

THE BRITAIN-NEPAL SOCIETY

Journal

Number 40

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EDITORIAL

Firstly I must apologise to members for the late publishing of this edition of the journal.

I have been more than usually dilatory and circumstances beyond my control have also played some part. I have tried to reflect that 2016 was designated 'Nepal 200' in the selection of articles and I thank sincerely the contributors who have covered this aspect. In terms of thanks I also wish to pass on my thanks to BP Joshi for his efforts and to the firms that have once again responded to support the journal. I am particularly pleased to be able to include as a keynote piece Dr Chalise's comprehensive paper on 200 years of Anglo-Nepal relations. This has been well researched as the footnotes clearly demonstrate, and serves as a good record as friendship between two very different nations developed over time. I have been able to include the text of Greg Hickman's lecture on the Shahs and Ranas, given to the Society in November 2016, which was also very apposite as it shows many connections, not all of which we were possibly aware. That there is now a well established Nepali Diaspora in UK (a population of some 80,000 - 100,000) is well illustrated by Dr CK Laksamba's paper given at the Britain Nepal Academic Council study day in Liverpool in April 2016. It reflects considerable research by him and his colleagues. Unsurprisingly many Nepalese have established themselves in locations where British Gurkha soldiers have settled following their military service. Among the events scheduled in 2016 was the Nepal v MCC match at Lords. Nepal won due to some good spin bowling by

their team. The match was very well supported by Nepalese living in London and close by, as some 5,000 were admitted. This is well above the support normally afforded to such events. Robin Marston recalls the early days of trekking which was pioneered by Col Jimmy Roberts in 1965. The unfortunate earthquake of 2015 put paid to the attempt by the Gurkha Everest Expedition. The plan had been to have a Gurkha soldier as a summiteer in 2015. Sadly this was not to be as the earthquake had a strong effect in the Everest base camp area. Luckily most of the team were above the base camp at Camps 1 & 2. Major Todd describes events as the Gurkha team were able to get back to base and help with rescue operations. Wildlife conservation has also played a good part in recent Anglo-Nepal co-operation, although from the time of Brian Houghton Hodgson's residency in the early nineteenth century and before that of Buchanon-Hamilton's botanical studies, there was a strong interest in the natural science of the region. To mark this, the Zoological Society of London held a conservation and biodiversity symposium in April at their London HQ. I have included brief notes on the topics covered. I have also included the text of the talk by Craig Holliday on Wateraid in Nepal. Also to mark both the 2015 and 2016 anniversaries, I have re-published the review of the in-depth book by John Pemble - *'Britain's Gurkha War – the Invasion of Nepal 1814 – 16*. Books reviewed include Col Dickenson's *A Yak in the Fridge*, a biography by our Treasurer, Rupert Litherland, of the late Major General Bunny Burnett and Major General

Chris Lawrence's *The Gurkhas - 200 Years of Service to the Crown*. As usual the Society has lost a number of members during the year as listed by the Chairman. I have included obituaries where possible and I have also included pieces on Chuck McDougal the well-known tiger

conservationist, who members may well remember from early visits to Tiger Tops and the academic, Professor David Snellgrove, whose books resulted from early studies of remote regions of Nepal that border Tibet.

DISCLAIMER

Responsibility for opinions expressed in articles and reviews published and the accuracy of statements contained therein rest solely with the individual contributors.

THE SOCIETY'S NEWS

(This is an edited version of the Chairman's report delivered at the AGM on 2nd December 2016)

The Chairman opened the meeting by formally welcoming the new Nepalese Ambassador, His Excellency Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi to the UK and to the Society. Since his arrival Dr Subedi had a busy schedule culminating on 1st December in the magnificent occasion of the presentation of his letters of Credence to The Queen at Buckingham Palace followed by a splendid celebration here at the Embassy. The Chairman pointed out that this meeting was Dr Subedi's first official event as Ambassador and thanked him for permitting the Society to hold the AGM in such impressive surroundings. Dr Subedi comes to London with a glittering CV. Prior to his appointment to London he has held a number of senior positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kathmandu and has also held diplomatic appointments in Bahrain, Japan, the United Nations and Myanmar. He has participated in numerous official visits and international conferences notably in the USA, Europe and India. He is also a distinguished academic and poet with numerous publications and awards to his name. Amongst other things he has published collections of essays and verse and has edited *The Journal of Nepalese Art, Culture and Literature* and the *International Journal of Nepalese Literature*. I know that he is planning to add to this impressive list of publications during his time in London. It will be evident from all this that His Excellency is a man of very considerable distinction and we are lucky to have him in London for the next few years. I have already had the opportunity to meet with his Excellency on a number of occasions and I know that he will be most enthusiastic

about and supportive of the activities of the Britain-Nepal Society. The Society very much looks forward to working closely with him. Before asking Dr Subedi to say a few words, the Chairman presented Dr Subedi with the Society's tie and wished him and his wife a very happy and rewarding stay in London.

Quite apart from Dr Subedi's appointment there has been much change at the Embassy during the year. Other new arrivals include Mr Sharad Raj Aran as Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr Bhupendra Prasad Ghimire, Third Secretary and Mr Tejendra Regmi, Attaché and the new Secretary, Urmila. He hoped all would have happy and successful stays in London. The Society bade farewell to Mr Tej Bahadur Chhetri, who had been both DCM and Chargé d'Affaires during his time in London and who had done so much to support the Society during the interregnum, and to Mr Babukaji Dongol, Third Secretary.

The Chairman pointed out that in his last two reports he had had cause to refer to tragic events in Nepal – the mountaineering disasters on Everest and the Thorung La in 2014 and the dreadful earthquakes in 2015. Thankfully this year there have been no disasters on this scale. The work of restoration has gone on in Nepal though inevitably it has tended to slip from the public gaze. It is really important that we continue to keep the suffering of the people of Nepal at the forefront of our minds and to help in whatever way we can. In this context it was inspiring to hear from Professor Robin Coningham of his work with UNESCO's restoration programme in Kathmandu at a recent evening lecture.

Last year also saw the adoption of the new constitution and it is hoped that progress will continue to be made towards an ever more settled polity. We are privileged, once again, to have with us tonight the Ambassador's namesake Professor Surya Subedi, who will talk to us at the end of official business about political and constitutional developments in Nepal. No doubt he will steer us through the challenges still facing the politicians and report on some of their successes thus far. It is customary at this stage of the meeting to reflect for a moment on the lives of those members of the Society whose deaths have been reported during the year. We think of Lord Chorley, Alan Durston, a former Treasurer, Dick Jenkins, Lt-Colonel John Roberts, a former Vice-Chairman, Brigadier Tony Taggart, a former Chairman and Vice-President and Colonel Terence White. May I ask you to stand for a moment's silence?

On a more cheerful note, our programme of events during the year followed its usual pattern with some interesting additions. A well-attended Annual Supper was once again held at St Columba's Church Hall Pont Street with recent UK ambassador to Nepal, Andy Sparkes, giving a most entertaining and informative speech. In addition to the talks already mentioned we were given a fascinating virtual tour from Ladakh to Bhutan by Zara Fleming a widely travelled expert in Buddhism. Both this lecture and that of Professor Robin Coningham were attended by larger numbers of members than we have had for some time. Long may this continue. Sadly, a talk by Maggie Burgess on the work of Leprosy Promise, a medical charity working in particular but not exclusively with leprosy in Nepal had to be postponed for family reasons.

We hope to re-schedule it as soon as possible. Exciting firsts (or firsts for some time) included a showing of *Mahout*, a film describing Tim Edwards's relocation of four elephants from Chitwan to Bardia. In July a small group of members went to Lords for the first ever Nepal-UK test match won by the visitors to the delight of the estimated 5000 strong Nepal supporters. I doubt whether MCC members in the Long Room had witnessed the like of it before.

The weather was glorious, the atmosphere cheerfully noisy, a great time was had by all and there was a lavish party in the Long Room in the evening. The match was to a large extent the brainchild of Society member Prashant Kunwar. Then in October, courtesy of Mahanta Shrestha, some 15 members and guests attended a thoroughly enjoyable jazz and curry evening at Monty's restaurant in Fulham.

As you will gather we are doing what we can to extend the scope of our activities in order to attract an ever-widening range of participants. Any suggestions or wishes that you may have will be most gratefully received.



Col John Swanston & Andy Sparkes.

Looking ahead, the Annual Supper will take place as usual at St Columba's on Thursday 16th February. The Guest of Honour and principal speaker will be Lisa Choegyál whom many of you will know as an iconic figure in Kathmandu. I have no doubt that her reflections on 40 years of living in Nepal will be fascinating and entertaining. Next year's lecture programme focuses on mountains and mountaineering. In May we will hear from Nick Kershaw on the work of *Impact Marathon in Nepal*. Nick pioneered the concept of using marathon running in amazing mountain locations around the world to raise money for local charities. The Nepal Marathon took place last week. In October Everest summiteer Geoffrey Stanford will reflect on *Lessons from Everest*. Finally, in November Doc McKerr will tell us about *The Great Himalayan Trail* a 1200 mile continuous Himalayan traverse which Doc has helped to develop. He has also recently been making films in Nepal with the aim of encouraging the growth of tourism to Nepal. As mentioned earlier, numbers for the talks have been growing recently so please help us to maintain and increase this trend. Guests are always most welcome. Inevitably perhaps we have not achieved this year all we set out to accomplish. It was very disappointing to have to abandon plans for a Society visit to Nepal last spring and there was insufficient appetite for a postponement to the autumn. Another time perhaps?

As yet we have not capitalised on Ashley Adams' outstanding schools initiative of last year. However, there are the stirrings of a scheme to form a loose consortium of organisations and individuals with an interest in education in Nepal. The idea would be to share best practice, act as a discreet pressure group where and when

appropriate, and endeavour to ensure that schemes do not merely replicate each other.

In common with many similar societies and organisations, we have continued to find it difficult to reach and recruit younger members. The formal arrangement of a Young Members Committee has not produced the results that we had hoped for, so we will be discussing new ways of reaching that particular audience.

I hasten to add that none of this is to gainsay the energetic and imaginative work of Alison Marston, the inaugural chair of the younger members committee, who has in numerous ways made a fantastic personal contribution to the quality of the Society. I have challenged members of the Committee (including myself) to recruit two new members each by our next Committee meeting in January. May I extend the challenge to yourselves, inviting each of you to endeavour to identify at least one new member during the year.

Other initiatives with which we hope to get underway include considering the possibility of some additional lunch time lectures, re-structuring the shape of the annual calendar, and organising regional events where there is a cluster of members. Do please let a member of the committee know if you have any ideas for making the Society more interesting, appealing and even more fun.

Alongside these initiatives a huge amount of work has gone on to improve communications with our members.

In particular the new website is a vast improvement on its predecessor, enabling us to keep members who use the internet up-to-date with our very latest news and announcements. I do hope that you will visit it as often as possible and draw it to the attention of others. The website, along

with our increasing use of email communications, gives the Society a much more up-to-date feel. Many thanks are due to MJ Streather, our Secretary and webmistress, and to In Motion Design our web designer for these achievements. It may sometimes seem as if the customary vote of thanks given on these occasions to the committee and other helpers is vain repetition. Nothing could be further from the truth.

This year's committee meetings have been exceptionally well-attended and the Society could not exist without the ideas and support of all involved. They also make a huge contribution 'on the day' to the smooth running of our various events. To them all and with a special nod to Vice-Chairman John Swanston, Treasurer Rupert Litherland and Secretary MJ Streather many thanks. Before moving on to the election of the Officers and Committee Members I would like to give a

huge vote of thanks to John Swanston who is stepping down as Vice-Chairman after six years.

He will also be leaving the Committee and we will miss his wise and unobtrusive advice. I have no doubt that we will endeavour to lure him back in the future. Our grateful thanks go to Willie Bicket whose term on the Committee also comes to an end this year. Willie has been most supportive and has been a regular attendee at our meetings and events ensuring that things behind the bar flow smoothly and, if I may say so, copiously.

And as always, I would like to thank Mahanta Shrestha and Prashant Kunwar for their most generous, and much-appreciated supply of Khukuri beer for all our events. The Chairman closed by pointing out that there was still one remaining vacancy on the Committee for which he hoped a volunteer might be forthcoming.



Our entertainers at the supper.

200 YEARS OF UK-NEPAL RELATIONS: AN ACCOUNT OF ENDURING PARTNERSHIP

-By Dr Suresh Chandra. Chalise:

- AvH, FES, UGC and LS Fellow
- Former Ambassador of Nepal to the USA and the UK.

