

भारिया बिकास

porters' progress UK

November 2007

Dear friends and supporters, we are delighted to bring you our second Porters' Progress UK newsletter.

Breaking news: Nepali clothing bank gets boost

1000 porters will be warmer and safer in the forthcoming trekking season, thanks to Porters' Progress UK. In its most significant project to date, the UK charity has used monies raised at previous events to manufacture enough jackets, over-trousers, gloves, socks and sleeping bags to help clothe 1000 porters in the 2007/08 trekking season.



We have had the clothing made in Nepal to a good standard. It will form part of a clothing bank in Lukla, in the Everest region. Large numbers of commercial treks and expeditions pass through this area and the clothing bank enables porters to be kitted out in appropriate clothing. They (or their agencies) pay a deposit of 1000 rupees to borrow any clothing. The bond is refunded when the clothing is returned at the end of a trip.

Sunglasses appeal: we need your sunglasses!

Porters' Progress UK has set up a sunglass appeal and is seeking donations of high-quality sunglasses for trekking porters as it is often difficult to get these items in Nepal. Porters trekking at high altitudes are at risk of snow blindness, a potentially dangerous condition caused by extreme UV levels which kill the outer cells of the eyeball leading to temporary and excruciating loss of sight. This can be avoided by wearing effective sunglasses that filter UVA and UVB radiation.

Porters' Progress is aiming to collect 1,000 pairs of sunglasses before the start of the 2008 trekking season. We hope that you will be able to bring us closer to this target.

At high altitude, sunglasses need 99-100% UV absorption, of wraparound or side shielded design to prevent peripheral light exposure. If you have a spare pair of 'category 3' or 'category 4' sunglasses (the category should be stated on the arm of the sunglasses), please bring them to a PP UK event or post them in a padded bag to: **Joy Whyte, Law Department, LSE, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE.**

Inghams donates clothing

Porters' Progress UK is delighted to accept a large donation of quality new and using clothing from British tour operator Inghams Travel. We have been given nearly 400 items of clothing including fleeces, Goretex ski salopettes and ski jackets. World Expeditions is kindly storing the clothing while the UK trustees explore avenues for transporting it to Nepal, getting it through Nepali customs and into the field where porters can make use of it.

If you have any suggestions for transporting large quantities of clothing to Nepal or have contacts who may be able to help, please get in touch.

Events

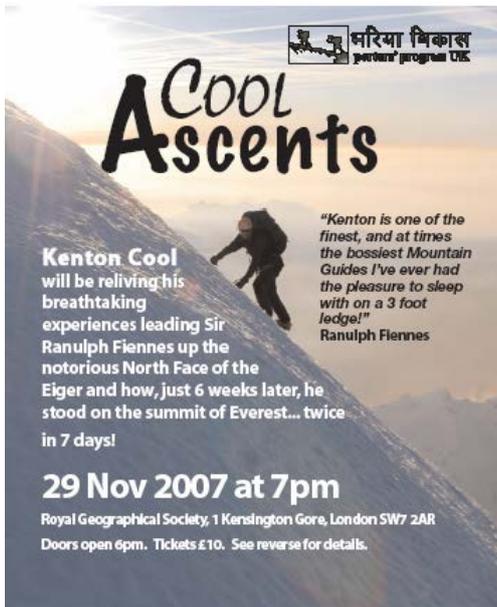
• Thursday 29th November – 'Cool Ascents'

Kenton Cool, one of the UK's finest mountaineers, recounts his breathtaking experiences leading veteran polar explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes up the notorious North face of the Eiger in March.

The Eiger, meaning 'ogre' in German and recently the subject of Joe Simpson's TV documentary "The Beckoning Silence", has one of the most daunting reputations in the climbing world. It took Cool and Sir Ranulph five days to scale the mountain's 6,000-ft north wall. "Kenton Cool is the finest and at times the bossiest mountain guide I've ever had the pleasure to sleep with on a three foot ledge," Sir Ranulph said.

A big thank you to Cotswold Outdoor (www.cotswoldoutdoor.com) and Mountain Hardware (www.mountainhardware.com) for supporting this event.

Our autumn lecture at the Royal Geographical Society is now an annual event so please put the 2008 date in your diary now: **Thursday 27 November 2008**



Sponsored by:



• 28 February 2008 – Best of Kendal Mountain Film Festival

Following the success of 2007's film evenings, Porters' Progress UK will host the Best of Kendal Mountain Film Festival at the RGS. The evening will showcase the leading films from the 2007 festival. Tickets will be on sale from World Expeditions from 1st December 2007. <http://www.worldexpeditions.com/uk>.

About Porters Progress UK

Set up three years ago to support Porters' Progress, the porters who need it. Let us know if you have contacts in Nepal and can offer support in this regard. Porters' Progress is a Nepal-based and Nepali-staffed Non-Governmental Organisation dedicated to improving the lives of porters through programmes promoting advocacy, education and empowerment.

Even today, every year porters die in the Nepali Himalayas and other mountain ranges due to inadequate equipment. Porters' Progress UK is closely involved with the clothing bank in Lukla (Everest region) which lends protective clothing to trekking porters for high altitude use.

Update on Trustees

Inaugural chair steps down

Barbara Holl was one of the founders of Porters' Progress UK and has been a driving force in the establishment the charity and its activities. She has made numerous visits to Nepal at her own expense where she has promoted Porters' Progress UK activities and assisted the Nepalis. Due to other commitments Barbara is stepping down as chair. However, she will continue to provide support in both the UK and Nepal.

New chair: Toby Gee

Elected to replace Barbara Holl, Toby has led treks in Nepal and has a great respect and affection for the Nepali people – and their songs. He is a London-based barrister and along with his wife, Heather Peacocke, also a trustee, raised funds which helped to establish the charity in the UK. Toby's vision for Porters' Progress UK is to expand its activities beyond Nepal.

New trustees

Gabrielle Dean – Publicity

Gaby has long been committed to supporting the welfare of mountain porters since her first trek to Nepal in 1999. Through both her day job as marketing manager of World Expeditions and her role as trustee for Porters Progress UK, she hopes to help draw public attention to the unfair treatment of mountain porters across the globe and assist with many exciting fundraising projects.

Robert Kesterton – Treasurer

Inspired by treks in the Indian and Nepalese Himalayas, as well as Africa and S. America, Rob recognises the responsibility that trekkers have for the wellbeing of their porters. He has a particular interest in the environmental implications of the trekking industry and as a Chartered Accountant has assumed the role of treasurer.

Other trustees

Denise Prior (Secretary), House Manager at the Royal Geographical Society; **Dr Mary Morrell**, Respiratory Physiologist at Imperial College London; and **Heather Peacocke**, a New Zealander with a background in journalist and communications (and new mother).

The trustees would like to thank Simon Dickinson for his involvement in the committee and Joy Whyte for her work on the sunglasses appeal.

What's next?

Porters' Progress is looking to broaden the scope of its activities. The trustees welcome information and ideas about potential porter projects to support porters in other areas such as Pakistan and South America.

A big thank you to all our supporters.

Many thanks to Cotswold Outdoor and Mountain Hardware for sponsoring 'Cool Ascents'.

The trustees would also like to thank World Expeditions for their ongoing support which has been invaluable in getting events off the ground. www.worldexpeditions.com

For more information on Porters' Progress UK or to be added to our mailing list, please contact our secretary Denise Prior on d.prior@rgs.org. If you want more information about Porter Progress USA, and Porter Progress in Nepal, log on to www.portersprogress.org

Namaste