

## A TRIP TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT

The Maddhat Shamuha (Nepalese Help) organisation is multi community organisation. The Organisation mission is for the benefit of people of Nepalese origin now settling and living in the UK in particular to work towards their integration into main stream society and to assist them adapt to their communities. Ever since the establishment of the organisation in April 2008 with six members amazingly there are more than one thousand members now. There are twenty five Area Representatives from the existing members for the smooth running of the organisation under the supervision of the two co-founders Miss Amanda Lee and Mr Kamal Purja. Maddhat Shamuha was awarded "MBE" in 2012 on auspicious occasion of Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



The Representatives have been doing excellent work during the past few years. For the thanksgiving for their dedication a free trip to Isle of Wight was organised by the kind courtesy of Miss Amanda Lee and Mr Kamal Purja for them. A fifty seated luxury coach was arranged and fortunately some other members who closely worked with the Representatives were also invited for the trip. They were so eager to visit the beautiful island.

On Wednesday, 13 August 2014 at 0815 am a 50 seated coach collected some members from outside the sixth form college Farnborough and then some were collected from Princes Theatre, Aldershot at 0840 am and the bus headed towards Eastleigh. The coach arrived at Eastleigh and collected remaining members then headed towards Southampton at 1015 am. The coach arrived at the Red Funnel ferry pier of Southampton at 1035 am for the final destination of the trip.

Exactly at 11 am the gate of ferry pier opened and all the vehicles drove onto the ferry. This reminded us of those who were in Hong Kong and had journeys in the ferry from Kowloon to Hong Kong island. The ferry here is quite large in size and it has several luxury decks to entertain passengers with bars and restaurants and even buffet foods facilities. The ferry sailed at around 1120 am. We had very interesting fifty minutes time going around the decks having drinks, chatting and watching delightful sea horizon. Our friends enjoyed taking photographs on the upper deck.



At around 12 noon we reached East Cowes pier of the Isle of Wight. As our coach commenced journey round the island we came to know there are at least 63 places of attraction on the island. We were so overwhelmed to visit this beautiful island unfortunately owing to lack of time we were unable to cover all the spots. Fortunately our coach driver had vast knowledge of the island so he gave brief descriptions of the places we passed by through the interpretation of our most valuable member Mr Kamal Purja. We stopped at the East coast resort of Shanklin Chine on the Esplanade for our picnic. We all shared foods brought from homes and enjoyed the beautiful sunshine environment and danced to the music of our own by kind courtesy of Mrs Dhankumari Gurung and Mr Tekbahadur Gurung. The beauty of this seashore is so close to the entertainment arena, restaurants, hotels and breathtaking cliff hotels. Before we left this beautiful spot at 3 pm we presented with khadas (scarf) and a token small tip to our tour guide cum driver and of course khadas to two aged British ladies who shared a lovely time chatting with us and some nice group photographs were taken at last.

We arrived at Alum Bay Glass and the Needles Park at about 3.30pm. The Needles Park is one of the Isle of Wight's best value family attractions, with world famous coloured sand cliff that overlooks the island's most famous landmark - The Needles Rocks and Light House.

We unfortunately could not include in our day perhaps two outstanding visitor attractions: Osborne House and Carisbrooke Castle. Osborne House was Queen Victoria's well loved country home and is where she died. It is packed full of wonderful furnishing and mementos of her family, her children and Prince Albert. Carisbrooke Castle is well preserved and is particularly famous for being the place where Oliver Cromwell locked up King Charles The First at the end of the English Civil War before taking him to London to put him on trial and then behead him.

Perhaps we will take a group to one or both of those two attractions another time.



We found the island so unspoiled, well preserved and maintained. It is so enchanting and has lots of attractions of many kinds for all ages. It is quite amusing to see a steam locomotive railway service in some parts of the island. The island is all ups and downs, its' land has its' beauty where typical English houses are inviting to lovers of calm and peacefulness. It is so isolated and pollution free without

hordes of human and vehicle traffic. The bus service is in effect for the locals and visitors. From any body's view the place is an inspiration of author or poet.

Time and tide await nobody, so we had to go back where we came from. Eventually we arrived at Cowes ferry pier and boarded the ferry at 5.30pm. Our trip was so memorable but not to mention we missed our main organiser Miss Amanda Lee on the trip owing to her heavy commitment in the Council. However we were honoured to have the company of her parents with us. We reached Red Funnel Southampton at around 6.30pm. We made our journey back to Eastleigh, Farnborough and at last Aldershot by around 8pm. We have so many things to explore in the island in the sense, to know and see in future visit. We are honestly very happy to serve Maddhat Shamuha and last but not least, our vote of thanks to Miss Amanda Lee and Mr Kamal Purja for their token of thanksgiving.

BIRBAHADUR THAPA Capt (rtd.)