Organised by Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA), at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singhadarbar, Kathmandu, on 28th of December 2016

The diplomatic relationship between Nepal and Britain, which formally began following Sugauli treaty in 1816, was established due to two distinct motives: military requirements of both the countries, primarily of the latter as the treaty allowed British government to employ the Gurkhas in their military services,¹ and also the notion of the Himalayan Frontier Policy of British-India.² However, in spite of unequal and one sided in nature and content, arguably, the treaty could be seen as a testament of British longing for an

¹The treaty allowed British to recruit Gurkhas in their military service. Currently, the Gurkhas account about 3% of the total British force. See for details https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Sugauli. Nonetheless, Dr Watson, who, in his article, argues that Francis Buchanan Hamilton, who went to Nepal in 1802-3 and extensively travelled the Kingdom- met and served people of different walks of life, much before the treaty of Sugauli took place; was primarily responsible for underpinning the relationship at the people's level. More importantly, as Hamilton's works were not limited to Botanical matters, Watson claims that British Government later had sought Hamilton's advice on Nepal's domestic affairs, too. His book, "An Account of the Kingdom of Nepal," also is a pointer as to how he was closely acquainted with the politics and social affairs of Nepal. See: Watson Mark's article "Dr Francis Buchanan-Hamilton: Pioneer for Nepalese Biodiversity," published in 200 Years of Nepal-UK Relations: Commemorative Issue, Nepali Embassy, London, January 2014.

²Surya P. Subedi, *THE BRITAIN-NEPAL SOCIETY Journal* Number 27 2003, p.36

³Andrew James Sparkes- CMG, "Two Hundred Years

enduring partnership with Nepal rather than colonising her.³ Ever since, the bond of perpetual peace and friendship,⁴ which was thoroughly altered later by the friendship treaty of 1923,⁵ has been characterized by mutual understanding, goodwill, unwavering support and cooperation.

Gurkhas as Cornerstone of Bond:

As the military cooperation between the two countries persistently savoured priority, the Gurkhas obviously attained itself as the cornerstone of Nepal-Britain bilateral relations and this remains the case, particularly when one takes into account their services to the British crown. More than two hundred thousands of Nepalese Gurkhas took part in the World War I and II and about forty three thousands of them, died⁶ as heroes leaving behind, nevertheless, misery and destitution to their families. Under the

of Nepal-Britain Relations: A way Forward," Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 25 September 2013.

⁴https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Sugauli

⁵<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal%E2%80%931923>

⁶<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-10782099>

⁷On 13 July, Major James Joshua Bowman, Lieutenant Neal Turkington and Corporal Arjun Purja Pun from 1st Battalion, the Royal Gurkha Rifles, were killed in Afghanistan. Parents of Neal Turkington made a personal request for the participation of embassy of Nepal, London, in the funeral rites of their son. It is author's personal opinion, as he was heading the Nepalese mission at that time in London; that "perhaps, they thought, since their deceased son had been working with Nepalese in the Brigade of Gurkhas and, as the word Gurkha is embedded directly with Nepal, the participation of Nepal embassy would be worthy and truly graceful on the occasion." As it was a poignant longing from grieving parents, which conspicuously suggested of the emotional bond between the two communities; the Nepalese mission in London instantly sent its military attaché to attend the funeral rites."

aegis of the Brigade of Gurkhas, which binds its combat communities also by dint of emotion;⁷the Gurkhas fought in the Falklands War to defend the British territory and have still been fighting in Afghanistan and some other parts of world for a peaceful and secure globe. ⁸ In the military history of the UK, they have secured a special place for them. They have not only won Thirteen Victoria Crosses, a well recognised valiant decoration in the world, but also have been able to win-over the hearts of the British crown and other royals⁹ as well. Such righteous deeds have heightened the image of the Nepalese globally as a persevering work-force. Every year, to commemorate their glory in world wars and also to pay homage to their sacrifice, the ambassador of Nepal to the UK, together with others, also places wreath in the memorial monument of the heroes at the Constitutional Hill in London.¹⁰

Upgrading of Diplomatic Missions:

Initially, the treaty of Segauli had made an arrangement to have “accredited ministers” in each other’s courts.¹¹But, following the signing of new Treaty of Friendship between the two nations in 1923, the status of the British Representative in Kathmandu was instantly upgraded to the level of an envoy. Later, after a decade in 1934, when Nepal established an embassy in London, the two countries subsequently exchanged

⁸*Under Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), as of 23 July 2015, a total of 454 British forces personnel and MOD civilians, that includes Gurkhas as well; have died while serving in Afghanistan since the start of operations in October 2001. Of these, 405 were killed as a result of hostile action. Also, Gurkhas have served in Borneo during the confrontation with Indonesia, and on various peacekeeping missions in Sierra Leone, East Timor, Bosnia, Kosovo, Somalia and Iraq. Currently they are engaged in Afghanistan in support of the UN-authorized battle against Taliban.*

Ministers Plenipotentiary and Envoys Extraordinary.

The status of these representatives was further boosted in 1947 by giving them the rank of Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. These bilateral diplomatic measures were imperative to improve the relationship between two friendly and sovereign nations.

Exchange of High Level Visits:

The exchanges of high level visits are always instrumental in strengthening relations and furthering mutual cooperation. Principally speaking, such diplomatic rituals have been found imperative to enhance common understanding and build trust between two different nations. In this light, since the inception, as the UK and Nepal adore bilateral relationship attaching utmost importance to the bond, both the countries organised high level visits. There have been about four dozen high ranking visits from the UK as well as from the Nepal side.

On the part of the UK, the visits included the royals, senior ministers from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Department for International Development (DFID) and Ministry of Defence (MOD). Likewise, senior members of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) also visited Nepal from time to time. Among the royals, HM Queen Elizabeth II

⁹*On 19th of June 2010, after receiving his letter of credence, at Buckingham Palace, HMQ, during conversation with the author on Gurkha issue, had remarked, “Do you know ambassador...when my grandson Harry was in Afghanistan, he was with the Gurkhas. I have also two Gurkhas in my palace!” In addition, on return from his tour of Afghanistan, where he served alongside the Royal Gurkha Rifles, HRH Prince Harry once said “no safer place” than by the side of a Gurkha.” Prince Charles, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Gurkha Rifles and patron of the Gurkha Welfare Trust, paid tribute to*

and HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, paid official visits in 1961 and 1986, at the invitation of King Mahendra and his son King Birendra, respectively. Likewise, HRH Princess of Wales Diana visited Nepal in 1993 and HRH Prince Charles, in 1998. Of late, HRH Prince Harry's official visit in March 2016, which had been made on behalf of HM's government, took place on the occasion of bicentenary celebrations. The Prince of Wales' ten-day visit has been widely considered in Nepal as an acknowledgement of the sacrifice and heroic service of the bravest of the braves and faithful Gurkhas in the process of protecting the British Crown and her people. Similarly, six visits have been carried out by DFID ministers, three by Foreign Ministers, two by Defence ministers and at least five visits by the Chief of the Army (*CGS. Ed.*) on different occasions. Since the then British Army chief was also the Colonel Commandant of the Brigade of Gurkhas, his visit provided added significance.

(*Gen Sir Peter Wall was at Sandhurst with the Chief of Army Staff, Gen Gaurav Rana. Ed.*) In addition, there have been numerous official visits carried out also by officials from the MOD, DFID, and FCO. It would not be out of context to underscore a few important visits by special peace envoy in 2003 and special representative of the

the Gurkhas' contribution to British history at the pageant in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, by saying, "In the 200 years that the Gurkhas have fought for the British Crown they have earned our nation's deepest respect and gratitude." The commemorative occasion of bicentenary of relationship was joined by HM Queen, Duke of Edinburgh and also Prince Harry. See <https://www.gwt.org.uk/gurkha-200/events>. Also visit: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/active/9070514/Prince-Harry-in-Afghanistan-in-his-own-words.html>

¹⁰*The memorial gates were inaugurated in 2002 by*

British Prime Minister for peace-building in 2010. Nevertheless, in two hundred years outstanding bilateral relationship, the British Prime Minister has yet to make his maiden trip to reciprocate Nepal side!

There were altogether four royal visits to the UK from Nepal's side. King Mahendra paid a visit in 1960 while King Birendra did so in 1980 and 1995, respectively. King Gyanendra also travelled to the UK in 1981 to attend HRH Diana's wedding and also in 2003. In addition historically the first and foremost visit was made by Prime Minister Jung Bahadur Rana in 1850. His brother, Prime Minister Chandra Shamsher Rana went Britain after fifty eight years in 1908. It is widely viewed that Chandra Shamsher's successive visit played a central role in bringing these two nations, hailing from two different hemispheres, even closer. As the 1923 treaty was signed during the reign of Chandra Shamsher, he has also been acknowledged as defender of Nepalese sovereignty, whilst British generosity was also admired simultaneously for granting the same. Apart from the royal and Rana Prime Ministers' official visits, there have been significant numbers of visits accomplished by the executive heads and deputy heads of the government of Nepal. In this connection, at least three Prime Ministers of Nepal travelled to the UK

HM Queen Elizabeth II. High Commissioners of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Srilanka, Africa and Caribbean and also ambassador of Nepal commemorate the armed forces of the British Empire, who served and sacrificed themselves for Britain's cause in the two World Wars.

¹¹*Article eight of the nine, says "in order to secure and improve the relations of amity and peace hereby established between Nepal and Britain (East India company), it is agreed that accredited Ministers from each shall reside at the court of the other." Visit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Sugauli*

after the democratic changes in 1990. Prime Ministers Manmohan Adhikary visited Britain in 1995, Sher Bahadur Deoba visited twice in 1996 and 2002; and KP Bhattarai in 1999. Over the past 200 years, a number of visits have been undertaken by the deputy heads of the government, too, and the latest visit was made by Kamal Thapa in 2016, in connection with celebrating bicentenary. In addition, numerous visits have been carried out also by high ranking ministers and officials from Ministry of Defence, Judiciary, Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Home and Finance. The regularity of these visits reflects both countries' commitment to furthering bilateral relationship.

Support to Democratic Transition:

As a close friend, with which she had a special relationship primarily due to the Gurkha involvement as an essential component in her military might, the UK candidly supported Nepal's admission to the United Nations, a critical political and diplomatic constituent to promote and protect Nepal's freedom and sovereignty. Britain's support for consolidating democracy has also been unflinching, especially after the democratic political changes in 1990. HRH Princess of Wales, Lady Diana's visit to Nepal in 1993 was a gesture of support in favour of nascent multiparty democracy in the Kingdom. Likewise, in these years, Britain significantly contributed in the socio-economic realms and also helped reform political, constitutional and administrative sectors in Nepal. After the King Gyanendra reclaimed sovereignty on 4th of October 2002 while dismissing the elected government, as part of the commitment of HM's government in preventing conflict and resolving them

through peaceful means and also for the restoration of peace and democracy in the roof of the world; Britain sent Sir Jeffery James as a Special Representative to Nepal in 2003. King's decision to sack the government was widely considered as an unconstitutional step. But, the principal reason behind King's move was that the King himself wanted to play an active role in politics.

The peace envoy, who was assigned the responsibility of assessing the political situation, met with the leaders of the major political parties and also the king of Nepal. He tried mainly to build confidence between the palace and agitating political parties. However, King Gyanendra's direct rule was short lived owing to the people's movement in 2006. The UK and her allies supported the consecutive political changes including the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the government and Maoists rebels. The UK, and other European governments, too, fully recognised Nepal's strategy to involve the United Nations as a global and impartial entity in her peace process. UN's involvement was imperative for the greater level of confidence not only for the primary stakeholders of the peace process but also for the confidence of international community to push the Nepalese peace initiatives forward. In addition to it, as a member of UN's Security Council, the UK lent its full cooperation in constituting the United Nation's Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) and also liberally contributed to the Nepalese Peace Trust Fund (NPTF). In similar vein in 2010, the British PM dispatched a special representative to Nepal to help the peace process that was struggling to move on. Of late, however, as Nepal promulgated the new constitution, the UK

Nepal's Trade Balance with the UK

Year (2000 to 2009)	Nepal's Export to UK: Value in (NRs)	Import from UK: Value in (NRs)	Trade Balance
2000/01	980666	8827202	-7846
2001/02	808750	2795391	-1986
2002/03	1070737	1065335	+5402
2003/04	1677084	1035493	+641591
2004/05	1050009	1452168	-402159
2005/06	1184078	961421	+222657
2006/07	998689	1727103	-728414
2007/08	1066347	1643360	-577013
2008/09	1429686	6499879	-5070193
Total	10266046	26007352	-15741306

Year (2009 to 2013)	Import from UK: Value in (NRs)	Export to UK: Value in (NRs)	Balance (NRs)
January to December, 2009	10,962,627,877	1,471,332,867	-9,491,295,010
January to December, 2010	2,603,242,134	1,292,168,947	-1,311,073,187
January to December, 2011	2,192,260,006	1,477,383,007	-714,876,999
January to December, 2012	1,786,677,499	1318011391	-468,666,108
January to December, 2013	2,677,463,138	1,924,334,331	-753,128,807
Total	20,222,270,654	7,483,230,543	-12739040111

Source: <http://www.efourcore.com.np/tepcdatabank/countrywise.php?txtmode=search>

has welcomed it and labelled it as a “significant milestone.”¹⁹

Development Assistance and Economic Cooperation:

Britain has been a long and trusted development partner of Nepal since 1950s. Educational and academic ties between Britain and Nepal started with the

establishment of the British Council in 1953 in Kathmandu. The relationship has grown over the years. Britain's Chevening Scholarships were offered to meritorious students for higher studies. However, on the auspicious occasion of the bicentenary, it was encouraging to note that the Chevening Scholarships number had significantly been increased as other

fellowships too. Apart from this, it is reassuring that the British Council has also been working to connect the UK and Nepali school sectors with an aim to enrich education of the Nepalese and promote global citizenship. Likewise, it is heartening to witness that, currently the UK's DFID, is the largest bilateral donor for Nepal. It has almost doubled its assistance on the eve of 200 years of relationship, which is about GBP 106 million per year. DFID, in its programmes, has included works such as infrastructure development, job creation, climate change, good governance and security, health, water and sanitation, poverty alleviation, wealth creation and so on. In this connection, DFID strategically supports institutions such as Centre for Inclusive Growth, which aims to creating an inclusive yet sustainable growth in rural Nepal. The centre is also engaged to provide legal assistance to Nepal and other concerned stakeholders, to unlock energy development contracts in order to make available a reasonable share for them on hydro resources. More importantly, the British response to the recent devastating earthquakes stands at £70 million following further commitments made at the International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction.

