

Shimshal Trust Newsletter

July 2014

Dear friends and supporters

1. This year the Muslim community in Wellington raised a large amount of money for two young people from Shimshal. This was a generous and rapid response to requests for help from the fathers of Azhar-U-Din, who is 12 and has leukemia, and Ariba, who is around four and needs a cochlear implant. Azhar's treatment is ongoing, but Ariba's operation has been delayed. We are monitoring progress of both young people and wish them all the best for improved health.

2. Meanwhile Shenaz, who two years ago had an operation for which we arranged payment, apparently needs two more operations. We are currently trying to find out the circumstances of this new requirement, and are trying to keep in touch with Shenaz to see how she is dealing with this new health problem.



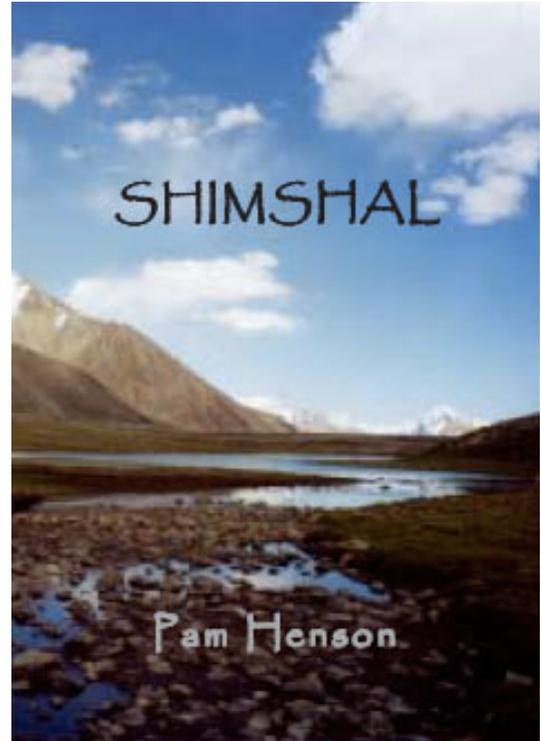
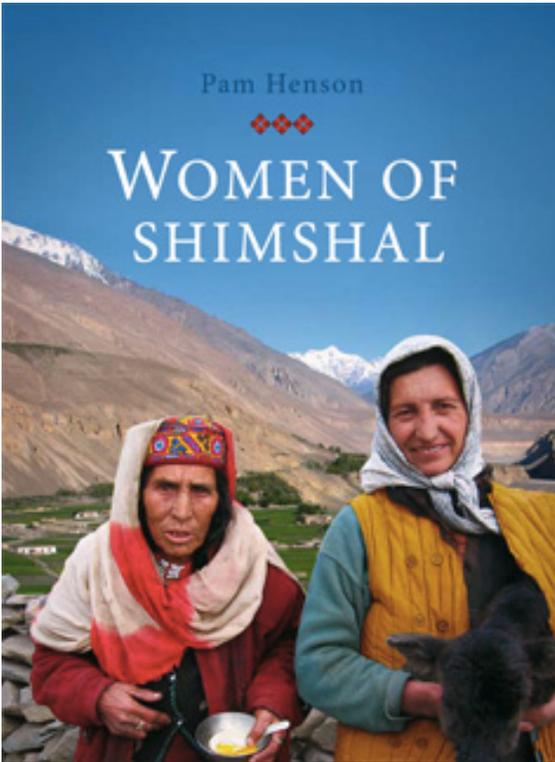
3. We ran a Shimshal Trust stall again at the World of Music and Dance (WOMAD) festival again. With the help of ten volunteers we raised around \$700, signed up more people on our supporters list, and raised awareness about the people of Shimshal and the scholarships we've awarded. We raffled a beautiful quilt made by one of our supporters, Marguerite Fahy, and sold Pakistani jewellery, hats and scarves.

4. We are about to start a new scholarship round. This involves checking that the application form is still current and says what we want it to say. We send it out by mail and email to as many people as we can, including students and schools in the village and students from Shimshal who live down country.

5. The Shimshal Trust has a Facebook page (Shimshal Trust) which gives up to date information about our projects and sometimes carries classified advertisements which have a direct bearing on the aims of the Trust. Our website is now out of date but payments (Paypal) can still be made via the website for books and donations. <http://www.shimshaltrust.org.nz/>



6. We have copies of both books: *Shimshal* (\$30) and *Woman of Shimshal* (\$15). These can be ordered from me by email or through the website. There's a small charge for postage. The books are readable and informative, and all the proceeds go directly to the scholarship fund.



Women of Shimshal is a fascinating collection of autobiographical tales told by the women of Shimshal, in the remote Karakoram mountains. On the north eastern border of Pakistan, far from the fanaticism of extreme sects, the women of Shimshal lead peaceful lives of extreme hardship and good humoured tolerance.

Shimshal. In 2000, Pam Henson took up a teaching position in Pakistan, in a village three days' walk from the nearest road and vastly removed from any kind of life she had experienced ~ this was Shimshal. Working in one of the world's most remote regions, among pragmatic Ismaili muslims, amorous adventure guides, alpine politicians, and all those working for their village's future, Henson chronicles her adventure with a teacher's humour and a convert's fondness. Shimshal is a unique record: a place to which few have had access, a time that is passing, a way of life changing.

7. We depend on the generosity of our supporters to raise the funds we need for scholarships. Most of our money is raised by automatic payments, one-off events and donations.

If you would like to make a donation or begin an automatic payment, please let me know.

Our bank account is in kiwibank.

Account name:

SHIMSHAL TRUST

Account number:

38-9001-0596230-01

8. At present the Trust board members are

Pam Henson. Liz Thomas. Jo Washbourn. Matt Grant. Brenda Kaye. Kim Penny.

We meet every two months. As we are spread about, some of us meet by skype. We are always looking for new board members. Anyone can attend a meeting if they want to see how they go.

Thank you all for your interest and support.

Pam Henson, secretary, the Shimshal Trust.