

## The Queen's Golden Jubilee Award For voluntary service in the community 2012

I take great pleasure in reporting that Maddhat Shamuha has been honoured by Her Majesty the Queen in conferring on us this most prestigious award in recognition of our, I quote, "outstanding voluntary work in the community".

Miss Amanda Lee and I formerly received the award from Dame Mary Fagan the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire at a ceremony held at our usual meeting place in Farnborough on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

The ceremony was attended by all members of Maddhat Shamuha who could make the day, Farnborough's Deputy Mayor, representatives of the Local Authority and many appropriate charitable organisations without whose constant generous support we could not achieve the half of what we wish for our community.

The Lord Lieutenant was greeted on arrival by myself and Miss Amanda Lee and we then introduced her to Mr Purna Gurung, Mrs Gopi Gurung, Capt. (retired) Hari Thapa, Mr Ram Gurung and Miss Radha Thapa.

The Presentation was a moving experience in itself especially for me with the kind words of Amanda in her speech in which she greatly honoured me by giving the Lord Lieutenant and assembled guests an account of my work for Maddhat Shamuha. You can be sure that I returned the honour in my speech by speaking of the great work Amanda does for us.

Miss Radha Thapa gave a presentation on the work of Maddhat Shamuha, for which I must particularly record our gratitude. There followed a short performance by members of the Group:

Capt.(retired) Bir Bahadur Thapa spoke briefly and then sang delightfully for us; the Ladies' Group, Mrs Ponma Gurung, Mrs Nar Maya Thapa, Mrs Durga Gurung and Mrs Damar Kumari Gurung gave us a Nepalese cultural dance. All of which was well received. They all deserve our gratitude for contributing so well to the occasion.

In her speech, the Lord Lieutenant showed a great understanding of the needs of our community and how Maddhat Shamuha answers those needs. She was most complimentary about our Country of Nepal and its' people and culture.

May I thank all who contributed to this wonderful occasion: those who directed parking outside in the cold; the welcoming deputation; those who cooked the delicious food; who organised the hall and who served the refreshments. As always, we are grateful for the attendance of representatives of the News Media: Mr Milan Tamu took the photographs.

The occasion was a great success. We all know how important is our work for the community and we do gain great satisfaction from our service but it is wonderful and inspiring to find that our work is recognised at the highest level by the country that has adopted and welcomed us.