Trade and Commercial Relations

It is widely believed that a successful trade and commercial relations not only bring two nations politically and diplomatically closer but also helps in squeezing the irritants which could be potential for regional conflict. So is the view of US secretary of State, nonetheless, her emphasis was more on social change and economic diplomacy. She once said, "Economic diplomacy is a powerful and

vital way to shape political and social change by generating economic development." The UK and Nepal have also recognised the significance of trade and commercial relations in strengthening bilateral ties. In this regard, some initiatives are being taken and attempts have been made to organise the exchange of trade delegations from both sides over the past few years. These interactions and connections between the SMEs have furthered economic ties between the two countries. Britain is one of the major trading partners of Nepal. The volume of trade between the two countries seems gradually expanding over the past few years since it has surged from Rs. 980666 (export) and 8827202 (import) in 2001 to Rs. 1,924,334,331 (export) and Rs. 2,677,463,138 (import) in 2013. It is an increase of Rs 1,923,353,665 in export and Rs. 2,668,635,936 in import, respectively. Moreover, the statistical figures between years 2001 to 2006 illustrate that there had been almost alternatively negative and positive balance of trade between the two nations. Nevertheless, in recent past years, ie. from 2007 to 2013, the trade balance of Nepal against the UK has been going continuously negative. Although, since inception of diplomatic relationship, the UK and Nepal have maintained their mutual bond on social, political, military and cultural fronts; but the trade and commercial relations have yet to keep the pace. (See table on p12.)

People to People Relationship

It is said that the first settlement of the Nepalese community in London was made at 145 Whitfield Street in Camden in 1965. In this effect, a memorial plaque now stands on the site. Their presence

significantly increased after 1990s.

During this period, not only the Gurkha but economic and professional migrants, besides the Nepalese refugees, also started settling in the UK. It is estimated that people of Nepalese origin have settled in all regions and their population is projected to be about 80,000 in the UK by the end of 2012. The UK, as society, has been viewed as a cultural mosaic.

The elasticity in her socio-political and cultural structure has meaningfully made rooms for multiculturalism. Thus, the presence of the Nepalese, at different strata in British society, has been an integral part of acculturation process. In the recent past, partly due to cultural interactions and also partly because of exchanges of values related to lifestyle, the Nepalese are getting mixed-up with other communities living in the UK. Particularly, British and Nepalese community's socio-cultural interactions take place through a few but effective informal and formal social institutions.

Among them are the Nepalese Embassy and the Brigade of Gurkhas, wherein major Nepali festivals including Dashain, take place and Nepalese restaurants, and Funfairs organised by cultural groups in the UK. Nevertheless, the British leaders' graceful participations in the Nepalese people's socio-economic and cultural endeavours also have reinforced the exiting linkages at the people's level.

On the other hand, British tourists' annual visits to Nepal in a big number and their stay in the Himalayan nation, too, are responsible for heartening the process of exchanging socio-cultural values between the two communities. The social as well as emotional bonds at the level of two communities get extraordinarily boosted by the royal visits as well.

Of late, the populace of the Nepalese origin have started contributing to security and other socio-economic and health sectors in the UK. Most of them have invested in the restaurant and real-estate sectors. Some of them contribute also to the health domain as doctors and professional nurses. In recent years, it is encouraging to note that the Nepalese are being elected as people's representatives in a number of counties. Currently, they have bagged as many as six seats as the mayors and also councillors in different parts of the UK. In other words, their popularity among British voters is steadily surging. There is more than one factor responsible for it and one important among them is that British voters fully recognise the Nepalese people's huge sacrifice for their causes. Their image, as the hard working human capital and loyal to the society, was evident too in the London riot in 2011, in which not a single Nepali émigré found involved!

Esprit in Bilateral Relationship

Nepal is the first country to have diplomatic ties with the United Kingdom from South Asia.

But, after India's independence, Britain was no more a big neighbour for Nepal. Nevertheless, Nepal's geo-political location, majestic Himalayas, flora and fauna, friendly people and cultural heritage sites have always been an attraction for the British people. It was a happy coincidence that, as London had begun celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's coronation, the same morning media widely reported about the news of first ascent of Mount Everest by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. The news added as a jovial essence on the happy occasion of coronation. Ever since,

HM Queen Elizabeth II, adores this day of her enthronement along with first ascent of Mount Everest. As a gesture of her love and respect for the special day, HM The Queen not only enjoys giving audience to the related people but also attends the associated functions. During a reception to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the ascent of the Mount Everest, at the Royal Geographical Society in Kensington, west London; The Queen personally met Nepal's Sherpa mountain climber Jangling Norgay, son of Tenzing Norgay. On the occasion of diamond jubilee of scaling of Mount Everest, she also wrote to the President of Nepal. In her message she said, "On the 60th Anniversary of the first ascent of Mount Everest I wish to send my warmest regards to the Government of Nepal and re-affirm the strong ties that exist between our two countries. The news of the successful ascent reached me at a particularly memorable time, the day before my Coronation. The Everest Expedition was an historic example of UK-Nepal co-operation and I hope that the special relationship between our two countries will continue to grow in the years to come."

The relationship has become diversified and enriched over the course of two centuries. Even, precisely during cold war

¹² Nepal's fragile environment is a matter of concern for the world, as, of the fourteen world's highest peaks; eight are located in Nepal, including the Mount Everest. Their conservation is imperative for the security of regional ecology and biodiversity as it is the main source of fresh waters. It is estimated that about 1.4 billion people in the region are dependent on the rivers of Himalayas. Actually, talks had taken place at the both governments' concerned ministry level and the concept of establishing the foundation had received due significance as well. But, as government got frequently changed in Nepal, the notion has now been in doldrums. Also See: [era, which had adverse global political effect, the relationship deepened unhindered. Nepal and Britain have been cooperating with each other on numerous occasions. The Gurkhas, under the command of the British Crown, not only defended the British territory in Falkland war but also has been fighting wars in different parts of the world for the noble causes of peace and stability. On the other hand, the UK has always been on Nepal's side through her thick and thin as she underwent socio-political transformation in an unprecedented way. The bilateral relations- as it continued to grow; have catapulted into multi-faceted engagements. Of course, it has been possible through historical ties, development assistance, continued military cooperation and an enduring support for democratic peace in Nepal. In contemporary world order, their relationship has been boosted further also because of pressing trans-national challenges. As the existing global challenges such as terrorism, cyber crimes, climate change, drug trafficking, deadly diseases etc., need concerted efforts of intercontinental alliance of all nations- be it small or big, developed or least developed; Nepal and the UK have recognised them as shared challenges and cooperate with each other in a number of](http://www.worldviewofglobalwarming.org/hi-</i></p></div><div data-bbox=)

malaya_1/index.php

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2010-to-2015-government-policy-cyber-security/2010-to-2015-government-policy-cyber-security>

¹⁴ During the conference with the Nepali Ambassador to the UK, at the parliamentary building, Westminster, in 2010, one of the members of All Party Parliamentary Group on Nepal (APPGN), expressed his surprise and remarked, "Is not it so shocking that our Prime Minister has not visited Nepal in two hundred years!" Later, as, in certain political sections, opinion continued for PM's visit to Nepal; APPGN, headed by Sir John Stanley, on 29th of May 2013, unanimously requested the PM Cameroon for his visit

bilateral as well as international podia, including that of the United Nations. In the meantime, Nepal's immediate neighbours are rising economically and also militarily. This has, mainly due to geopolitical location; suddenly graduated Nepal's eminence in the diplomatic domain of the region and also beyond. It is indeed a blessing in disguise for a least developed country Nepal, as coincidentally, of late; Britain's interest has also considerably ascended evocatively in South-Asia region. Now, her economic ties have substantially heightened with the world's two affluent economies and also the largest markets as Britain receives huge investments from them. Explicitly, after the Brexit verdict, the UK is likely opting for more independent trade and political relations in the Asian continent. Additionally, as globally, realms of industry, defence and other vital governmental organs are increasingly reliant on modern Information Technology systems, security challenges have also been accordingly enlarged in recent years. In such a political, economic and security situation, coupled with growing cyber crimes in the region and also in Nepal, the UK and Nepal could ponder over some new areas of cooperation also in the cyber technology field.

Conclusively, one can safely comprehend that the relationship between the UK and Nepal has been varied and strengthened significantly over 200 years. Bilateral level engagements have bolstered the relations

to Nepal on the occasion of Bicentenary. Likewise, a number of members of Parliament also personally wrote to the PM in that effect. PM, in reply to the APPGN on 14th June 2013, expressed his desire to visit Nepal in future. He, however, said, "I have asked that my office take note of the APPG'S suggestion for future consideration." In his post-script, the PM

at the government and also at the people's levels. Now, as both the nations celebrate their bicentenary, it is high time for them for stocktaking and envisioning as to how they could work in-concert to take the relationship to the next level. In this context, it would be apposite to talk about a shared gift between the two nations. In 2014, they happily agreed and established *Consultation Mechanism* on the great occasion of bicentenary. As the bilateral body of consultation is in operation and the third of its meeting is to be held again in Kathmandu in coming months; Nepal and the UK should seize the opportunity to develop concrete strategy for future cooperation. However, it has been ventured here to explore some of the areas, which could be helpful in taking the relationship to a new height.

Probable New Areas of Mutual Cooperation

Social integration of the Nepalese, including that of the Gurkhas, in the UK through appropriate measures such as jobs, social security, trainings and orientations on British language and culture.

A sizeable percentage of British-Nepalese, being in the UK, are exposed to the world's better knowledge and technology. In the meantime, they have also developed commercial and trade linkages, in both countries. These sections of human capital should be encouraged not only for the initiatives for transfer of knowledge and technology into Nepal but also to develop

further writes, "I would love to go: it is a question of fitting it into a ...packed schedule..." Meanwhile, Nepal's PM has formally invited British PM to pay an official visit to Nepal. Pl. visit <http://nepalforeignaffairs.com/prime-minister-in-vites-david-cameron-to-visit-nepal/>

Business to Business relationship.
In this connection, British SMEs and Non-Resident Nepalese (NRN) organisations could be strategic resources for furthering the ties.

The major joint ventures, as of now, are in the areas of tourism, banking sector, education, tea, readymade garments, bio-technology, consultancy sectors and so on. These sectors and others, too, in addition to energy security, require cyber security as well. They need to be equipped with advance technology and innovation. Such a course, if taken, should attract more joint ventures in other areas as well as enhance the level of confidence of the investors.

Especially, in the tourism sector, as it has been recorded that about 30-40 thousand British tourists visit Nepal annually; both the governments need to make sure of the tourists' air and land safety.

As Nepal is struggling to recover from the woes of a decade long conflict and earthquake disaster, she deserves a continuation of present volume of development assistance from the UK government, which may be provided, as far as possible, through the government of

Nepal's channel.

However, Nepal side, too, requires taking care of DFID development assistance by dint of good governance and transparency measures.

1. Reassurance for the Nepalese products in the UK markets as there has been a trade imbalance between two countries. A British FDI in this effect, under bilateral arrangement, could be a strategic move on the part of the UK to lessening the exiting trade shortfall of Nepal.
2. Establishment of Research Foundation, as a bilateral tool, in the name of Dr Francis Buchanan Hamilton, which will work for the conservation of ecology and environment in Nepal ¹²
3. Britain, which is one of the best developed e-business in the world,¹³ could help Nepal in addressing the challenges of cyber-security in various domains and make Nepal one of the secure places to do business.
4. British Prime Minister's visit to Nepal has been due since 1816! ¹⁴

Specifically, this category of visit shall enormously reinforce our subsisting bilateral ties at all levels.

