

Collingwood gate staff despatch goods for relief in Nepal

# Mercy team cut through the red tape for charity

**M**EMBERS of the Military Provost Guard Service HMS Collingwood have expressed relief and delight that goods purchased for Nepal are finally on their way after months of being held up by red tape.

Corporal Mark Stanley and Private Chiran Kala used the £1,000 donated from the money raised at the 2015 Open Day to buy goods for Nepal where the MPGS personnel at the base are originally from.

They are supporting the HOPAD (Helpless, Orphan, Poor, Affected and Dalits) Child & Women Promotion Society. It is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to the cause of

aiding helpless women and children.

Cpl Stanley and his crew spoke to businesses in the area who were more than willing to help provide the equipment that was needed.

B&M, of Fareham, and Go Outdoors, Southampton, supplied cot beds, pots and pans, cutlery, sleeping bags alloy water bottles, educational books and equipment, hundreds of pens and pencils. A desktop computer was donated by PC World, with two boxes of toothpaste supplied by HMS Collingwood Dental Department — now all on its way to the Himalayan country.

“Receiving the cheque was fantastic and I know it will be appreciated im-



**PARCEL POSTING:** Corporal Mark Stanley, back left, Private Rai Bikram, bottom left, and Private Rai Lawahang with the items collected.

*Picture courtesy of Cpl Stanley*

mensely,” Cpl Stanley said. “I visited the HOPAD home in Nepal back in 2014 with my nine-year-old son John and Pte Kala, it was an eye-opener for my son.

“On our visit we took with us as many books, DVDs and stationary equipment as we could carry to give to the home, and Pte Kala organised a picnic of local hot food, drinks and sweets. “We spent an afternoon/evening with the children and my son helped hand out the food and goods.”

On getting these latest donations to the country, he said: “The hardest part of doing this was not getting the goods together but getting through the barriers of getting it all out there. I emailed

and spoke to every Gurhka/Nepalese charity in the UK and Nepal several times, to no avail. Pte Kala also made a lot of calls to Nepal and drew lots of blanks. Eventually we arrived back at square one with a Gurhka contact in Kathmandu who is prepared to receive the boxes and liaise with HOPAD when they arrive.”

The Open Day, held in June, is an annual event, attracting more than 8,000 people, who enjoy a variety of attractions in addition to the Field Gun Competition such as free funfair, Tigers motorcycle display team, tour of warship simulator and much more.

**Navy weightlifter Emma: Page 28**



**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

A family fun day celebrating  
Brunel Park Community School's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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2.00pm - 5.00pm  
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## Kids make a splash during novice gala

AFTER Fareham Nomads Swimming Club had a successful Hampshire County Championships earlier in the month, it was the turn of the less experienced swimmers at a novice gala on Saturday, February 27.

Swimmers from Hamble Aquatics, Wildern Waves, Gosport Dolphins and Everyone Active all made waves at the event at Fareham Leisure Centre.

Julie Loosemore, Fareham Nomads Swimming Club coach, said: “This is a great way to encourage swimmers who are new to competitive swimming and give them the chance to join in and have some fun.

“Along with the more traditional races, there were also some fun and games with rafts, balls and balancing hoops.”

Naithan Wrackmore, aged nine, from Fareham Nomads, said: “This was my first competition and I really loved it! I can't wait for the next one!”

Harry Summerton, aged seven, from

**‘The gala was really fun and my favourite race was pushing the ball with my arms’**

- Charlotte Sheldon



Hamble Aquatics said: “I loved taking part in the novice gala. It has inspired me to carry on swimming competitively and to never give up!”

Annabelle Mallam, from Hamble Aquatics, said: “It was fun. I like the ball race best!”

Louise Manson, from Wildern Waves, said: “I have been very nervous about competing but now love the galas!”

Charlotte Sheldon, also from Wildern Waves, said: “I was very nervous as this was my first gala but everyone was kind and friendly and I began to feel excited.

“The gala was really fun and my favourite race was pushing the ball with my arms.”

Fareham Nomads are also hosting a Schools Gala in June for primary schools in the Gosport and Fareham area.

If anybody is interested in attending the Schools Gala or joining Fareham Nomads, whatever age and ability, then please contact Julie Loosemore at [jl\\_fnscc@hotmail.com](mailto:jl_fnscc@hotmail.com).

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