

THE BHUTAN SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

Number 6

November, 1993

Third Annual Dinner held at the National Liberal Club

The Third Annual Dinner of the Bhutan Society was held on 10th November, 1993 at the National Liberal Club in Whitehall Place, London. One hundred people were present, including fifteen students from Bhutan currently studying in the United Kingdom. Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, GCMG presided. He said how pleased the Society was to welcome David Green, Director of VSO; Kara Macpherson from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Sue Billington and Bethyn Roberts from the British Council headquarters in Manchester and two representatives from the Women's Council, Mrs Ann Grace and her guest Mrs. Barbara Boissard. He particularly welcomed the students from Bhutan, who travelled to London for the dinner from as far apart as Aberdeen and Bologna. A real Bhutanese feel was given to the evening by all the students who wore their Khos and Kiras for the occasion, and the National Liberal Club provided the delightful floral table decorations and candles for each table. After the buffet supper Simon Bowes Lyon, Chairman of the Bhutan Society, spoke about the aims of the Bhutan Society Trust Fund and opened the Auction by introducing Steven Tharlow, from Sotheby's, who had kindly agreed to act as our Honorary Auctioneer! The Auction netted over £800 for the Trust

Fund, and details appear later. Lord Wilson of Tillyorn read goodwill messages to the members of the Society from Lyonpo Dawa Tsering, Foreign Minister of Bhutan, and Lyonpo Chenkyab Dorji, the Minister of Planning. The Ambassador of Bhutan to the United Nations in Geneva, His Excellency Dasho Jigme Y. Thinley, had also written to express his sincere regrets that he could not be present due to his duties at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Lord Wilson proposed



The Bhutanese students with Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, President, and Simon Bowes Lyon, Chairman, on the Grand Staircase of the National Liberal Club

a toast to His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuk, King of Bhutan on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday on the following day. In her reply to the toast on behalf of the Bhutanese students and other guests Miss Deki Pem, who is studying at Wye College, University of London, referred to the long bonds of friendship between the United Kingdom and Bhutan, and she proposed a toast to The Bhutan Society of the United Kingdom. One of the guests at the Dinner was Howard Solverson, from Canada, whose biography of the late Father William Mackey was recently published. Copies of the book are available, and details appear later in the Newsletter. At the end of the evening all the students from Bhutan were photographed on the Grand Staircase of the National Liberal Club with the President and Chairman of the Society.



Mr Dorji, a student at Reading University, and Mrs Sue Billington, Programme Officer for Bhutan in the British Council

**At the Annual Dinner the President read the following messages
which he had received from Thimphu**

**Message to the Bhutan Society from Lyonpo Dawa Tsering, Minister
for Foreign Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan**

"As the Bhutan Society of the UK holds its Annual Dinner on the eve of the birthday of our beloved King, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, I have great pleasure in extending to all the Members of the Society my warm greetings and good wishes. We in Bhutan greatly value and appreciate the manifold activities of the Society which help to promote friendship and understanding between the peoples of our two countries. I wish the Society further successes in the coming year, and "Tashi Delek" to all Members of the Society on this happy and auspicious occasion."

**Message to the Bhutan Society from Lyonpo Chenkyab Dorji, Minister
for Planning, Royal Government of Bhutan.**

"I was very happy to learn that the Bhutan Society of the UK will be holding its third annual dinner on 10th November, 1995. On this joyous occasion I, on behalf of the people of Bhutan, the Royal Government and on my own behalf would like to congratulate and express my deep appreciation to all those who have worked hard for the success of the Bhutan Society of the UK. I would like to thank all the Members for the support and goodwill extended to my country. I am sure that this will further enhance the existing bond of friendship and understanding which we not only cherish but value with great pride. Please allow me to extend to the Honourable Members of the Society my sincere gratitude and good wishes. Tashi Delek!"

Auction raises £856 for the Bhutan Society Trust Fund

The Auction held after the Bhutan Society Dinner raised a total of £856 for the Bhutan Society Trust Fund. An Oxford Dictionary of Quotations donated by Mrs Christian Gadgorn was bought by Sir Peter Holmes, the belt for a lady's Bhutanese



Steve Berry (*Himalayan Kingdoms*), Lady Seraphina Berry, Dr. Bent Juhl-Jensen and Sir Peter Holmes consider their bids!

costume and the selection of Himalayan plants donated by Matthew Heasman were bought by Michael Armitage and the Hon. Dr. Deborah Keith respectively. Mr. C. Denza purchased the Bhutanese hat donated by Miss Helen Lee, and David Green,