SOCIETY ARCHIVES & JOURNAL

The Society has an archive of papers, documents and other ephemera relating to its work since it was founded in 1960. This archive is currently lodged at The Gurkha Museum in Winchester. Anyone who wishes to view the BNS Archive should first make an appointment by contacting the Curator on 01962 842832 or e-mail curator@thegurkhamuseum.co.uk

Duplicate copies of the journal can be obtained from the editor and a limited number of back editions may also be purchased for £3.50 per copy plus p&p.

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THE GENEALOGIES OF THE SHAH, RANA AND RELATED FAMILIES

By Greg Hickman

(This article is based on the talk given by Greg Hickman to the Society on 4th November 2015. The Shahs and Ranas are vast families and this piece gives us a glimpse of their histories and inter-marriages.)

The Shah dynasty are descendants of Drabya Shah of Lamjung who became the first (Shah) Raja of Gorkha (from which Gurkha) in 1559. They claim descent from the Sisodia Rajputs of Chitore (later Udaipur) in Rajasthan. The 9th generation descendant of Drabya was Prithvi Narayan

Shah who succeeded as Raja of Gorkha in 1743 aged 20. From his hill-top durbar at Gorkha, he started the campaign for the unification of Nepal and finally completed the conquest of Kathmandu on 24 September 1768 becoming the first King of Nepal and earning the epithet of

“The Great”. Here is the line of 12 Kings and 1 Crown Prince from Prithvi Narayan to Gyanendra:

Prithvi Narayan Shah 1722-1775 Raja of Gorkha 1743-1775 King of Nepal 1768-1775

|
Singha Pratap Shah Dev 1751-1777 King 1775-1777

|
Rana Bahadur Shah Dev 1775-1806 King 1777-1806

|
Girvan Juddha Bikram Shah Dev 1797-1816 King 1806-1816

|
Rajendra Bikram Shah Dev 1813-1881 King 1816-1847

|
Surendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev 1829-1881 King 1847-1881

|
Crown Prince Trailokya Bir Bikram Shah 1847-1878

|
Prithvi Bir Bikram Shah Dev 1875-1911 King 1881-1911

|
Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah Dev 1906-1955 King 1911-1955

|
Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev 1920-1977 King 1955-1977

|
Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev
1945-2001 King 1977-2001

|
Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev
born 1947 King 2001-2008

|
Dipendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev
1971-2001 King 1-4 June 2001

The Royal Massacre occurred on 1 June 2001 and Crown Prince Dipendra succeeded as the 11th King for three days - although in a coma. Our Patron Prince Gyanendra succeeded as 12th King on 4 June 2001 and reigned until the monarchy was abolished on 28 May 2008. The Shahs had reigned from 24 September 1768 to 28 May 2008 - just under 240 years.

The Royal Family of today comprises only the descendants of King Tribhuvan and his two sister-Queens Kanti and Ishwari from Sitapur in Oudh, India. King Gyanendra, Crown Prince Paras and Nava Yuvraj Hridayendra are now the only male heirs of Crown Prince Trailokya eligible to succeed to the throne. There are, however, hundreds of other male line descendants of King Prithvi Narayan living today amongst whom the next Shah heir is the Mukhya Sahebju (descended from Trailokya's brother Prince Narendra) who lit the funeral pyres of King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya. The members of the Royal family are:

HM Queen Mother Ratna - widow of King Mahendra and step-mother of Gyanendra
HM King Gyanendra - son of King Mahendra and Crown Princess Indra
HM Queen Komal - wife of Gyanendra
HRH Crown Prince Paras - son of Gyanendra and Komal
HRH Crown Princess Himani - wife of Paras
HRH Princess Purnika - daughter of Paras and Himani
HRH Hereditary Prince Hridayendra - son of Paras and Himani
HRH Princess Kritika - daughter of Paras and Himani
HRH Princess Prearana - daughter of Gyanendra and Komal

Kumar Raj B Singh - husband of Prearana
Parthav Singh - son of Prearana and Raj
Kumar Gorakh SJB Rana – widower of Princess Shruti (daughter of King Birendra)
Girwani Rana - daughter of Shruti and Gorakh
Surangana Rana - daughter of Shruti and Gorakh
HRH Princess Shova - sister of Gyanendra
Kumar Mohan B Shahi - husband of Shova
HRH Princess Pooja - daughter of Prince Dhirendra (brother of Gyanendra)
HRH Princess Sheetashma - daughter of Prince Dhirendra (brother of Gyanendra)
HRH Princess Dilasha - daughter of Prince Dhirendra (brother of Gyanendra)
HRH Princess Nalini, Rajmata of Poonch - daughter of King Tribhuvan
HRH Princess Bharati, Rajmata of Mayurbhanj - daughter of King Tribhuvan
Mrs Ketaki Chester (formerly HRH Princess Ketaki) – daughter of Prince Basundhara (son of King Tribhuvan)
HRH Princess Jotshana – daughter of Prince Basundhara (son of King Tribhuvan)

The Rana Dynasty are descendants of Ahiram Singh KUNWAR who came from his native Kaski and served under the Raja of Gorkha around 1740. Ahiram's great-great-grandson Jung Bahadur KUNWAR rose in the army and the ministries becoming General and Kaji (Minister). In the courtyard of the armoury "Kot" (still used by the army for pujas to this day) he and his six younger brothers carried out the Kot Massacre on 19 September 1846 in which about 40 members of the palace court families were killed. Jung Bahadur was appointed His

Excellency Prime Minister and
Commander-in-Chief by Queen Regent
Rajya Laxmi on the same day. The family
later also claimed pure Rajput descent
from Rajasthan but this was almost
certainly an invention for Jung Bahadur.
However, King Surendra did issue a Lal
Mohar in May 1848 granting Jung
Bahadur and his male relatives the name
of RANA suggestive of Thakuri caste.
Jung Bahadur RANA was created

Maharaja of Kaski and Lamjung in 1856
and His Highness in 1857. From this time
on the Shah Kings were titular rulers only -
brought out of the palace for ceremonial
purposes - the Ranas were now in total
control. Here is the line of 10 (plus 1
Acting) Prime Ministers 1846-1951 (1967)
and their 5 would-be successors 1967-2015
(according to the succession rules
prevailing in 1951):

Ahram Singh Kunwar 1668-1743

Ram Krishna Kunwar 1728-1788

Ranjit Kunwar 1753-1815

Bal Narsingh Kunwar 1783-1841

Jung Bahadur Rana 1817-1877 PM 1846-1856 and 1857-1877	Bam Bahadur Rana 1818-1857 PM 1856-1857	Krishna Bahadur Rana 1823-1863 Acting PM May- June 1857	Ranaudip Singh Rana 1825-1885 PM 1877-1885	Dhir Shumshere Rana 1827-1884 C-in-C
--	--	---	---	---

Bir SJB Rana 1852-1901 PM 1885-1901	Deva SJB Rana 1862-1914 March-June 1901	Chandra SJB Rana 1863-1929 PM 1901-1929	Bhim SJB Rana 1865-1932 PM 1929-1932	Joodha SJB Rana 1875-1952 PM 1932-1945
--	--	--	---	---

Mohan SJB Rana 1885-1912- 1967 PM 1948-1951 1979-2007	ShinghaSJB Narayan SJB Rana 1893- 1977 Heir 2007 Heir	Shanker SJB Rana 1909-1976 Oct-Nov 1977	Padma SJB Rana 1882- 1961 PM 1945-1948	Bahadur SJB Rana 1892- 1977 Heir 1967-1977	Hari SJB Rana 1895- 1979 Heir 1977-1979	SJB
--	---	--	--	--	---	-----

Sridhar SJB Rana 1928-
Heir 2007-

Prime Minister Ranaudip was murdered in 1885 by the Shumshere brothers (sons of his youngest brother C-in-C Dhir Shumshere) - all subsequent PMs and Heirs were descendants of Dhir Shumshere. King Tribhuvan and his family fled to the Indian Embassy, and then to India, in November 1950 leaving behind Prince Gyanendra who was crowned King (for the first time) by PM Mohan. King Tribhuvan returned to Kathmandu in 1951 and PM Mohan lost his powers but remained Heir until his death in 1967. The Ranas were the de facto rulers of Nepal from 19 September 1846 to 18 February 1951 - almost 105 years.

SHAH-RANA INTERMARRIAGES

This is a brief overview of the main Royal line but there are many, many more in other Shah lines.

Four children, one niece and one nephew of King Surendra married Ranas - including Princess Munindra to PM Bir King Prithvi married four wives including two daughters of PM Bir - although they were not the daughters of Princess Munindra King Prithvi's four daughters (full-sisters of King Tribhuvan) were married to three Rana brothers and one of their Rana cousins King Mahendra married two Rana sisters (Indra and Ratna) and his two brothers, Princes Himalaya and Basundhara, also married two Rana sisters (Princep and Helen) King Birendra and his two brothers (Gyanendra and Dhirendra) married three Rana sisters (Aishwarya, Komal and Prekshya) Princesses Ketaki, Shruti and Dilasha married three Ranas (Kumud, Gorakh and Adarsha)

RANA-SHAH INTERMARRIAGES

Following King Surendra's Lal Mohar of 1848, granting the name Rana (suggestive of Thakuri caste), PM Jung Bahadur married no less than eight of his children, and one niece, to Shahs - including three daughters to Crown Prince Trailokya and the niece to Bir (later PM). King Prithvi's mother (Lalita Kumari) was one of the three daughters so all of the later Royal family are descended from PM Jung Bahadur. A few of the many hundreds of other Rana-Shah intermarriages were:

PM Bir's two daughters from his second wife married King Prithvi PM Chandra's three sons (Kaiser, Shingha and Krishna) and PM Bir's grandson (Sur) married King Tribhuvan's four sisters (Princesses Laxmi, Rama, Tara and Suman) PM Joodha's two granddaughters (sisters Indra and Ratna) married King Mahendra PM Joodha's two great-granddaughters (sisters Princep and Helen) married brothers Prince Himalaya and Prince Basundhara PM Joodha's three great-granddaughters (sisters Aishwarya, Komal and Prekshya) married brothers King Birendra, King Gyanendra and Prince Dhirendra Three other Ranas (Kumud, Gorakh and Adarsha) married Princesses Ketaki, Shruti and Dilasha

UK AMBASSADOR CONNECTIONS

Twelve of the first seventeen Nepalese envoys to the UK are descended from and/or married to descendants of C-in-C Dhir Shumshere.

- (1) Bahadur SJB Rana
- son of PM Joodha
- (2) Krishna SJB Rana
- son of PM Chandra

- (3) Shingha SJB Rana
- son of PM Chandra
- (4) Kaiser SJB Rana
- son of PM Chandra
- (5) Shanker SJB Rana
- son of PM Chandra
- (6) Daman SJB Rana - nephew of both
PM Chandra and PM Joodha
and uncle of (12)
- (11) Kiran SJB Rana - son of PM Joodha
and father of (17)
- (12) Jharendra Narayan Singha
- great-grandson of C-in-C Dhir,
nephew of (6) and son-in-law of (3)
- (13) Ishwari Raj Pandey from the Royal
Preceptor “Bada Guruju” family
(who crown the Kings) and husband
of Gita granddaughter of PM Joodha
- (14) Bharat Kesher Simha – grandson of
PM Joodha and husband of Cherry
daughter of (11) and sister of (17)
- (16) Singha Bahadur Basnyat - great-
grandson (?) of PM Dev and husband
of Princess Jotshana (daughter of
Prince Basundhara and Helen grand
daughter of (1))
- (17) Prabal SJB Rana – grandson of PM
Joodha, son of (11), brother-in-law of
(14) and husband of Shanti granddaughter
of PM Joodha

BNS CONNECTIONS

The following are all descendants of King Surendra and/or Bal Narsingh Kunwar (father of PM Jung Bahadur and C-in-C Dhir)

Our three Patrons – King Mahendra 1960-1972, Prince Gyanendra 1972-2001 (when

he became King) and Princess Jotshana 2001-2006. Six founders (or founder members) – Mrs Mayura Brown great-granddaughter of PM Jung Bahadur, Rani Bhuban RL Singha descended from both Rana and Shah, her husband Jharendra Narayan Singha (when he was First Secretary) descended from both Rana and Shah, General Shanker SJB Rana former ambassador, Pashupati SJB Rana (when at University in the UK) grandson of PM Mohan and co-founder of the Yeti Association and Prabal SJB Rana (when at University in the UK) grandson of PM Joodha and co-founder of the Yeti Association

Two members of our sister-society The Nepal-Britain Society – Kaiser SJB Rana (Founder) son of PM Chandra and Mrs Pratima RL Pandé (President) great-great-granddaughter of PM Deva

Three Committee Members – Mrs Minu RL Chhibber great-granddaughter of PM Padma, Mrs Sneha M Rana daughter of Princess Bharati and wife of Sarad SJB Rana (grandson of Shanker) and Siddhant Raj Pandey son of Ambassador Ishwari Raj Pandey and great-grandson of PM Joodha

Two Young Members Committee Members – Kirtijai Kumar Pahari descended from Shah and Rana and Rory Singh grandson of founders Jharendra and Bhuban

After more than 40 years researching the genealogies of these families, I would be pleased to receive and additions or corrections from family members.



