

Volunteering Trip to Nepal

By Ellen Parfitt

I truly had the trip of a lifetime, being able to explore a new country, make new friends and most importantly giving back to the deaf community through activities with the deaf children and renovating the staff room for the teachers. I am thankful for everything; I have learnt so much from this experience. I am forever grateful, especially to The Mason Trust for their support for this trip.

Nepal was a very busy two-week trip, from the moment we arrived in Kathamandu it was a culture shock, meeting other volunteers and tasting the local cuisine. We stayed in Pokhara, another local city for the majority of our time, which was where the deaf school was based. We spent most days of the trip in the deaf school.

On arrival, we were greeted by the headmistress with a typical Nepali greeting, learnt about the school, which gave us a chance to ask questions about the students, subjects, government funding, deafness and the causes and it was so interesting. It is very different to English schools and was good to learn about different education systems.

We played games with the children from drama/expressive games to football and skipping. This gave us a chance to get to know the students, who were always happy and pleased to be around us.



I helped to run a painting art class with the younger children where we encouraged them to think creatively and paint a picture of something they liked, most of which were their families, nature and even us volunteers playing games with them at school! This let the teachers have a chance to catch up on lesson plans.

We learnt some Nepali sign language at the school which was very different to British sign language. IT was good to compare the two.

For the renovation project, we worked on the staffroom which was in much need of some care and attention. After removing all the furniture and picture frames, we sanded the wall and filled holes. The next few days were spent cleaning it and then painting the walls, ceilings and doors.





When we finished, we placed the furniture back neatly for the staff and seeing it come together was a lovely, rewarding feeling know we gave back to them. To see the smile on the teachers faces made it all worthwhile, they were forever grateful.

