foster good relations between the peoples of the Kingdom of Bhutan and the United Kingdom

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE BHUTAN SOCIETY  
(OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY OR ABOUT BHUTAN)

WRITE TO:

THE HON. SECRETARY, FRIARY VIEW, DRUMMOND ROAD GUILDFORD, SURREY, GU1 4NS

TEL and FAX: 0483 38189