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SOCIAL MOBILITY OF NEPALIS IN THE UK:
A CASE STUDY OF FAIRFAX ROAD, FARNBOROUGH

By Dr Chandra K. Laksamba, Dr Krishna P. Adhikari and Mr Lokendra P. Dhakal

*(This paper was presented by Dr Chandra K Laksamba
at the Britain Nepal Academic Council conference in Liverpool in April 2016. Ed.)*

Introduction

The Nepali community in the UK is new and yet it is one of the fastest growing ethnic minority groups in England.¹ There has been a steady rise in their numbers in the UK between 2001 and 2016 (currently estimated at around 100,000). This is due to changes in the immigration rules in 2004 and 2009 allowing Gurkhas and their dependants to settle in the UK. Keeping this population growth in mind, the Centre for Nepal Studies UK (CNSUK) conducted a survey in 2008 and established a demographic benchmark and came up with several useful findings, which were reported in a book *Nepalis in the United Kingdom: An Overview, 2012* (Adhikari, 2012). Building further on this study and focusing specifically on youth and their families, the CNSUK is currently conducting a pilot project to study the social mobility of the Nepalis in England by undertaking case studies in Farnborough and Reading. The aim of the study is to understand how the Nepali

community is performing in terms of education and occupation in relation to British classes, and what their likely status would be in the future. Since standard sociological studies of class dynamics and social mobility tend to exclude many small, yet growing, ethnic minority communities in the UK, this study is expected to be of significance to the community, policy makers and academics. This short piece presents a case study of Nepali migration and mobility in Fairfax Road, Farnborough, a place that has seen an exponential rise of Nepalis, mainly ex-Gurkhas and their families since they first settled there in 2001. In 2004 there were approximately 25 Nepali households (comprising 100 people) in whole of Farnborough and three of them were in Fairfax Road.

During the 15-year period, since 2005 Nepali households in Fairfax Road have increased 10-fold to 36, which makes up about 80% of households in Fairfax Road. Our preliminary case analysis suggests that there is a reasonable socio-economic progress (measured mainly through educational achievements, employment and house ownership) among the Nepali community in Fairfax Road. The majority (30) of these households own property, and their employment rate is nearly 100%. This suggests that they are laying the essential foundation for future social



¹We would like to acknowledge that the results presented in this paper come from the Big Lottery funded research project (2015-2016) (Project ID: 0010253632) on "Ethnic Minority and Social Mobility: A Case Study of the Nepali Community in England".

mobility. We define social mobility as a movement of individuals or groups in the social class order or social position over a period of time. It takes place in many ways: vertically (upward and downward) or horizontally; intra-generationally; relatively or absolutely (Goldthorpe 1980; Platt 2005). There are primarily two major theoretical traditions to study social class in the UK: Goldthorpe's seven-class scheme based on occupations; and, Savage and Devine's seven-class scheme based on economic, social and cultural capital as used in the BBC's Great British Class Survey (Savage and Devine, 2013). Delving into theoretical discussions is beyond the scope of this paper. In this paper, we simply aim to describe some of the findings of the case study to suggest the dynamics and the direction of the nascent Nepali community in the UK.

Fairfax Road, Farnborough

The study began with an exploratory exercise that we call social mapping to collect data. While the overall study applies a mixed-method (quantitative and qualitative) to collect data, this paper is based on a case study, which employs ethnographic methods including interviews, observation, and formal and informal interactions, to acquire in-depth insights into the community dynamics. The data have been analysed using simple quantitative tools, such as tabulation and qualitative content analysis.

Results: Demographic changes between 2001 and 2016 in Fairfax Road

In 2001, there were 3 Nepali households on Fairfax Road. The first Nepali to move and live in this road was a Limbu family, the family continues to live there and own

the house. Before moving here, the head of this household used to live in Aldershot where he retired from his job as British Gurkha. A kind of chain migration started thereafter: within three months, his nephew and another friend (Rai) also bought properties next to his, totalling three Nepali families living on the same stretch of road. At that time, they used to have a joint family dinner every Friday on a rotational basis. Made of nine Limbus and four Rais, there were altogether 13 people, of whom eight were males and five females. Among them were five boys (one born in the UK in 1997) and two girls. The average family size was 4.3. All eligible adult members were in full-time employment. None of them were elderly or on pension credit. Today (2016), the total population of Nepalis living in this road has risen to 139. They are of diverse backgrounds, but they are predominantly ex-Gurkhas and their families. Of them, 51 are Gurung, 26 Rai, 23 Limbu, 21 Magar, 6 Tamang, 5 Ghale, 4 Sunuwar and 3 Newar. 14 Limbu members moved out of the road over the years. The road has conspicuously metamorphosed today in terms of race or ethnicity: the majority of the houses (30) on the road are owned by Nepalis. There are more Nepali females (74) than males (65). Among them, there is an elderly ex-Gurkha couple, and one elderly Gurkha wife (widow) who live on state benefits (pension credit). The remainder are in full-time education or employment. The average family size is 3.9.

Below, we explore further the migration of Nepalis in Fairfax Road, their educational and employment situation, and property ownership, while making passing reference to the existing local community.

In Table 1, we present educational and employment information of the second generation who are out of education (about half of them studied in Nepal, and most of them are counted as first-generation immigrants), and in Table 2, information about the second generation who are currently pursuing higher education.

Education and Employment

Almost all of the first-generation Nepalis residing in this road are ex-Gurkhas. As mentioned above, they are in full-time employment. Some of them have also pursued further educational qualifications after leaving the Army. One ex-Gurkha and another Gurkha's wife started their studies from GCSE and completed a BSc Hons in sociology and BSc Nursing respectively from the University of Surrey. The graduate ex-Gurkha is working in the hotel industry while the graduate ex-

Gurkha spouse is with the NHS. However, the first-generation Nepalis here have faced a number of difficulties in the course of their attempts to integrate. Some of them have language difficulties, leading to reduced opportunities for better-paid job prospects. Those elderly Gurkhas, who migrated within the past seven years, have reported language and other barriers to access welfare services, while bearing social pain of living separately from their families, who are denied visa due to their age.

In order to improve understanding of the differentiated positions of the second generation Nepalis in terms of their education and employment, we divide them into two distinct cohorts on the basis of their place of studies (country) (Table 1).

Table 1: Education and Employment of Second-Generation Nepalis

Place of studies	Education level	Occupation achievement
Educated in Nepal	1 x B Com, 5 x BAs (TU)* and 1 x BBA (KU)*, 6 x Class 12 and 2 x SLC	Army (1), Care Assistance (3), Security Officer (2), House Keeping (2), Airport Baggage Handler (1), Bus Driver (1), Chef (1), NHS Porter (1), Sales Assistant (1) and Food Service Assistant (2)
Educated in the UK	1 x MA, 6 x BSc Hons and 1 x BA 2 x Dental Nurse, 5 x A Level and 1 x GCSE	Cohesion & Integration Officer (1), Computer Engineer (1), Cashier (1), Nurse (2), Hospitality Manager (1), Business Manager (1), Insurance Broker (1), Dental Nurse (1), Care Assistant (2) Army (1), RAF (1), Assistant Manager (1), Warehouse Operator (1) and Plumber (1)

*Tribhuvan University (TU) and Kathmandu University (KU)

The highest level qualification of the first group who studied in Nepal is BA and the lowest is the School Leaving Certificate (SLC) level (roughly equivalent to GCSE). Those who studied in the UK have a similar position on average with the exception of one, who has a Master’s degree qualification. Though both groups are in full-time employment, the table clearly shows the differences in terms of their occupational status: those who graduated from Nepal are working as low level menial workers, such as baggage handlers, porters and care assistants, and so on. On the other hand, most of those who were educated in the UK are working in areas of employment that require managerial expertise. This shows that those educated in the UK are likely to have an edge over those educated in Nepal, perhaps in comparative terms it is due to variations in academic quality and employability. We are unable to explore this fully because a number of younger

Nepalis (Table 2) are currently pursuing higher education in the UK and other European countries and we need to see how they will do in the future. Below, we look at their educational status.

The majority of this group received their primary to higher education in the UK and consider English as their first language. So far, their educational performance is promising. As Table 2 shows, there are four persons studying for post-graduate degrees specialising in highly technical/professional disciplines: Aeronautical Engineering, Pharmacy, Law, and Computer Networking. Eight of them are pursuing undergraduate degrees in attractive professional fields, such as Medicine, Business Administration, and Finance and Accounting. There are two in the local Sixth Form College who are aiming to become a medical doctor or a linguist.

Table 2: Currently Pursuing Higher Education

Highest education level passed	The level currently studying	The area of specialisation
BSc (Hons)	MSc (Final Year)	Aeronautical Engineering
BSc (Hons)	MSc Pharmacy (Final Year)	Pharmacy
BSc (Hons)	LPC (Final Year)	Law
BSc (Hons)	MSc (First Year)	Computer Networking
A Level	BA (Final Year)	Business Administration
A Level	BSc (Final Year)	Nursing
A Level	BSc (Final Year)	Nursing
A Level	BSc (Final Year)	Occupational Therapy
A Level	MBBS (Second Year)	Medicine
A Level	BSc (Second Year)	Computer Science
A Level	BSc (Second Year)	Nursing
A Level	BSc (First Year)	Finance and Accounting
GCSC	A Level	English Language
GCSC	A Level	Physics, Chemistry and Maths

Heading towards better social class?

Initially Fairfax Road was a relatively less vibrant settlement with many unemployed people, with falling population due to the continuous outmigration of the local community. Our study shows that this settlement has gone through a tremendous transformation in the past 15 years due to immigration. There were only three Nepali families living here in the early 2000s and the number today has risen to 36.

The majority of the Nepali families own their own property and hardly anyone is unemployed. The property value has increased over the years with the area becoming more attractive to live in.

The community is getting vibrant and is productive as far as economic activities are concerned, indicative of conducive environment for, and possible achievement of upward social mobility. This is also reflected in the satisfaction with members' achievements expressed by the Nepali community in the area.

A father of two children said: "I am fully satisfied with the educational achievement of my children. My son is studying for an MSc Aeronautical Engineering degree and my daughter for MBBS." Another parent (lady) expressed her satisfaction very pragmatically while also making reference to the local community: "Yes, our children are doing well in the sense that those capable are studying and those not so capable are working full time. We, parents, are also doing well. I feel we are doing far better than the original local residents in Fairfax Road socially and economically.

The majority of them live in former council houses belonging to the Rushmoor Borough Council (now First Wessex Housing Association)." One of our young second generation respondents stated:

"I am sure, with ability and hard work, Nepalis will achieve top-level positions in the Britain in the next 20 years." We noted Nepali youths being attracted (or encouraged by parents) predominantly to technical fields. There is therefore a distinct lack of diversity across other disciplines. The number of those studying for a degree in the arts and social science fields is negligible.

The younger generations are integrated relatively well locally with the British system and society. In a way they have the best of both cultures (origin and destination). However, the attachment to Nepal for some is not as strong as it is for the older generations (Adhikari and Gellner, 2012). Perhaps these youths can be categorised safely as a true 'British-Nepali' generation.

Conclusion

The social mapping and the case study of the Nepali diaspora of Fairfax Road, Farnborough, suggests that the Nepali community is making productive use of available means and social environment, while accumulating and enhancing capital assets necessary for social mobility.

The in-depth household and individual interviews have further indicated that the social, cultural, and economic capital, brought in by the community, has played a pivotal role in charting the pathways of social mobility of the Nepali diaspora in the UK. The hardworking culture of Nepalis has also added economic value in the process. Nepalis are culturally active, and have high social capital at bonding (community level) even though they lack social capital at wider level (both vertically and horizontally). However,

these resources and limited successes have not yet ensured a broad-based achievement in terms of class schemes in the UK. Nepalis may be deemed to be doing relatively well in terms of Savage and Devine's class schema (which considers economic, social and cultural capital) than Goldthorpe's schema (which considers occupations). To identify the trajectory and the degree of social mobility of the Nepalis in the UK, further in-depth research is being carried out in Farnborough and Reading. We need to make a longitudinal analysis, and learn from the experience of other communities, particularly the South Asian, to see to what extent the current trend of higher educational achievements of the Nepali youths will result in the higher occupational achievements and in upwards social mobility in the future.

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SOCIETY TIES SCARVES AND LAPEL BADGES

Mrs Jenifer Evans has kindly taken on the sale of the Society ties and scarves which cost £15.00 each including postage. They are available from her at: Bambers Mead, Lower Froyle, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4LL or at the AGM or one of our major functions.

