



Expedition Newsletter

Welcome to the Fourth of our regular news letters. If you discover anything of interest and want to share it (links, articles etc), let us know and we'll include it.

March's Meeting

What a great evening. I don't think I can ever recall you lot being so quiet for so long. Dr Piper certainly did us proud with his views on Nepal and what we can expect to see and do. Dr Piper has offered to come back nearer our departure and answer any questions parents may have and give us a list of "must do's".

Who can remember where the place to get the decent chips was? Or the place to get pizzas near Base Camp? With which hand should you spin the prayer wheels? Or which side of the path do you stand when a Yak wants to pass?

Hope the bit about Acute Mountain Sickness didn't put anyone off.

If the children in the mountain villages appreciate pens, pencils and crayons lets start collecting them now!

Downs Link Bike Ride

Details of the sponsored bike ride are now out. The ride is 50km each way along the Downs Link Cycle Way, with an overnight stop near Shoreham. Date of the Bike Ride is 15th/16th July 2006. The idea is for everyone to get sponsorship for completing the ride. We each donate 50% of our sponsorship money, up to a maximum of £20, to county for their charity fund and in return they will move our tents and kit plus supply dinner, breakfast and lunch for the return. Not a bad deal by my reckoning!

I think it would be a great way for us to raise some money for our trip, do a bit of team bonding and get fit at the same time.

Ripley Farmers Market

We've broken even already so any takings from now on is pure profit. The Rota is slowly filling up but there are still one or two of you hiding in the shadows hoping I won't notice!

It's only a couple of hours and now the cold wind has gone will be quite pleasant.

Next Market is Saturday 8th April

In Brief

Some Bad News: I have today spoken with both Scout HQ and The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme HQ and they will not allow the trek to Everest Base Camp to count for the D of E Gold expedition. They appreciate the severity of the challenge is over and above their requirements but the fact we are using local guides and porters and the route is predefined count against us.

It will still count for Queens Scout Award

We have our first official sponsor.

Chris Britton Consultancy have offered a donation towards the service aspect of our expedition.



News Spotlight

The Next Expedition team meeting will be held on **THURSDAY 25th May 2006** Venue to be confirmed Starting 19:30.

As we've been over running slightly at our last meetings I've brought the start time forward slightly so we can hopefully reduce waiting time for parents etc.

As the Easter holidays are with us there will be no April get together.

358 days to go and counting



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Mark Grubb has been doing a bit of research on those people who've trodden the path to Everest Base Camp before us.

Everest – The Ultimate Challenge

The First Expedition

Everest. Sagamatha. Chomolangma. The highest point on the earth's surface has long been an irresistible challenge to climbers and mountaineers and one that has proved fatal to so many.

The first expedition to attempt to conquer the mightiest peak was not undertaken until after the First World War. George Mallory, a talented English climber, led a reconnaissance mission to Everest in the summer of 1921. Their objective: to survey the area and identify a suitable route for an attempt to scale the mountain. They found treacherous glaciers, steep ridges, fantastic precipices and extreme conditions.

Mallory returned the following year as part of a full expedition team comprising a dozen companions who trekked across the Tibetan plateau with all their stores carried by 100 coolie porters. Their equipment was primitive. Climbing kit consisted of tweeds, puttees, stout leather boots and that quintessential item of a colonial Englishman's wardrobe, the pith helmet. Their rations were equally bizarre by modern standards, including tins of Heinz spaghetti and quails truffled in pâté de foie gras! The most important items, though, were their oxygen breathing equipment. Although it was heavy, delicate and unreliable, Mallory knew enough about high altitude mountaineering to understand that oxygen could mean the difference between success and failure, life and death.



The team's first attempt on the summit almost ended in catastrophe when three of the climbers fell and were only held by Mallory's rope. A second attempt was made by the accomplished climber George Finch, an inexperienced British army officer called Geoffrey Bruce and his regimental aide, Tejbir Bura. Their climb went well until they encountered terrible weather. They made camp at 25,500' on the North-East Ridge. Here they endured temperatures well below zero and gale force winds that constantly threatened to blast them inside their tent over the North Face onto the Rongbuk Glacier 4000' below. When the weather finally eased they climbed on towards the summit and reached 27,300' where an accident damaging Bruce's oxygen system ended their attempt less than half a mile from their objective. Exhausted and weak from hunger they

retraced their route back down the mountain having set a new climbing altitude record. The mountain remained unconquered.

Ref. Everest: Eighty Years of Triumph and Tragedy, Ed. Peter Gillman