

## **The Burnaby Blue Foundation**

### **Lesotho**

The Burnaby Blue Foundation (BBF) has joined forces with the latest Burnaby Blue expedition to allow expedition members to deliver a unique charitable project that will be carried out in Lesotho in partnership with Sentebale. The time and manpower provided by the soldiers, combined with £16,800 from the charity, will help deliver a significant part of the ongoing development work at the Thuso orphanage which will include building part of the perimeter fence, renovation of buildings and providing disabled access. As well as Lesotho, the areas BBF works in are:

### **Azerbaijan**

This is where the majority of BBF's work has taken place. Over the past 6 years the charity has been a major contributor to the rebuilding of the main children's orphanage in Saray, in the outskirts of Baku. It has also worked in a number of other state institutions within the country and carried out a large number of projects including the rebuilding of rooms, building lift shafts, rebuilding roofs, supplying wheelchairs, repairing boilers and providing classrooms.

### **Kenya**

BBF has recently started a partnership with an organisation called Kapado in Turkana in northern Kenya. The northern reaches of Kenya are not easily accessible and do not receive much from the government particularly in terms of education and investment for the future. The area of Kataboi has one primary school for almost 12,000 children. BBF is currently building a nursery school to try and bridge the education gap, and once completed the aim is to build a further four and then develop the provision of a secondary school.

### **Background to the Burnaby Blue Foundation**

The BBF was formed in 2002 by Sacha Tomes, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Blues and Royals, who devised and led the original Burnaby Blue expedition by the Household Cavalry. The expedition was inspired by the Victorian army officer and adventurer Frederick Gustavus Burnaby and intended to follow in his footsteps to Khiva in modern day Uzbekistan. For a variety of reasons travel to Uzbekistan proved impossible, but in their eight Land Rovers the team drove from London to Azerbaijan. The expedition undertook a number of humanitarian projects en route, most specifically renovating orphanages in Romania and Azerbaijan. The work in Azerbaijan was undoubtedly the most harrowing and directly inspired the charity's subsequent formation.

The BBF has now raised almost £125,000 that has been directly invested into projects for orphanages and schools both in Azerbaijan and, more recently, Kenya to better the lives of those children so desperately in need. The Lesotho project will give the BBF an exciting new area of interest that is completely in the spirit of the charity's mission.

The BBF works through personally known individuals who live in the respective countries that the charity operates in. BBF prides itself on putting almost all of its money directly into projects with the only exception being occasional flights; all other expenses and requirements are absorbed by the trustees and all work is done on whoever's kitchen table is nearest! It concentrates primarily on infrastructure work with a view to delivering physical and sustainable deliverables that cannot be taken away or misused.

### **The Future**

All BBF projects require a long term involvement and the charity will continue to fundraise against these current projects for the foreseeable future.