Miss Jane Loveless has supervised the production of a very attractive lapel badge which is available for sale for £3.00 at the AGM and other major functions.

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON CONSERVATION & BIODIVERSITY
SYMPOSIUM 26 FEBRUARY 2017

*(This is an extract from some of the presentations given at the symposium.
I have chosen a selection of those considered to be of particular interest to
Society members. Ed.)*

The proceedings of the day were divided into various perspectives of ZSL's work and programmes in Nepal. The overview was chaired by FM Sir John Chapple; historical perspectives by Dr Mark Watson of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh; biodiversity by Dr Gitanjali Bhattacharya of ZSL; conservation by Dr Hem Baral, ZSL representative in Kathmandu.

A history of Britain-Nepal relations

Mr Charles Allen, Author

This talk summarises two centuries of Anglo-Nepali relations, divided into five periods. In the first phase the Gorkha unifiers of Nepal and the East India Company (EICO), equally bent on territorial expansion, clash over three rounds of warfare that conclude with the former forced to accept the terms of the Treaty of Segauli, ratified at Mukhwanpur in March 1816, with the loss of plains territory and the imposition of a British Resident in Kathmandu.



*Asian one-horned Rhino from the
Hodgson collection. ©ZSL.*

In the second phase a succession of British Residents - most notably Brian Hodgson - seek to prevent the dominant Khas war faction within the Nepal Durbar from forming hostile alliances against the EICO while also working, with little success, to expand its interests in Nepal. This ends with the Kot Massacre of 1846 and the assumption of power of Prime Minister Jung Bahadur Rana as the de facto ruler of Nepal, leading to the third phase, characterized by the quasi-feudal dominance of the Rana family dynasty of hereditary prime ministers and the continuation of their predecessors' isolationist policy, with the tacit approval of the British Government of India content to maintain Nepal as a 'buffer state'.

A century of stagnation ends with the 'Palace Revolution' of 1951–1952 when King Tribhuvan, with the connivance of the Indian Congress Government and the active support of the Nepal Congress Party, overthrows the Rana regime to assume sovereign power, with limited democracy and reforms but promoting 'development' and foreign aid from competing foreign powers, dominated by India, China and the USA.

The fifth - and present - phase begins with the Maoist 'People's War' launched by the Nepal Communist Party after years of corrupt government, developing into open rebellion in 2001, complicated by a palace massacre that sees the death of the king and his murderer, the crown prince.

Finally, a peace treaty and a new, if controversial, constitution ratified in 2015.

An overview of landscape level conservation initiatives in Nepal

KP Acharya, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC)

Nepal, relatively small in geographical area, is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of its biodiversity and culture. In recent years, Nepal has been proactively adopting the emerging concept of a landscape approach, evolving through the protected area management buffer zone concept to landscape-level conservation and developmental practices.

The multidisciplinary landscape approach started in the Terai Arc Landscape in 2004, and has expanded to include the Sacred Himalayan Landscape, Chitwan Annapurna Landscape, transboundary initiatives in Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative, and the Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative. These initiatives have created a unique opportunity for Nepal to showcase and learn from socio-ecological, cultural and environmental transformations and move closer to understanding the distance that humanity has covered for the thousands years of its development.

This presentation is based on the development, planning and implementation experiences of the landscape approach in Nepal. It was found that implementation of the TAL has generated significant contributions to scaling up landscape level conservation initiatives. It will highlight specific learning and successes in landscape planning components, how landscape

approaches have evolved over the time, what has been achieved, and where the gaps are.

Key achievements include increases in populations of mega-wildlife species, restoration of fragmented habitats, strengthening of the protected areas network, expansion of biodiversity conservation outside protected areas, increased community awareness, creation of conservation activists and volunteers, ownership and diversification of livelihoods, employment and income, strengthening of community mobilization/institutions, increased conservation investment and enhancement of trans-boundary cooperation.

The assessment has identified gaps in areas of institutionalization, collaboration and partnerships, and found that not all ecosystems received equal priority.

The talk concludes with key recommendations for developing a strategy and action plan for the future. The elements for consideration include ecological integrity, conservation-friendly economic development, climatic risk reduction, resilience building and partnership and institutional strengthening.

A One Health case study in wildlife conservation – Nepal

Professor Richard Kock,
Royal Veterinary College

In the first decade of this century Nepal was at a political cross road and at war with itself. This brought extreme suffering to both rural and urban communities and caused displacement and compounded poverty. In addition, huge environmental challenges faced the authorities, created by

a growing population, and degradation of land and natural resources. This included, tragically, the decline in the iconic Greater one-horned rhinoceros, a species of almost mythical nature. ZSL conservation programmes, working closely with the NTNC, the Department for Wildlife Conservation, local communities, the UK trust and DEFRA, implemented a Darwin project in One Health which built on earlier efforts that had included developed veterinary clinics around Chitwan. One Health addresses concerns at the nexus between humans, animals and the environment. The focus of the Darwin Initiative was on reducing conflict between people and the natural resource; enhancing benefits for communities living adjacent to protected areas; on health services delivery to all sectors, human and animal; identifying ecosystems health concerns and improving skills and capacity in wildlife management. The outcome was a healthier environment for people, animals and wildlife and contributed to a reversal in the decline of rhino and other species in the Terai. This project predicated a period of relative social political calm and considerable progress has been possible in wildlife conservation. We cannot predict the future and challenges continue to arise, seen most recently with the catastrophic earthquake, but a willing community, motivated to survive and equally to support the survival of fellow species, with a little support from multiple disciplines can achieve miracles. Nepal is the case study.

**Plant conservation in Nepal:
current situation and future needs**

Dr Mark Watson, Royal Botanic Garden,
Edinburgh

The long-term goal of the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources must be built on a solid foundation of knowledge and understanding of the organisms involved, the dynamics of their populations and their relationships with man and nature. But this alone is not enough as effective conservation also requires the support of people, both to push for national policies by government and to be involved in practical action. Animal conservation in Nepal is far ahead of plants in both of these areas. Although there is an impressive network of protected areas in Nepal the knowledge of what plants occur in them is inadequate, as is the case for most parts of Nepal. The birds and mammals of Nepal are well documented and Red Data Books highlight those of most conservation concern. As yet there is no *Flora of Nepal* describing all the plants and giving accurate distributions. The international *Flora of Nepal* project (www.floraofnepal.org) is addressing this need with one of 10 volumes already published, and three in preparation. With 7000 plants species in Nepal, and many poorly known, this is a major task, but when complete will not only be an invaluable national resource but also of international significance as Nepal includes over 30% of plant in the Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot. Important as it is, this scientific publication (in print and free online) is not enough to raise awareness of the general public and put knowledge in the hands of the people who need it. DFID-funded Plants and You has taken a new approach by producing bilingual, image-rich knowledge products in the form of plant profiles for multiple stakeholders: from local communities to policy makers.

These projects are addressing the knowledge gap identified by *Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan*, and are setting a solid foundation for the future. *The Flora of Nepal* will take a long time to complete, but the information it contains is needed now. The online publication and digital delivery of the *Flora* means that plants of conservation concern, be they endemic species, medicinal herbs threatened by over-harvesting from the wild, or invasive plants spreading into new areas and degrading habitats, can be targeted and published in advance of the printed volumes, and *Plants and You* knowledge products disseminated. This should also include the production of a Plant Red Data Book for Nepal as a focus for national-level conservation policy. It is well known that the mid hills are botanically the most species rich areas of Nepal, yet they are poorly covered by protected areas. Plant distribution data from the *Flora of Nepal* dataset can be used to model national hotspots and so inform the establishment of new protected areas in the future. These data can also feed into climate change modelling studies to ensure that our conservation plans for today will still be effective in the future.

Vulture conservation in Nepal, and the role of conservation breeding in supporting conservation initiatives

Nick Lindsay, Zoological Society of London

The catastrophic declines of *Gyps* vultures throughout South Asia recorded in the 1990s led to considerable efforts by conservation organisations in the region to prevent three species going extinct. The programme went on to identify ways

to reverse the declines and to ensure these and other scavenging bird species have a safe future. Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres were developed in India, Nepal and Pakistan initially providing a safe environment for the vultures. These have gone on to breed all three species with vultures being available in the future to re-establish wild populations in the region. Nepal has developed a ground-breaking initiative to try to conserve the remaining wild populations of vultures and to provide safe environments for vultures in the future. A network of Vulture Safe Zones now exists in Nepal proving a model for organisations to introduce into States in Northern India bordering the Nepal/India border.

The skills of staff in Central Zoo and in the Gharial Conservation Breeding Centre have proved invaluable in the establishment of the vulture centre. Both gharials and vultures are good examples of how breeding centres established in range countries can play a significant role in the conservation of species. Conservation breeding is a tool that is available in Nepal but can only be used as part of a wider conservation plan including the protection of species and their environment in the wild.

Gharial conservation in Nepal: past, present, future

Iri Gill, Zoological Society of London

The gharial *Gavialis gangeticus* is a highly specialised crocodylian endemic to the Indian subcontinent. Historically, the species occurred across the Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, Mahanadi and Irrawaddy drainages. However, they are now restricted to a few, scattered locations in

India and Nepal, largely within the Gangetic Basin. This species is of conservation concern and is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN red list. Across its range gharials and their habitat are under threat from human activities; fishing nets, unethical fishing methods, poaching and water dams are cause for concern. In Chitwan National Park a Conservation breeding centre for gharials was established in 1978, to help increase numbers in the wild. There are around 600 gharials held at this facility and 100 animals per year are released in to the wild. Since 2010, the numbers of animals produced here have gradually dwindled, with no animals propagated in the past three years. An international plea has been sent out by government agencies, in Nepal, to crocodylian specialists worldwide, asking for assistance to improve conservation activities for gharials. In addition to this a 2015 survey suggests that there is only one male left in the wild in Nepal. Much needed research is required to further our understanding of *G. gangeticus* and their habitat, from which a much needed conservation strategy can be formulated for this critically endangered crocodylian. Led by our in-country hub, ZSL has a strong representation with conservation initiatives in Nepal, and with a collaborative approach, ZSL intends to provide support for the gharial conservation crisis in this region.

15.15 Nepal birds and their conservation

Carol Inskipp, Author

Considering Nepal's small size, it has an especially high diversity of bird species, 878 in total, around 8% of the world's known bird species. BirdLife International

has assessed 37 species as globally threatened and 30 species as Near-Threatened in Nepal.

The recently completed Nepal National bird Red Data Book (RDB) is the first comprehensive status assessment of all bird species in Nepal using the IUCN Categories and Criteria. 167 species (19%) have been assessed as nationally threatened. These comprise 40% which are considered Critically Endangered, 23% Endangered and 37% Vulnerable species. 62 species have been assessed as Near-Threatened. The non-passerines (larger birds) were found to be the most threatened. During the assessment Nepal's protected areas' system, which covers around 23 per cent of the country, was found to provide good protection for many bird species. However, it is a concern that some species, notably lowland grassland specialists and some specialist forest birds, were found to be limited mainly or entirely to protected areas. A total of 36–38 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) which are of international importance for birds, have been identified by Bird Conservation Nepal, the country's leading bird conservation NGO.

The RDB assessment found that habitat losses, damage and fragmentation were the most serious threats to Nepal's birds. Some other major threats are over-exploitation, including over-fishing, hunting, trapping and persecution, invasive species, climate change, and lack of conservation awareness.

The Nepal National RDB makes recommendations for bird conservation including ways to help reduce habitat losses and damage and addressing

over-exploitation; the urgent need for more conservation awareness engagement programmes, especially with local communities; protection of all IBAs; improving the capacity of wildlife agencies in bird conservation, research on nationally threatened and data deficient species, and setting up a Nepal bird status and distribution database.

