

# TRUST FUND REPORT

The OM Society has a small fund to assist young OMs, fundamentally those seeking 'to do good deeds' in third world countries or elsewhere under the auspices of responsible organisations. It is not available for extension of educational studies.

## Everest 4 Heroes

Beth Hall-Thompson (1993-95; Chindit)

**G**ood food, wine and company bred an outrageous idea that was not discussed the following day. Yet it lingered in the subconscious of a group of climbing friends: why not combine two passions – a quest to raise money for Help for Heroes and taking on a mountain challenge like no other, Everest. Everest4Heroes was subsequently born on another rainy day in the Lake District.

We are a team of serving and ex military personnel lucky enough to have met through army climbing, and are still keen and able to climb. Our objective is to raise awareness, and more importantly, money for Help for Heroes, via a sponsored attempt on Everest's notoriously difficult north ridge route (Tibet) in Spring 2012. Our venture differs as it is being undertaken by relative novices who will be responsible for the whole expedition: from fundraising, planning, training and equipment issues, to the actual summit attempt using the experience gained over more than 160 years cumulative uniformed service around the world. Fingers also remain crossed for a good dollop of fine weather and the mountain god's blessings. The website [www.everest4heroes.com](http://www.everest4heroes.com) was launched to 'sell' feet of the mountain, or sponsorship of each of the high mountain camps, or indeed the summit. Team members lead various charity challenges around the country:

national or Yorkshire three peaks, coast to coast, or London to Paris cycle rides either on request or preset dates. See [www.impadventures.com](http://www.impadventures.com)

I am trained for deployment to the British Forces Hospital in Afghanistan, being privileged to see the wounded at their most vulnerable stage, where care is of the highest standard and priority. The field hospital, the casualty evacuation aircraft, the shared NHS military hospital in Birmingham and the rehabilitation facility at Headley Court are all world-class, but there does come a time when the 'recovered' have to move on; it is this time when monies donated to 'Help for Heroes' is so vital. Having previously volunteered as a doctor at a clinic on the Everest route, I know what we are up against:

altitude, cold, wind and the sheer physical determination required to put one foot in front of another against these odds. But strength does come from remembering the cause, and recognising the greater challenges faced too often by our soldiers who are forced to work through rehabilitation after serious injury.

Have a look at the website sometime. It details the story so far: the team, from training undertaken to equipment donated and monies raised. Any and all help from the individual to the company is greatly appreciated, and will be judiciously used. And for the next few months at least, I shall be a captive audience for emails! [beth@everest4heroes.com](mailto:beth@everest4heroes.com)

