

# The Suburb enjoys the snow

The snow fall on Sunday 24th January transformed the Heath Extension, Central Square and the woods from muddy bogs into winter wonderlands for a couple of magical days.

Delighted children and adults alike were drawn outside, despite the cold, to make snowmen, throw snowballs and toboggan. It was a small respite from the

gloomy days of lockdown when things almost felt a bit normal. Some very talented residents made the most of it by creating their own ice sculptures. In true Banksy style, ice sculptures popped up overnight. There was the beautiful ice woman who sat demurely crossed-legged on her bench in Meadway Court, the startling ice man with an

impressive six pack on the Heath Extension, the impressive igloo in Waterlow Court made by compressing snow into blocks (the authentic way!) and, of course, many wonderful snowmen.

Thank you residents for all the wonderful photographs. We couldn't print them all but here are a few...

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY



DAVID LEDERMAN



BEVERLEY TAYLOR



MICHAEL ELLERTHADES



BEVERLEY TAYLOR



MICHAEL ELLERTHADES

## Trek to Rome for Kidasha

All being well, I will embark on a virtual trek to Rome on 1st March to raise money for Nepal children's charity Kidasha, of which I once was Chairman. I have been shielding from Covid at home since March 2020 and will walk 12,250 laps of a secluded field behind my home to complete the 1,111 miles from the Suburb to St Peter's Basilica in Rome (a bit less than the distance from Mumbai to Kathmandu). I will follow the traditional pilgrimage route and post updates as I go.

The funds raised from my trek will go to support Kidasha's

efforts to improve the lives of children and young people growing up in chronic poverty in Nepal, lives that risk being devastated by the wider impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The charity aims to mitigate the impact on children of the widespread loss of family income by helping them to return to schools when they re-open and protecting them from the risks of being forced into child marriage, being exploited into work or being compelled live on the street (most often to avoid abuse and/or ease the economic burden on their families).

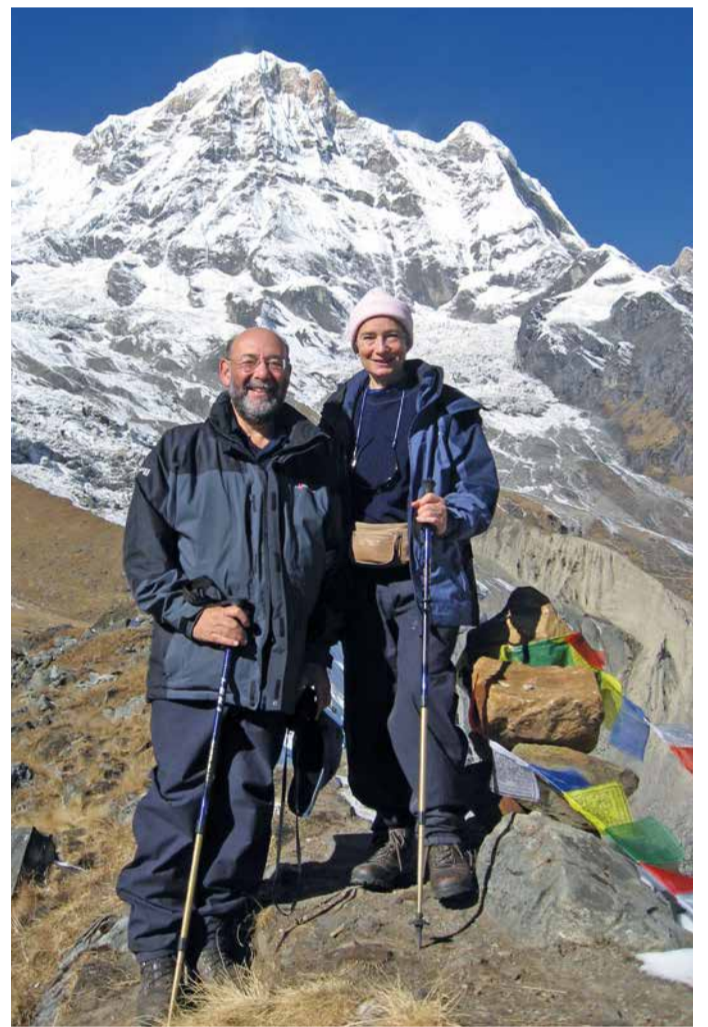
Severe restrictions on going out, which are very strictly enforced in Nepal, are particularly harsh for the children who very often live in substandard, overcrowded and tiny accommodation and have little or no access to internet learning, hospitals and healthcare generally.

Having made many treks through the Himalayas and other places with my wife Ruth in aid of Kidasha over the last 15 years – including to Annapurna and Everest Base Camps in 2006 and 2008 – I had been searching for a new way to give my support to this enterprise during the

pandemic. Whilst shielding, I decided to challenge myself by boosting my walking efforts – both as a means of exercise and fundraising for charity. Between April and December 2020, I completed over 7,000 laps of the field behind my home, the equivalent of the distance from Golders Green to John O'Groats. At the same rate, the new trek will take 14 months, but, allowing for the field to be flooded for 3 months (as it was this winter), I aim to finish by September 2022. I was forced to delay starting this trek by two months by a bout of pneumonia over Christmas, but I hope completing this challenge will encourage others to continue supporting Kidasha and other charities in 2021 in any way they can.

I would hate for the pandemic to get in the way of my support reaching those children and young people who so desperately need our help – but I shall, of course, miss all the cheese and wine (and mountains) I'd be enjoying on my progress through France and Italy if I were able to do this on the ground!

I've been fortunate to visit Nepal many times, and have witnessed first-hand the critical work the charity does to provide vulnerable young people with an opportunity of a better future. Amidst the renewed crisis the pandemic has brought to the region (after the earthquakes of 2015), the harsh winter months



Myke & Ruth Jacobs at Annapurna Base Camp, 2006

are bringing further turmoil to those already navigating a very difficult life. I hope that my local community will join me in providing the funds needed to overcome poverty and need in this, the second poorest country in Asia (by GDP per capita). Read about the great work Kidasha

does preventing neglect, abuse and exploitation of disadvantaged, working and street children in Nepal - [www.kidasha.org](http://www.kidasha.org). If you wish to donate please go to my fund-raising page at: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MichaelJacobs14>.

MICHAEL JACOBS

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