Miss Deki Penn, who is studying at Wye College, University of London, with the Society Hon. Treasurer, Nicholas Rhodes

Director of VSO successfully bid for the pair of tickets for a Royal Albert Hall Concert which were donated by Mr. Neville Shulman OBE. John Byrne paid £31 for one of the last bottles of Bhutan Mint, and Froda Ferne and Mrs. Deki Rhodes bought the two lots of Sparkling Wine donated by John Godlet. Mr. Peter Li paid £200 for the painting

"Land of the Thunder Dragon" donated by the artist, Marilyn Chesterman, and Mr. J. E. Maddocks, of Cheshire, bought the water-colour "A House in Paro" for £440. This was donated by the artist, Michael Bloomer. Many thanks to Steven Thurlow of Sotheby's for conducting the auction, and to Mrs. Linda Li-Davies who coordinated the event. And special thanks to the members who donated items for the Auction.

Rotary and The Bhutan Society Trust Fund supports Inter-High Schools Debating Competition in Bhutan

The Rotary Club of Ripley and Send in Surrey this year donated £150 to the Trust Fund to be used to support the second annual Inter-High Schools Debating Competition in Bhutan. Students compete for a Cup donated last year by the Guildford Branch of the English Speaking Union. The donation was delivered by hand to the Secretary of Education, Dasho Thinley Gyamtsho by Society member Veronica Johnson, who was on holiday in Bhutan. The motions to be debated were chosen by a committee convened by Tsewang Tandin, Principal of Yangchenphug High School and Secretary of the Debate Organising Committee. The High Schools taking part were Mongar, Jigme Sherabling, Shemgang, Jakar, Yangchenphug, Punakha, Chukha, Motithang and Drugyel, and the motions included "Vocational Education Should be part of the School Curriculum", "The Pace of Development in Bhutan is too Fast", "In Bhutan we should not be concerned about educated unemployed", "Examination results are the best criteria for selecting suitable candidates for jobs", "Sex education should be part of the school curriculum", "Preserving our cultural heritage is worth the economic sacrifice", and for the Final the motion was "Bhutan should be concerned about the 3.5% per annum growth in population".

The competition, which gives an opportunity to Bhutan's school students to address and debate some very important issues, was started last year as a result of the donation by the ESU of Guildford of a cup for the winners.

Father William Mackey, SJ

We are saddened by the sudden death of Father William Mackey in Thimphu on October 18th after a short illness. He was eighty years old and had been a Jesuit priest for over fifty years. He had worked and lived in Bhutan for thirty-three of those years. Father Mackey was ordained in 1945 and a year later was part of the original group of five Canadian Jesuits who set sail for India. He worked from 1946 to 1963 at St. Alphonsus School in Kurseong and at St. Robert's School in Darjeeling. In 1963 he was invited to Bhutan where he began his major life's work. He established the first High School there at Kanglung and for the next thirty three years was a most significant person in the Bhutanese educational system. For his contribution, through education, to bringing Bhutan into the twentieth century he was awarded an Honorary Degree by the University of New Brunswick, and in 1973 the Government of Bhutan awarded him its highest award, the "Druk Thuk Sze" (spiritual son of Bhutan) Medal. In 1985 he was made an Citizen of Bhutan, and carried his Bhutanese passport with great pride. Very many of the senior officials of the Government owe their early education to Father Mackey and he was regarded with profound



respect and the deepest affection by everyone in Bhutan as well as by everyone from the United Kingdom who met Father Mackey either professionally or as a friend. He was a fine teacher who brought style and humour, as well as rigour into the classroom. Father Mackey died in Thimphu Hospital, where during his brief illness he was visited by His Majesty the King, Her Majesty the Queen Mother, and other members of the Royal Family. His body was taken to Darjeeling where he was buried in a private Jesuit cemetery in the tradition of his order. The body was escorted on the journey

from Thimphu by four Jesuit priests, senior officials of the Royal Government of Bhutan and a large group of friends and former students.

Father Mackey was born in Montreal on August 19th 1915. He was invited to Bhutan as a teacher in October 1963 and he started work as Head of Trashigang School. In 1968 he moved to Kanglung and eventually helped develop it into the Sherubtse Junior College. In March 1978 Father Mackey moved with the school section to establish the Jigme Sherabling High School in Khaling. In 1983 he became Chief Inspector of Schools and later Education Advisor, and in 1992 His Majesty the King designated Father Mackey an Education Advisor to Bhutan for the rest of his life. Dusho T.J. Rixia, Deputy Minister for Health and Education, described Father Mackey as one of the pioneers of modern education in Bhutan who had endeared himself to the people of Bhutan by his simplicity, sense of humour and exemplary dedication to his work as an educator. He added that his sensitivity to and appreciation of the ancient Buddhist culture and traditions of Bhutan was one of his many remarkable qualities.

