

Hoddesdon to Himalayas

Over the past few months the Hoddesdon to Himalayas team (H2H) have attended many different events which will all help go towards our goal of reaching Everest base camp next march.

We are a group of 10 students from the John Warner School and Sheredes School, both in Hoddesdon. Next March we will be traveling to Nepal with the main objective being to walk to base camp on Mount Everest (5364m high). While we are there we will also be doing a project which will hopefully improve the lives of people in the local villages.



So far the rotary have organised some events where we have attended in order to, in some cases, help the running of the event and also help raise funds for the trip itself. Each student has also been tasked with raising £750 to contribute to the cost of the trek. This individual fundraising is currently ongoing for each student. The first event we attended was a charity football match between Hoddesdon Town FC and a Rotary selected eleven. Our rotary eleven included relatives of Rotarians and also some students going on the trip as well. Unfortunately our rotary eleven couldn't beat the Hoddesdon Town but however did manage to score a goal. That was more than what a lot of the crowd were expecting going into the break. Nevertheless both sides' efforts were remarkable, even when the game was buried both side fought on.



After this, at the rotary spring event, some of our team went along to the evening. They were asked to help hand out food to the Rotarians and talk to them about our trip. They also fundraised by collecting donations from generous Rotarians at the end of the evening which will go towards our overall total. The Rotarians also enjoyed a show throughout the night but thankfully it was not done by the H2H team so was of a better quality than what it would have been. Overall the evening was a

hit and we managed to raise a respectable amount to our fund which would have happened without the generous support of other Rotarians.



Before we all agreed to go on the expedition to base camp we were all under no illusion that the trek would be strenuous and we would need to be fit. So far there have been three walks, one a month, with the latter lasting for around three and a half hours. On our third training walk the students bonded more closely between the two schools to ensure that we are one team rather than two when we go on the expedition next march. The walk was approximately nine miles long and predominantly flat with only a few small uphill parts. In future walks we understand

that we will be factoring in more uphill stints and perhaps even going and climbing Mount Snowden in Wales. These walks alone are by no means enough to prepare us for the gruelling challenge which lies ahead of us so we are all expected to be walking in our spare time in hope that it will make us fitter and more prepared for the walk come March. So far participation of the walks on the students' behalf has been far from impressive. We are all looking to raise attendance as we all hope to be able to complete the trek next year. We have more walks planned in the near future where we hope all members going on the expedition can attend.

Each year in Ware there is an annual dragon boat race and this year we decided to enter a team of students. The team consisted of members of the group from Sheredes. The day did not start as planned but was perhaps more what was expected. As the day went on and the group had more practise and began paddling at the same speed as the others on the boat performance improved; so did results. They eventually finished third which was quite a remarkable achievement and the whole team was both shocked but pleased. It really managed to get the H2H name out there amongst the local community.

On the 15th of July the rotary also hosted a Virtual Horse Racing Night where people could bet on which horse they thought would win and hopefully get some return on what they paid to come. Each student going was tasked with selling ten tickets to the event and also selling each horse in a particular race itself. Most students managed to achieve this and four attended the night itself. Of those who went, all enjoyed the night and for many of us students it was the first 'race night' we had ever been to and were pleasantly surprised. We, like the other who went, enjoy a nice chicken and chips and, unlike some unlucky punters, we all managed to turn a profit. Overall the Hoddesdon Rotary managed to raise approximately £1500 which will go towards the expedition itself.

In the first three months we have done a fair amount together, but we have not been overwhelmed with events considering the fact that we have all been completing our GCSEs as well. Along with the above events our team has been split up into two smaller units, each with two John Warner students and three Sheredes students, one group focusing on fundraising and the other promotion. Each group has met three times and have created some small things to help both team's objectives. On the promotion team we have set up both a Twitter and Facebook page you are able to follow us on. (Twitter - @RotaryH2H and Facebook – Hoddesdon 2 Himalayas) We have also put together a presentation about the project which then can be used at specific events. We hope you enjoyed finding out about our ongoing project.