

**MADDHAT SHAMUHA AND EASTLEIGH GURKHA
NEPALESE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL VISIT TO THE
GURKHA MUSEUM, WINCHESTER AND SIR
HAROLD HILLIER GARDENS, ROMSEY, SATURDAY,
24TH MAY 2014.**



Our annual outing was a yet greater success this year as the numbers of attendees from all over the country increased yet again.

As organiser, I worried about the weather, about the numbers who might attend, about all the details of transport and organisation of the groups from so wide an area. But it does seem that when you honestly wish to do good things for your community, God bestows His blessing on your efforts.

On Saturday, while rain and even hail fell on much of the country, Winchester and Romsey enjoyed sunshine and warmth.



At the Museum, Col. A L Bridger OBE, a Trustee of the Museum Charity, and the Curator and his staff were kindness itself and handled the large numbers of visitors with expertise and friendliness so that everyone gained from the visit. A special word for Mr Megh Bahadur Rai who guided and led the transport from the Museum to the Gardens and undertook to collect the voluntary donations of our groups and saw to the distribution of visitor pass stickers. I was able to rely on him to keep our organisation running smoothly. Without his help my role would have been very difficult. He always helps us so much every year. Words cannot express my gratitude to him.

At the Museum, we were joined by Mr Gerry Musgrove, Chairman of the Mountbatten Branch of the Royal British Legion and by Mr



Mike Briggs, Chairman of the Farnborough Branch and his wife.



At the Gardens, Mr Wolfgang Bopp, the Director, and his staff excelled themselves in the warmth of their welcome, making everyone feel a privileged visitor. The Gardens were at their best for us with our national flower, the rhododendron in full bloom and delighting us all. The Gardens are rightly famous for the wonderful and extensive world-wide collection of our beautiful flowering tree.





We were joined once again by the Naumati Baja, Nepalese traditional village Band, although they arrived after our tour had begun, thanks to a breakdown of their mini bus, but still in good time to lead our procession around the Gardens.



Cllr Roy Perry, Leader of Hampshire County Council also arrived after we had started out but it was a delight to welcome

him when he joined us at the ornamental lake in the centre of the Gardens.

We somehow managed to not lose any of our party in the course of our tour and tired but enchanted by the beauty of the Gardens, we all gathered to end the Day with a picnic with song and dance.



Now my gratitude to those who were so very helpful to me in the organising of our day. I shudder to think how I would have managed without their contributions.

My thanks go to Capt.Umesh Pun MVO who organised our Colchester contingent; from Maddhat Shamuha, Aldershot, Farnborough and Camberly, Mr Budhi Bahadur Gurung and Mr Kamal Mala; Basingstoke's group was organised by Mrs Regina Subba; Warminster and Swindon contingent was organised by Mr Ek Pun; Winchester by Mr Ganga Bahadur Lama and Mr Megh Bahadur Rai and Eastleigh was organised by Mr Raman Sing Thapa, Chairman of Eastleigh Gurkha Nepalese

Association, ably assisted by Mr Allan Cooke and by Maj. Angela Burrow.



On behalf of all who enjoyed the Day, I thank the Gurkha Museum and the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens Trustee, Curator, Director and staffs for making our day so very enjoyable and a lasting memory.



Pleasant as it was, the Day, with its' activities, is so much more than a pleasure outing. Our aims as Maddat Shamuha,

Eastleigh Gurkha Nepalese Association and all others organisations in the UK reach beyond self help and entertainment: we seek to educate ourselves, both young and old; to work towards the closest and most beneficial integration with the society of the great country we have come to think of as home. We want to be regarded as citizens of the UK,

as interested as all others in the growth and development of our country. We want to contribute to our country and show our love and respect for the people with whom we now share our lives. Within our ranks, we have those who are beginning to need greater care: the old, the frail the mentally or physically ill. And, of course our young people growing up in a new world who might so easily lose the knowledge of our Nepalese heritage and Culture. Our Museum and Gardens Day answers all this.

We must all thank the Nepalese Band for their wonderful contribution to our procession round the Gardens and at the picnic afterwards.



As always, Mr Dharma Raj Adhikary of Nepalese Television was there to record the event and transmit our contribution to the Nepalese community to the World. He never lets us down and so gives us all great encouragement in what we try to achieve.

Last but certainly not least, let me thank everyone who turned up for the Day. Your attendance makes our work worthwhile.



Next year marks the 200th anniversary of Gurkha service with the British Army and is a year deserving of conspicuous commemoration. I want our Museum and Gardens Day to provide a special remembrance occasion to all Gurkhas who have given their lives in service to Great Britain.



By Kamal Bahadur Purja
Co-founder and co-chairman of Maddhat Shamuha