"The Jesuit and the Dragon" by Howard Solverson

A Canadian Life in the Eastern Himalayas - a biography of Father Mackey

This book tells the story of a hero revered in a faraway land, but unknown in his home country of Canada. A legend the mystical Kingdom of Bhutan, William Mackey is a Jesuit priest who is loved and respected in a Buddhist country that does not allow proselytization - a missionary who has converted not a single Buddhist. Bill Mackey's story is told in the spirit of this great Canadian - drawn from his own storytelling, it captures his humour, his energy and his open approach to life. The author, Howard Solverson, is a writer and translator and divides his time between Vancouver and Aix-en-Provence.

"The Jesuit and the Dragon" can be ordered through any bookshop (ISBN 1 895854 37 7) price £13.95, or direct from Bailey Distribution Ltd., Learoyd road, Mountfield Industrial Estate, New Romney, Kent TYN28 8XU Fax: 01797 366638, price £13.95 plus £1.40 post and packing.

PHYSIOTHERAPY IN BHUTAN

(New Letters)

Readers of *Kinesiol* will remember Sanga Dorji, the Bhutanese physiotherapist who trained in London and is now working at the JJBW National Referral Hospital. When I was helping him with his revision before his exams in London he invited me to come and visit the department in Thimphu, and this April I went to work there for a month.

I have been qualified for 20 years and my first impression of the department was how ordinary the case load was. There were all the patients I see at home - backs, necks, frozen shoulders and a couple of stroke patients. However, as the month went by we saw quite a few patients who you wouldn't encounter in England. There were several T10 spines, someone charged by a buffalo, a case of Tetanus, and some horrendous electrical injuries. Another difference was the no appointment system. On the whole it works fine to turn up any time between 9 and 3, though we were usually very busy from 9.30 to 12.30 and pretty quiet between 1 and 3. I enjoyed the change from the intensive one-to-one contact of about 20 to 60 minutes in the U.K., especially as we often shared the treatment of patients between us. Sometimes the assorted onlookers/visitors/audience gave us their opinions too, so it was truly a joint effort. I used the time from 1 to 3 to teach lifting, peripheral mobilisations (ways of 'loosening up stiff or painful joints'), the treatment of stroke patients, and anatomy to the three physiotherapy technicians - Tenzing, Tsera and Karumtsula. However, they know their anatomy very well, and Sanga soon took over teaching anatomy to the nursing students.

The medical notes of new patients were read to Sanga or shown to me. Mr. Kokogin, the Bhamese physio was away in April so I didn't have the pleasure of meeting him - I believe he usually reads the notes. Patients who need it are treated on the wards. Hemiplegic patients are given passive movements and a week of bed rest, they are later walked between two physiotherapists and use slings and springs. These patients are normally treated in the U.K. with more emphasis on regaining the fine and difficult movement that the affected limbs lose. They are usually walked over here from behind or in front so they cannot lean on you and so take weight more symmetrically through both lower limbs. I treated patients with these new 'Tokath' methods and demonstrated them to the others, usually on Sanga so he could tell what I was doing. There is no-one in the department yet trained in this particular method and I feel it might be symptomatic to expect it to be adopted after my short visit when other methods are long established. It is based on a complex understanding of neuro-anatomy that has been developing in recent decades in the West.

The department has four beds and a very small exercise area. It works quite well, and is adequately equipped. The

ultrasound machine broke down while I was there and was mended in less than a week, to my amusement - it is certainly no faster in my department. The physiotherapists know how to test all their machines for basic function. I managed to get an expensive new machine from Holland working which was very satisfying and we had used it on a few patients when I left. I noticed a few small items that the department needs and I will do my best to send them out. They could do with a steady supply of metal elbow crutches for the sort of patients that will need them a long time - amputees, fractured femurs etc. For the rest, auxiliary crutches of which they have a good supply, will do fine.

Working with a blind physio was also a new experience for me. Sanga is knowledgeable and skilful and is obviously well liked and respected. He has particularly good manual skills for a newly qualified physiotherapist, in manipulation and mobilisation of necks, backs and peripheral joints. There are a lot of patients with stiff joints or contractures following T10 spine, burns, fractures or wounds and Sanga and the team of technicians are very good and experienced in stretching them out and devising strengthening exercises. These are among the most important basic rehabilitation skills.