Launch of ‘The Status of Nepal’s Birds: The National Red List Series

Towards the end of the day, *The Status of Nepal’s Birds: The National Red List*

Series was launched. This has been a mammoth task to produce, and Carol and Tim Inskipp, Dr Hem Baral, Nepali counterparts and others have been working on it for the past four years. The final document ran to six volumes – and for those of you with stamina, they can be found on the ZSL website –

<https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/asia/national-red-list-of-nepals-birds>

WEBSITE & EMAIL CONTACT

Members will have noticed considerable changes & improvements to the Society’s website: www.britainnepalsociety.org

In addition the Secretary is increasingly using email to contact members about events and Society news. This makes it much easier, cheaper and faster to pass information. However members are asked to ensure that the Secretary’s email address: secretary@britainnepalsociety.org is firmly listed in members’ safe contact list.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF TREKKING IN NEPAL

By Robin Marston

One fine, clear morning fifty years ago in October 1965, three ladies from the American mid-west, bumped their way in an old jeep over a rough dirt road to the eastern end of the Kathmandu valley. From there they walked-or rather 'trekked' (a word taken from the 'Vor-Trekkers' in South Africa) - for the next three and a half weeks to the foot of Mount Everest. Thus began commercial trekking in Nepal. Colonel J.O.M. Roberts MVO, MBE, MC, recently retired from the British Embassy in Kathmandu, registered Nepal and the world's first trekking company 'Mountain Travel Nepal' with the Department of Industry in 1964. 'Colonel Jimmy' had spent much of his youth trekking and climbing in the Himalayan Karakoram and served with distinction in the British Gurkhas during the Burma campaign in the Second World War. Those three American ladies were accompanied by a team of Sherpas- a sardar (trek manager) cook, guides, kitchen crew and locally employed porters. Aside for some fresh food purchased along the way, they carried everything they needed for their seven week trek. Sleeping, dining and toilet tents, sleeping bags, tin plates and cutlery, cooking pots and ladles, rice, flour, sugar salt, oil and tea. There were no roads or airfields in the foothills east of the Kathmandu valley at that time. The air strip at Lukla was being constructed by Sir Edmund Hillary, with the help of the hands and yes, the feet, of 100 local Sherpas! The 'feet' aspect came in when it was found the prepared surface of the airstrip was too soft to allow for an aircraft landing. However Sherpa dancing

entails a lot of 'stamping of the feet', so, a long lasting 'chang' (local beer) party, sherpa music and dancing on the airstrip was organised. Soon after, with the airstrip firmed up, the first ever successful landing of a single engine Pilatus Porter aircraft took place.

Life for the Sherpas, who were to become the backbone of the trekking industry in Nepal, had always been hard. Some three to four hundred years earlier, groups in search of 'Beyul' (Shangrila) arrived in the Solu Khumbu area. They crossed the Himalayas via the Nangpa La (pass) 5800m from Tibet. They settled in areas where now lie the villages of Thame, Namche, Khunde and Khumjung. They later built a Gompa with views of Chomolongma (Everest) on the plateau at Thyangboche.



Col Jimmy Roberts.

At altitude crops grow slowly, but buck-wheat, barley and radishes survived. Later, the potato was introduced in the area, perhaps from the grounds of the British Residency in Kathmandu and this has been the staple crop ever since. Trade became the Sherpas main livelihood, bringing salt from Tibet and bartering grain from the south. Tibetan wool and tea from Yunnan and Sichuan was also in demand in the Indian plains.

Until 1950 Nepal remained closed to (almost all) foreigners. So British climbers seeking access to Everest turned east to the Darjeeling area from where a route led 150km north to the Nathu La (4310ms). This off-shoot of the old Silk route lead from the plains of Bengal to Lhasa. The pass offered the easiest access route to the north side of the Himalayas.

Darjeeling based Sherpas were already heavily engaged in trading and were well adapted to high altitude, so were recruited by the British expeditions. In 1921, 22 and 24 teams including Bruce, Young husband, Mallory and Irvine, crossed north into Tibet then rode and walked west to Tingri. Then south to set up base camp below the north Col. They relied for logistic and climbing support at high altitude on the Sherpas and an enduring bond was created. But the tragic loss of seven Sherpas in an avalanche in 1922 and the death of Mallory and Irvine (did they reach the Summit?) in 1924, brought this period of climbing to a close.

Little happened in the eastern Nepal Himalayas until after the Second World War when, in 1950 Nepal finally opened its doors to foreigners. This allowed access to the Nepal Himalayas from the south. Maurice Herzog led the first ever

successful climb of an 8000m (26400ft) peak- Annapurna 1 with a French team. The Swiss almost conquered Everest using the South Col route in 1952 and then finally on the morning of 29 May 1953, Sherpa Tenzing Norgay and (the soon to be) Sir Edmund Hillary, climbing with John Hunt's British expedition, finally 'knocked the ba.....d off' as Hillary quaintly put it.

Subsequently more expeditions arrived, giving employment to the Sherpas and then in 1965 came that first commercial trek. At last access to the beautiful villages and foothills of Nepal, high pass crossings and views of Everest itself were open to those with determination, a little spare time and enough 'huff and puff'.

Through the 60s, 70s and most of the 80s trekking was a 'camping experience'. It quickly became popular with clients from America, Europe, Australia and elsewhere. Groups of friends or families trekking (walking) for 6-7 hrs a day, sleeping in tents and being guided and looked after by the now famous, 'Sherpas of Nepal'. As a result the Sherpas themselves also prospered.

In the 80s and 90s things gradually changed as local villagers in the Annapurna, Langtang, and Solu Khumbu/Everest areas built 'tea houses' or 'lodges' to cater to these same trekkers. At first they were simple, offering dormitory accommodation, basic food and outside washing and toilet facilities. Over time conditions improved and today it is possible to have comfortable beds, hot showers and even 'en suite' facilities. Add warm and welcoming dining areas, a hot rum punch, good food and life after a day on the trail, is well rewarded!

As more and more people used the lodges, support for tented trekking fell away. The lodge owners and villages got a bigger 'share of the cake'.

More recently roads have pierced their way north up the Himalayan valleys. Most noticeable is the route from Pokhara via Beni and Tatopani up through the Kali Gandaki gorge to Jomsom. There the route divides, one track leading to Muktinath and the other northwards to the ancient walled city of Lomantang and the Tibetan border. Rough as it is, the road has allowed many thousands of pilgrims (mostly Indian and Nepali) to visit the shrine at Muktinath, but the number of trekkers in the area has halved.

The quality of the 'Around Annapurna' trek, listed as one of the 'Seven Great Treks of the World' was degraded and roads also opened the Manang valley, the Helambu area and spread east from Jiri into classic Solu Khumbu/Sherpa hill country. Inevitably they affect trekking trails, reduce choice and detract from the classic trek experience.

Across the world, there are political and economic traumas and security is a major concern. In the last three years Nepal itself has experienced two major dramas

on Everest, an avalanche on the Thorong Pass area of the Annapurna's and more recently, on 25 April, a major earthquake causing damage and loss of life from Gorkha east across Nepal as far as the Khumbu.

Since the promulgation of the long awaited new Nepal Constitution, political disturbances are adversely affecting conditions across the Terai including the tourist areas of Chitwan, Lumbini and Bardia. There are fuel and other shortages in Kathmandu and throughout Nepal and the post monsoon trekking and tourist season is being hard hit.

If Nepal's trek industry is to grow and prosper, it urgently needs to innovate, diversify and recover its good image. Nepal still has much to offer, the beauty of the country, the friendliness of its people's and the awe that the mighty Himalayas can inspire. Post monsoon and the peaks, freshly coated with monsoon snow, break through the clouds to reveal the greatest and mightiest range of mountains in the world.

It has indeed been a wonderful first fifty years for trekking in Nepal, but now what?which way forward?



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THE GURKHA EVEREST EXPEDITION 2015

By Major Andrew Todd, Royal Gurkha Rifles

Rifleman Dawa was slowly losing his hearing as I sat beside his bed, talking directly into his ear. It was 2010 and he had been injured in an explosion while serving with the Gurkhas in Afghanistan. Dawa showed me pictures on his laptop - photographs of his family in Nepal, the proud moment that he passed Gurkha selection. A photograph of Dawa with his brother Tshering Pande Bhote was especially striking. Tshering is an International Mountain Guide and one of the first Nepali citizens to qualify under the rigorous IFMGA process. The brothers were pictured with General Sir David Richards, then head of the British Army, who held up four fingers to signify the number of successful ascents of Mount Everest that Tshering had completed (he has since summited twice more). Later that year, my wife and I went out to the Everest region to climb Ama Dablam with Tshering. The long acclimatisation process provided plenty of time to think and I vowed that were there ever to be the opportunity to take a team of Gurkha soldiers to the area, it would be something with which I would make sure I was involved. The 200th anniversary of Gurkha service to The Crown in 2015 presented this exact opportunity to be part of a Gurkha team attempting to climb Mount Everest - despite it existing in their back yard, no serving Gurkha soldier has ever summited the mountain.

Gurkhas are first-class soldiers but they are not natural mountaineers. As a Gurkha officer in The Royal Gurkha Rifles, I have witnessed both - a courageous soldier,

decorated with honours, looking puzzled and confused by the Alpine hitch, a bowline, crampons on back-to-front. One soldier commented that my ability to tie a figure of eight so quickly was a magic trick. I have learned that, for Gurkhas, petrol stoves, snow holes and their eyebrows do not mix well, and neither do their crampons and my inflatable mattress.

Training, however, is something that we Gurkhas take seriously, and it took three years to develop, train and select a team that had never before worn a harness or crampons to climb Everest. Before we arrived in Kathmandu, in March 2015, the team had trained in North Wales, Scotland, the Swiss Alps and on the South East Ridge of Makalu. From the 2,700 Gurkhas in the British Army, we took ninety of the best and selected just thirteen for our Everest endeavour.

On 25 April 2015, our team stood at the foot of the Khumbu Icefall on Everest's southern flanks. Our climb up the new steeper route set this year to avoid the dangerous seracs that had caused the fatal avalanche in 2014 was uneventful until around 7am. We had moved fast through the icefall and three of us waited for the rest of the team at the top of four vertical ladders that were lashed together. One of the Gurkhas said that his feet were getting cold and we debated carrying on to Camp 1, but we made the decision to wait for the rest of the team before moving on. Soon after, a loud crack like a gun shot made us turn and look up to see a huge block of ice the size of two lorries come crashing down

on to the route. It would have hit us if we had continued climbing. It was the gypsy's warning that something was not quite right and, with the team back together, we continued cautiously to Camp 1.

Camp 1, at 6,200m, is perched on a glacier between three of the highest mountains in the world, Lhotse, Nuptse and Everest. Disappointingly, we couldn't see any of them as the camp was cloaked in low-hanging cloud. We rested in our tents, spoke to our basecamp manager Captain Buddhi on the radio about the weather and checked in with the three team members who were still in the icefall - their plan for the day had been to climb to the first of the vertical ladders and return to Base Camp.

At 11:48am, Captain Buddhi was at Base Camp, three team members were climbing in the icefall and eight of us were at Camp 1. Some of our Sherpas were at Camp 2, some at Camp 1 and some at Base Camp - it had been a brilliant day that should have been topped off by the safe return of our Icefall team to basecamp. At that moment, the glacier under Camp 1 shook violently, crevasses opened up behind our tents and the mountains exploded. I couldn't hear anything except the earth and the mountain crashing around us. The ground dropped beneath us with a swing from side to side, and as I put my head out of the tent I was hit by a cloud of snow - a blast wave from the massive avalanche at basecamp.

Reaching for the radio, we tried to raise our icefall team and Captain Buddhi at Base Camp. There was silence. As things calmed, I could hear the Sherpa on the radio saying in Nepali that they'd been buried and Base Camp was destroyed. I immediately assumed that Buddhi

and our Icefall team were dead. The indescribable feeling when soldiers die hit me; this was not part of the plan and there was nothing I could do.

Suddenly, the ice fall team came booming through on the radio. They had survived the earthquake and were hurriedly descending to Base Camp. The story they later told of blocks of ice falling around them, the avalanches and the blast wave as they made their descent was harrowing. As the snow cloud settled they reported that Base Camp was gone and everything was chaos. They began to look for Captain Buddhi, who was still missing, and assisted with the evacuation of the injured climbers and Sherpas.

At Camp 1, we were relieved that we had survived, terrified of the aftershocks and subsequent avalanches, but above all heartbroken by the thought that Buddhi had been killed. He was supposed to have been safe at Base Camp. These thoughts went through our minds for more than three hours before we received an update from the icefall team. We heard that they had found Buddhi, but it took another 10 minutes to confirm over frustratingly broken radio signals that he was alive. He had been thrown some 30m from his tent and face-planted into a small hollow where he and our Base Camp Sherpas sheltered awaiting their fate. They all survived unscathed, less Buddhi who suffered a cut to his head. It needed stitching but nothing more.

We set about planning the rescue of the climbers and Sherpas stranded at Camps 1 and 2. Argentinean climber Damian Benegas went to examine the state of the route back through the icefall and

confirmed that it was completely destroyed and impassable. We had enough food for a few days. At night, the aftershocks got louder and triggered avalanches closer to our tents. We were sitting ducks and extremely thankful when we were extracted by helicopter to Base Camp on the third day after the earthquake. We returned to find that our Base Camp was completely destroyed and our possessions blasted across the Khumbu glacier.

Our Gurkha climbing team all had immediate family spread across Nepal and some of their houses had been flattened by the earthquake. Many of our team had specialist engineering skills and remained in Nepal until August to assist the Gurkha Welfare Trust with the earthquake relief effort.

The day before I left Kathmandu, I had one more job to do. I had to meet the brothers, Tshering and Dawa who, for me, had inspired the Everest expedition. Dawa has always had a way with words that is typically Gurkha.

