



KET is now nearly four years old and has recently welcomed as an equal partner in its work of providing educational support to the children of Nagaland, the Kohima Educational Society or KES for short. Charles Chasie, the Secretary of KES, explains in this issue how the funds raised in this country are being used to fulfil the aims and aspirations of our two complementary organisations. For those of us who are concerned principally with raising money to help sustain education in Nagaland, it is reassuring to be working with prominent people there who know what is required and how it can be delivered. Despite the thousands of miles which lie between us, communication is excellent, which says much for the commitment of both sides.

When KET originally set out to provide educational support to underpin local provision in Kohima, it was always envisaged that it would be education in the broadest sense. Hence, in addition to providing library facilities, scholarships, text books and support to assist with teacher training, we and our colleagues in KES have sought to find wider applications for our precious resources. Provision of a basketball pitch at Phek where Ray Jackson was harboured from the Japanese in 1944, environmental awareness talks, an essay competition to underline the importance of children learning the history of their country and our involvement in helping to develop medical learning are all part of this wider application. Another project in the pipeline could soon be residential provision to house students attending school in Pangsha thereby avoiding long daily walks to their classrooms.

All of this is very exciting for those involved in direct management of the Trust. I hope too that those who have contributed so generously in helping to make this work possible will take equal satisfaction from what is being achieved. As always, I and my trustees in both KET and KES are greatly indebted to you.

Major General Murray Naylor, Chairman

KET Scholarship Awards 2007



Sixteen KET scholarships were awarded in Kohima on July 27 2007 at a ceremony organized by Atuo Mezbur, Treasurer of the Kohima Educational Society.

Six of the awards were continuation grants to scholars who had received their scholarships for the year 2006/2007. Six new scholarships were awarded for the current year to students selected from short lists from different districts and tribes of Nagaland. The winners were all from homes where education is hampered by financial shortage. Two of the candidates are orphans.

The remaining four won Halnan medical scholarships.

One of the winners, Ms Avinuo, is the beneficiary of a scholarship awarded by Mrs Mori Hancock in honour of her father, Charles Wheeler (a stretcher bearer with the Royal West Kents). Donors are reminded that Trust scholarships can be awarded in memory of family members who served at Kohima.

Scottish and Naga children exchange letters

Class 7C of the Culter School in Aberdeen, Scotland were visited by Burma veteran, 85-year-old Stanley Rothney, early in 2007. As a result of his visits, the pupils wrote letters to their counterparts in Kohima. The letters were forwarded by KET to Pflie Kesiezie the school's headmaster and literature about KET was sent to Mrs Cowie, the teacher who had invited Stanley Rothney's visit. As a result there has been an exchange of correspondence between the pupils of the

two schools, of which these are two extracts:

From Jaimie in Aberdeen:

"He told us about the Naga people. He said they looked after him and his fellow comrades. They gave them food, water and shelter."

From Anish, David and Lima in Nagaland:

"The Nagas did not fight the war but helped the British by carrying their goods and doing intelligence work about the position of the enemies etc. That is how the enemies were prevented from entering India."

News Update

Halnan Fund Takes Shape

Funds donated by friends and admirers of the late Keith Halnan are being put to use in various ways. For example, a medical library is being set up for use by medical practitioners in Nagaland. The titles were chosen by medical advisers in Nagaland and the UK. The Library will be housed adjacent to the Central Reference Library for schools, which was one of the first joint projects of KES and KET. Assistance with board and lodging for medical apprentices who come to Kohima to study is also planned, as are scholarships for nursing students in Kohima and Dimapur. Mrs Margaret Halnan, the widow of Keith, plans to visit Kohima in the next few months to inaugurate these activities.

Foundations Laid for Crashed Pilot's Gift of Basketball Court

When Ray Jackson baled out of his fighter plane over Japanese occupied territory in 1944, he was rescued, nursed back to health and helped to escape by a Naga (at present Pastor of a church in Phek near the border with Burma). Ray wanted to give something back to Phek and the village opted for a basketball court. Foundations are now being laid.