I found it hard to remember Sanga's lack of sight and would get all excited about a really good X-ray and show it to him. None of us could believe he didn't know we were there when he walked slowly and deliberately towards us, and amid general laughter we would get covered.

I hope rehabilitation and chest physio skills will spread across to the district hospitals of Bhutan and then onto the Basic Health units. I do know that proposals have already been drawn up for this and for a rehabilitation unit at Gyalsoom. New rehabilitation units do not have to have a great deal of expensive electrical equipment, just the basics such as crutches and parallel bars and plinths to get started (though the machines do help) but they do need staff. Bhutan now has one local fully-qualified physiotherapist, a long-serving foreign physio, and three very experienced physio technicians. It worried me that there were no new technicians in the pipe-line, although some may start in July apparently. Training physiotherapists to diploma level is more complex and costly but in the long-run seems essential. I hope that physiotherapy can develop in Bhutan in the near future using current and future staff resources. The one physio unit in Thimphu, uses some rather old-fashioned methods for some things (which work remarkably well in most cases) and bang up-to-date methods for others. It has plenty to be proud of.

Susan Gross,
May

1995

Students from Bhutan

Maira Bachholdt, a member of the Society since its foundation, thought it would be interesting to know a little more about some of the students from Bhutan who are now in the United Kingdom.

KARMA NIDUP arrived in the UK in August 1994 to begin his B.Sc in Animal Science (?) at Reading. He is keen on basketball and loves swimming. Apart from that there is always music and writing letters to his family and, although he misses everyone at home, he much appreciates the opportunity to be in England.

Karma comes from a beautiful village called Goda in Chakha where he has a brother and two sisters younger than he is and they were all brought up by their Father after their Mother died. While he was at school - Sarbang High School and Yangchenphug in Thimpu he developed his interest in a wide range of subjects outside his school work, such as debating, quizzes and cultural matters and when he is at home he keeps up his swimming, basketball and does some social work. He is not sure exactly to what occupation his degree will lead, but hopes it will involve some public service to his country.

CHENCHO DUKPA came to England in August 1994 for his B.Sc degree course in Agriculture at Reading. After this he is planning a return to Bhutan and then to come back for his Masters and other post-graduate study.

Over here he plays badminton, basketball, he likes swimming and cycling and going to the meetings of the International Friendship Association. He is looking for more English friends and is really enjoying his time here, although he is not alone in missing Bhutan. Chencho's home is the village of Damchong, Paro, where his Father is a farmer and cattle breeder and where he has four brothers and four sisters, he himself being the middle one. He was at school at Dobji primary and then the High School at Paro before going on to Sherabtsé College, Kanglung.

Back home, he not only rides his Father's horses and braves the cold, swift rivers with his regular swimming, but is a contestant in the village archery tournaments and likes taking part in traditional celebrations.

LHAP DORJI comes from Babesa, Thimpu, and arrived in England in August 1994 to start his B.Sc. in Agriculture at Reading University. He is keen on stamp collecting and badminton too, but

also likes to watch and participate in a number of sports. At home he has two sisters and four brothers all at his parents' farm.

His home College was Sherabtsé, in Tashignag, where he qualified to come abroad and he is hoping that his degree will lead to working in a department of the Royal Bhutan Government.

SANGAY DORJI came to England in August 1994 to begin his B.Sc. degree course in Agriculture at Reading University, which will qualify him for a Government post at home in Bhutan.

He is a keen Badminton player and a reader of novels. At home in Phuntsoling, he has three brothers and a sister and their Father is engaged in business. From Dorokha primary school he went on to Samtsé High and then to Yangchenphug High School and finally to Sherabtsé College in Kanglung. He enjoys his time in England and has five compatriots with him at college here.

JIGME WANGCHUK arrived at Reading in August 1994 to start his preparatory course for his B.Sc. in Animal Science which he begins in 1995. He is particularly interested in exploring new techniques towards improving the breeding of farm animals, especially cattle and poultry.

He likes to go jogging and belongs to a body-building gym, although he also plays Badminton and wants to learn tennis too. Jigme would like to see as much of England as possible and museums in particular. He would very much welcome new friendships. Jigme belongs to Tashigang in Kanglung where his four brothers and four sisters live with their Father, who is farming, and he misses them a good deal. After his junior schools he went on to college where his favourite sports were basketball and football.

He intends to put in some conscientious study, so as to be able to make his contribution towards his country's future development.

