



NEWSLETTER



Porter Mortality Research Project

Porters' Progress UK is supporting a research project organised by Medical Expeditions/Medex to investigate porter mortality and morbidity. For many years there has been anecdotal evidence of injuries and fatalities of porters at altitude and on remote treks. But there is no reliable reporting system and quantitative data has been scarce.

The research project will involve medical student volunteers standing at the trail ends of the remote Dhaulagiri trek in Marpha, near Jomson, and the more well-known Annapurna Circuit, conducting surveys of groups on each route to ascertain the incidence of porter illness and injury. This will help us focus our programmes where they are most needed.

For more information on the project, go to www.medex.org.uk

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Porters' Progress UK continues to grow and has increasing support among mountaineering and trekking companies, climbers and the wider public. Funds raised at our popular events enable us to support the Everest Clothing Bank in Lukla, the KEEP Clothing Bank in Kathmandu and the Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project in Tanzania.

We are working with MedEx to develop a research project on porters' injuries at altitude and in remote areas.

We receive no grants or funding and rely entirely on your goodwill and generosity to help protect mountain porters, who remain at the bottom of the economic food chain. To help provide sustainable support, please become a member of Porters' Progress UK. For a modest monthly donation of £2 you can help us make a real difference.

For more information, please visit www.portersprogress.org

Toby Gee
Chairman, Porters Progress UK

Artist donates work for auction

London-based landscape painter Luke Walker has generously donated his painting '**Thame, Nepal**', for auction at the November PPUK lecture. Luke is a mountaineer and his work has been influenced by his travels to high places.

"The porters' stoicism is an inspiration to me and I really wanted to be able to offer them something in return. Porters' Progress highlights the plight of these remote mountain people, the work they have to do and the risks they take simply in order to survive."



LUKLA CLOTHING BANK

Lukla community group, the Himalayan Club, took over the management of the Everest Clothing Bank in 2008. Monies raised in the UK are used to fund the clothing bank including salary for one full time staff member, rent/costs and clothing.

It provides porters (whether working individually or as part of an agency group) with the loan of sleeping bags, clothing, footwear and sunglasses, for a small deposit. When the gear is returned in reasonable condition the deposit is refunded.

Porters' Progress' eventual goal is for the clothing bank to be run and funded independently. Everest trekkers and mountaineers are urged to call into the clothing bank and lighten their load by donating fleeces, jackets or boots before returning to Kathmandu.

Geography graduate Edward Marland helped as a volunteer at the Everest clothing bank during the autumn trekking season. Contact us if you would like to be our next volunteer.

NEW CLOTHING BANK IN KATHMANDU

A group of international charities has joined forces to fund a new porter clothing bank at the long-established Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (KEEP) in Kathmandu.

Porter clothing banks have operated in Kathmandu for some years but this is the first coordinated effort between several charities.

Community Action Nepal (CAN – headed by mountaineer Doug Scott), Porters' Progress UK, US-based International Mountain Explorers Connection and the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG) all contributed funding, resources and time to get the KEEP Porter Clothing Bank (PCB) established.

The initiative was co-ordinated by Ian Wall of CAN and DB Gurung at KEEP. Opening stock was sourced locally in Kathmandu, consisting of 100 sets of waterproof trousers, jackets, boots, socks, gloves and sunglasses.



POWDER BYRNE DONATE CLOTHING

Porters' Progress UK has received a large donation of clothing from luxury holiday company Powder Byrne. Six large boxes (150 kg) of Gore-tex jackets are awaiting dispatch for use in the porter clothing banks.

"Powder Byrne is delighted to support Porters Progress with equipment from its winter operations. We support their vision of change through education and empowerment and are delighted that the clothing will go directly to those who need it, through the clothing bank scheme."

PORTER FOR A PORTER

A considerable amount of high quality clothing is donated within the UK. However, transporting it to the clothing banks is a challenge.

Porters' Progress is building links with UK trekking companies to identify ways of transporting donated clothing to Nepal and Tanzania. If trekkers or climbers have spare baggage allowance, Porters' Progress is appealing to you to carry donated clothing for porter clothing banks.

If you can help, please get in touch: www.portersprogress.org

Calendar

Best of Kendal Film Festival - 16th March 2010

Building on the increasing success of previous film evenings, Porters' Progress UK will host the Best of Kendal Mountain Film Festival on Tuesday 16 March 2010, showcasing leading films from the 2009 festival. Tickets will be on sale in the New Year.

Annual lecture – 25th November 2010

Put the 2010 date in your diary now! Speaker TBC. Porters' Progress UK seeks out 'people of the moment' in the climbing and outdoors fraternity to entertain and highlight its causes.



BECOME A MEMBER

To improve the sustainability of our programmes in Nepal and elsewhere, Porters' Progress UK is inviting supporters to become members by pledging £2 per month. In return, we will give you £2 refund on the door for any events you attend. To join go to www.justgiving.com/portersprogressuk. Please indicate that you wish to make a monthly donation of £2 or more and then follow the instructions on the site. In order for us to treat your donation as a membership subscription, please ensure you do not remain anonymous to us.

We also invite any other donations or fundraising initiatives.