"Celebrating a Cleaner Future"

The first of a two-part symposium for school students on this topic was held in Mezhür Higher Secondary School in September 2007. Students from thirteen High Schools took part. The symposium was moderated by officials from the State Forest Board and the State Pollution Control Board.

Pangsha Hostel

Pangsha is an area in the interior of Nagaland close to the Burma border where educational facilities for the scattered population are still sparse. The idea here is to assist in the establishment of a hostel to allow up to thirty students from remote areas to attend the school in Pangsha.

Dictionaries for High Schools

KES plan to gift a good Dictionary to every Nagaland High School. After a survey of teachers, The Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary was selected. This is just the sort of practical, small scale project that KES feels would be a very effective step towards fulfilling their aims and those of KET.

Battlefield Guide in Publication

A Guide to the Battle of Kohima, with a map of the significant battle zones, a collaboration between KES and KET, is now in publication. It will be published in January 2008 and distributed with the next Newsletter.

KES Secretary visits the UK

KES Secretary Charles Chasie visited the UK in 2007 and laid a wreath on behalf of the people of Kohima at the Memorial Service in York Minster. He says: "KES takes this opportunity to express gratitude to KET and all its sponsors and well wishers for their generosity in raising funds and sponsoring the various projects in Nagaland. We offer our prayers and humble thanks to everyone". Mr Chasie attended the summer meeting of the KET Trustees, and reported on all KES activities, including the Pangsha Village proposal with which he has been closely involved.

Nagaland Chief Minister meets KES/KET

The Chief Minister (front left). The group also includes KES Secretary Charles Chasie (back centre) KET Chairman Murray Naylor (back left), Mrs Naylor (front) and KET Trustee Mrs Lily Das (front right).



Money Matters

We have now raised over £100,000. We have recently transferred £30,000 to Kohima to fund projects.

2008 Memorial Service

The annual Kohima Memorial Service will be on Tuesday 29 April 2008 at York Minster. This will be followed by luncheon in Imphal Barracks. The calling letter to veterans and associates will be sent out early in the New Year.

Why Not a Legacy?

KET trustees find it heart-warming that so many of our supporters think long-term. The substantial part of our annual income now comes from standing orders, and from repeat donations in response to our Newsletters. Thinking even longer term, we are now suggesting that old and new contributors give some thought to the idea of putting legacies for KET in their wills. This could be done by adding codices to existing wills. It's not a complicated procedure, and we should be glad to advise anyone about what is involved. Any letters on this subject

2007 Christmas Card Handmade in Nagaland



We are pleased to say we have exclusive KET Christmas cards for sale. All the cards are handmade in Naga homes. All proceeds from the sale of these cards will go to educating Naga children. The cards come in packs of 5 each at £4.99p per pack. The cards will be available from 13th November onwards. If you would like to place an order the address is as follows: Mrs Lily Das, 44 Parlands, Great Linford, Milton Keynes, MK14 5DZ. Please make cheques payable to Kohima Educational Trust. Postage and packaging costs within the UK: For goods up to the value of £30 there is a £2.50 p&p charge
Between £30 and £100 = £5.00
Over £100 = £10.00
Overseas postage and packaging costs:
Up to £30 = £6.00
£30-£100 = £10.00
£100+ = £16.00

Website

Newsletter readers who keep an eye on our website will know it has not been updated recently. You will be delighted to learn that we are giving it a major facelift and will be ready to relaunch a newly designed and interactive site early in 2008.

should be addressed to the Secretary of KET, who will respond in complete confidence.

New KET Trustees

Phil Moore-Hemsley whose father was killed at Kohima, recently retired from a career in airline management and Nick Pinfield, a retired publisher whose father served in the Royal Indian Navy, have become Trustees of KET. Both are excited by the challenge and will work hard to fulfil the aims of the Trust.

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