KESHAV RAJ GURUNG . Keshav will be known to many members as the student who proposed the toast to the Bhutan Society at the first two Annual Dinners in 1993 and 1994. He has been in Britain since July 1993 and is in

[continued on next page]

Students from Bhutan (Keshav Gurung -continued)

Edinburgh at present in the third year of his B.Eng.(Hons) which is to end in 1997 and then he will be a specialist in civil and environmental engineering. He will be seeking a government service post back at home. He finds Scotland very agreeable and although he does not do too much walking, he finds the clubs provide a good array of leisure pursuits like bowling, snooker and ice-skating with his friends.

Keshav was born in New York in 1973 and after his family moved back to Bhutan, he was sent to St. Joseph's school in Darjeeling. When he was ready for high school, it was to be in New Delhi. Keshav's sister is engaged in electrical engineering in Chandigarh and his younger brother is a student in Kalimpong.

The family is from Samtse, but spends much time in Thimphu where their father, Dasbo Meghraj Gurung, is the head of The Royal Institute of Management. He feels he is a bit of a nomad with having lived in so many places, but there was always something good to be involved with, like deejaying and programme hosting for the Bhutan Broadcasting Service and enjoying the outdoors with swimming and picnics.

New Indian Ambassador for Thimphu.

Mr. *Pushkar Johari*, has retired as India's Ambassador in Bhutan for the last three years. The new Ambassador, who took up his post in April, is Mr. *Dulip Mehta*, who until now has been the Indian Ambassador to Uzbekistan.

New VSO Field Director for Bhutan

Mrs. *Marion Ewing* has taken over from Lis Pritchard as the new Field Director for the Voluntary Service Overseas project in Bhutan. Marion is no stranger to Bhutan, having worked as a VSO teacher there for some years. She is married to Captain *David Young*, Chief Pilot for Druk Air.

British High Commissioner visits Bhutan

Sir Nicholas Fern, British High Commissioner to India (and a member of the Bhutan Society) has recently paid his second official visit to Bhutan. While there he held meetings with senior Government Ministers, and also visited the Drugyel High School, which was built as the Overseas Development Administration's last direct aid project in Bhutan.

Weavers Tour of Bhutan returns

Veronica Johnson, of the Leeds City Museum, recently took part in the Weavers' Tour of Bhutan organised by Himalayan Kingdoms. This holiday was specifically designed for those interested in the weaving skills of Bhutan. This was Veronica's second visit to Bhutan and she can assist anyone thinking of going on the next of these Weavers Tours. She can be contacted through Leeds City Museum where she is on the Curatorial staff.

7th Visit by International Red Cross

The International Committee of the Red Cross paid its seventh visit to Bhutan recently and interviewed 106 prisoners in Changang Central Jail. The leader of the delegation said at the end of the visit "We acknowledge and appreciate the way the authorities are making all efforts to allow ICRC delegates to perform their work with the necessary support and assistance. The Home Ministry has done its utmost to facilitate the ICRC's operations in Bhutan in full compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding. The delegation leader explained that, as in all countries, the ICRC's objective was to ensure the well-being of prisoners who are detained for security related matters.

Executive Committee changes

Mrs Christian Gudgeon (nee Renton) has now moved to the far north of Scotland and has therefore asked to resign from the Executive Committee. Christian was a founder member of the Executive Committee and the Society.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee held at the National Liberal Club on 26th June 1995 Mr Peter Li was co-opted onto the Committee. Mr Li has family links with Bhutan and works for IBM (UK).

THE BHUTAN SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

PRESIDENT: LORD WILSON OF TILLYORN GCMG

VICE-PRESIDENT: JOHN GOSLEY

CHAIRMAN: SIR ROY BOWEN LLON

HON. TREASURER: NICHOLAS RHODES

VICE-CHAIRMAN & HON. SECRETARY: MICHAEL RATLAND

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Michael Eversdown, Lady Wade-Gery, Andrew Drey, Simon (Mark)
Peter Leffing, Peter G.L. Howarth-Cook, Peter Lee

The Bhutan Society of the United Kingdom was founded on 6th October 1992 in 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.

The Bhutan Society runs a varied programme of lectures and social functions, and produces a Newsletter twice per year.

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

The Bhutan Society Trust Fund

is a Registered Charity (No. 1041260) whose Trustees are

Lord Wilson of Tillyorn GCMG, Sir Robert Wade-Gery KCMG, KCVO, Simon Bowes Lyon LL, Michael Ratland and Nicholas Rhodes.

For further information write to The Hon. Secretary of the Bhutan Society at the address above