Lip-reading in both Nepali and English, he took in our story on Everest before describing his own tale of the earthquake. He narrowly escaped death for a second time as the earth shook around him while working on a hydroelectric dam project near the small town of Gorkha. "I have always been good at running, Saheb," he explained. Dawa is a battle-hardened veteran and he summed up how we both felt when he said, "It was the single scariest thing that has ever happened in my life, simply more terrifying than anything I did in Afghanistan."

So the summit of Everest remains untouched by a serving Gurkha soldier, and though it would have been a good story to have made a successful attempt in this anniversary two hundredth year of service to The Queen, our thoughts are with the families of our soldiers and the people of Nepal as they recover from this extraordinary event.

MCC v NEPAL AT LORD'S TUESDAY 19 JULY

By Gerry Birch

As part of the celebrations marking 200 years of Anglo-Nepal friendship with the signing of the Treaty of Segauli, a side from Nepal was invited by the MCC to play a 50 over match at Lord's, the home of cricket. Most of us know that in India cricket is almost a religion. The Maidan in Calcutta is always full of teams playing on this open place. In recent years this has spread to Nepal and the much-reduced size of the Tundikhel is where Nepalis can be seen playing with great enthusiasm.

Tuesday 19th July turned out to be a very fine and warm day – no likelihood of interference by rain. The London-based Nepali population turned out in force to support their team with noisy encouragement in the tradition of matches played on the Sub-continent! I was told by the MCC that at least 5000 supporters were in the stands which is good percentage of UK-based Nepalis (estimated at around 90,000 – 100,000 uk wide). This was, in MCC's experience, one of the highest turnouts noted for a minor game of this nature. Nepal won the toss and opened the batting, achieving a score of 217 for 8 wickets in their 50 overs. During the lunch interval the Band of the Brigade of

Gurkhas performed to their usual high standard.

The afternoon session was very interesting. Whilst Nepal had amassed a good total against the MCC's fast to medium-fast bowling, the slower bowling and greater use of spin by the Nepal bowlers soon had the home-side in difficulty. A situation not unknown to teams from England these days! In the event MCC were bowled out for 176 in 47.2 overs. The relatively inexperienced Nepal team had achieved a very creditable win. For cricket buffs I have included a copy of the full scorecard. The match was followed by a reception for the teams and some lucky guests in the hallowed Long Room. This was very much appreciated by the visitors and those of us invited. The Long Room is a truly historic place with wonderful pictures relating to the early days of cricket and of course the records of those who have made significant bowling and batting performances. We all left with good memories of the occasion and our thanks to the MCC for this wonderful day in the annals of Nepal cricket.

M.C.C. v. NEPAL

Tuesday 19th July 2016 50 overs per side

NEPAL		Innings	
1. G. Malla.....	c and b Dutch.....		39
2. A.K. Mandal.....	c and b Barrett.....		2
3. S. Vesawkar.....	b Clark.....		27
†4. P. Khadka.....	c Clark b Reingold.....		30
5. Sagar Pun.....	b Barrett.....		26
*6. R. Rijal.....	c Senneck b Dutch.....		24
7. B. Bhandari.....	c Barrett b Perren.....		9
8. Sompal Kami.....	run out.....		20
9. B. Regmi.....	not out.....		24
10. S.P. Gauchan.....	not out.....		0
11. S. Lamichhane.....			
	b , l-b , w 14, n-b 2, p ,		16
	Total.....(8 wkts, 50 overs)		217

FALL OF THE WICKETS

1—18 2—58 3—104 4—107 5—141 6—169 7—174 8—216 9— 10—

ANALYSIS OF BOWLING

Name		Innings					
	O.	M.	R.	W.	W.	N-b.	
Senneck.....	3	0	19	0	...	...
Barrett.....	10	1	35	2	5	...	
Clark.....	5	0	28	1	3	1	
Wilkinson.....	6	0	26	0	...	...
Dutch.....	10	1	36	2	2	...	
Reingold.....	9	0	38	1	2	1	
Perren.....	7	0	35	1	1	...	

M.C.C.

Name		Innings	
1. S. Clark.....	b Gauchan.....		16
2. G.A. Adair.....	c Rijal b Regmi.....		100
*3. G.D. Phillips.....	b Pun.....		0
4. C.T. Perren.....	lbw b Pun.....		3
5. J.M. Overy.....	lbw b Pun.....		9
6. M.S. Coles.....	c Bhandari b Lamichhane.....		6
7. R.M. Wilkinson.....	b Kami.....		20
†8. K.P. Dutch.....	b Regmi.....		6
9. C.A. Barrett.....	lbw b Kami.....		6
10. Major A. Senneck.....	b Regmi.....		0
11. M.S. Reingold.....	not out.....		0
	b 1, l-b 5, w 4, n-b , p ,		10
	Total.....(47.2 overs)		176

FALL OF THE WICKETS

1—35 2—36 3—44 4—72 5—107 6—157 7—168 8—169 9—176 10—176

ANALYSIS OF BOWLING

Name		Innings					
	O.	M.	R.	W.	W.	N-b.	
Kami.....	9	1	33	2	2	...	
Khadka.....	6	1	19	0	1	...	
Gauchan.....	7	0	21	1	...	...
Pun.....	10	2	35	3	...	...
Regmi.....	9.2	1	37	3	1	...	
Lamichhane.....	6	0	25	1	...	...

Umpires—M.J.D. Bodenham & J.H. Evans Scorers—J.G.E. Jarvis & R.A. Reeder

†Captain *Wicket-keeper

Play begins at 10.30 Luncheon Interval Between Innings

Nepal won the toss

Nepal won by 41 runs

NOT YOUR AVERAGE HOLLIDAY - WATERAID IN NEPAL

By Craig Holliday

(This article is based on the talk given by Craig Holliday to the Society on 7th October 2015)

In March 2014, I was incredibly privileged to be able to visit Nepal with the international charity WaterAid. Having worked for Essex & Suffolk Water for 12 years - during which time I helped to raise thousands of pounds for the charity - this was a great chance to see first hand how money raised can benefit people's lives.

Since 1981 WaterAid has been providing safe water, sanitation and hygiene education to some of the world's poorest communities. Approximately 1 in 10 people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water and 2.3 billion people don't have a toilet; WaterAid wants to change this and ensure that everyone, everywhere has access to these basic rights by 2030.



Craig Holliday at Poon Hill.

WaterAid started working in Nepal in 1987. The country's extreme landscape presents a range of challenges to providing water and sanitation services including remote water sources, contamination and dwindling supplies; 2.3m people across Nepal currently don't have access to safe water. Many urban areas have a clean water supply but water tables are dropping rapidly. And as traditional sources dry up, the population continues to grow with people migrating to escape conflict or find work. In mountainous areas the routes to water sources are often long and difficult. Communities carry heavy loads across steep paths and ravines, commonly resulting in serious injuries.

In Nepal, 600 children under five die every year from diarrhoeal diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation. This accounts for a third of all child deaths. Only 48% of the population in Nepal have access to a proper toilet, and many people have no option but to defecate in the open, causing widespread disease. Hand-washing is not yet common practice in some areas and the causes of ill health are often covered up by superstition, making it particularly hard to make improvements. Effective hygiene education along with safe water and sanitation services, are vital for making long-term changes to health.

All these issues set the context for our visit and while we were there to enjoy the stunning scenery as we trekked through the Annapurna range, raising money and

awareness for WaterAid was always in my thoughts. Our trek lasted six days and took us from Bajung, just outside Pokhara, to Poon Hill. We took in the stunning vistas stretching from the Dhaulagiri range to the Annapurna Massive before joining the main Annapurna circuit and descending to finish at Syaule Bazaar.

The first three days away from the main trails was a fascinating experience. We wound our way up the valley slopes and through the terraced farming villages and it felt I was experiencing the real Nepal. Small farmsteads each growing their own crops and each with a set of eager children keen to say hello to strangers!

Villages like Palate in the Surkhet region were among the ‘real’ Nepal we experienced. Palate is a small community in Surkhet, a remote region of western Nepal. For the villagers here, it takes an hour to fetch water and the water they collect is not safe to drink. Palate also has a government water supply but the only two standpipes in the village are over 20 years old and badly contaminated.

Laxmi Karki’s story: 28 year old Laxmi has been married for 15 years - since she was 13 - and has three children: two daughters (aged 12 and six) and a nine year old son. She and her children live in a house on the corner of one of the main ‘streets’ in Palate and she runs a small shop in the downstairs room of her house. Most days there is no water from the water points, so Laxmi has to walk to collect water.

“The water rarely flows and when it does we find dead snakes and rotting frogs coming through the pipe. Most days we have to walk through the forest for water instead,” Laxmi says.

She goes up to five times a day and says each trip takes about an hour so she has to



Laxmi Karki collects water after her hour long trip.

close the shop every time she goes. Her eldest daughter often misses school to fetch water so Laxmi doesn’t have to close the shop, and her six year old daughter, Puja, has a small bucket to help with the water collection.

When her children got sick from the water, Laxmi had to take out a loan of 7000 rupees to pay for medicine - seven times what she earns each month from the shop.



WaterAid group being welcomed by the people of Nala.

She couldn't pay back the loan, so her husband had to go to Mumbai in search of work. She said she hates giving the children water she knows will make them sick but there is no alternative.

While walking along the trail we came across many disused water points, many of them are susceptible to drying up during the dry season or being damaged by high flows or land slides during the monsoon season. The impact of poor water and sanitation on Laxmi and her family is clear to see and is the reason I'm such a passionate WaterAid supporter. After we returned safely from our trek and headed back to Kathmandu we were taken to visit a village where WaterAid had been working to improve the water and sanitation situation.

Nala is approximately 30km east of Kathmandu in the Kavre district and is home to 1,400 people. With WaterAid's support, the village has introduced two projects to improve water and sanitation services.

WaterAid works with the poorest and most marginalised communities and focuses on delivering sustainable solutions. The first step in this approach is engaging with the community to understand their issues and educate them in the benefits of safe water and sanitation. This involves establishing

a water and sanitation users committee with the village elders. With the full engagement of the community, improvements are made giving them the best possible chance of long term success.

We went for a walk around the village and saw that six wells in the village that had been open to contamination were now covered and the water was safe for drinking; additional tap stands had also been built for washing. Each house pays approx 50 rupees (30p) in water rates per month. This is paid to a village account to maintain the facilities. Each household had also been taught about improving the safety of their water supply by boiling, chlorinating or filtering the water before drinking. The main philosophy behind this is prevention being better than cure.

A community-led total sanitation approach has been developed with the Nala Water and Sanitation User committee (WSUC). This involved building storm drainage in the village to take away rain water and prevent flooding during the monsoon season. A sewer network was also installed and connected to 355 homes giving everyone in the village a toilet. The sewers were paid for by WaterAid and the local partner and the villagers bought their own squatting latrine for 1000 rupees.



Nala is an open defecation free zone.



Nala's reed bed sewage system.

Hygiene education was the biggest barrier to success and it took a year of discussions and preparations with the WSUC and villagers to get the buy in. This is why the villagers paid for their latrines, if they had just been installed for them the danger is they would not use them or understand the need. The village is now an ‘open defecation’ free zone, a fact they are very proud of.

The sewer network feeds into a reed bed treatment plant on the edge of the village. Effluent flows through three settlement chambers where solids settle out before going through a larger reed bed, finally going out into the local watercourse. All the design and operating parameters are painted on the wall next to the plant so everyone knows how it works. The reed bed has been in operation for a year and



The WaterAid group with the Water & Sanitation users committee in Nala.

they are still learning how to get the best out of it. Local people are in charge of operating and maintaining the system.

Outside the main part of Nala are smaller villages where gravity-fed water systems supply the communities with water. We walked up into the hills to see the secure concrete reservoirs that have been built to capture water from the streams above the village. This stores water for the dry season, when water can be scarce, and prevents contamination. Three of these systems provide nine tap stands for locals to use. Previously there was only one system which resulted in long queues for water, the only alternative was to collect water from the local streams. The health benefits of this infrastructure have already been seen with a reduction in the incidence of diarrhoea, typhoid and jaundice. The local health organisation statistics show an 11% reduction in these diseases and there is real hope for a bigger reduction next year.

While we were there we met the Water and Sanitation User Committee to discuss how they feel about WaterAid’s work. The committee consists of 15 members: 10 men and five women. There is a requirement that 33% of the committee are from female, disabled or from a marginal sector of the population. Each household in the village is entitled to vote annually to decide the following year’s committee members. The committee were overjoyed to talk to us and thanked us for raising money for WaterAid projects. The emotion was there for us all to see.

They told us that WaterAid has been very supportive and has engaged with them throughout the project. They said that



Gokul Bajgain & Sushmita in their temporary home following the earthquake.

WaterAid had left a legacy - building the community into a team, promoting good relationships and building team spirit. The committee plans to install more water supplies over the next four years reaching the remaining 30% of people still without water and sanitation. Amazingly they are also investigating how to generate energy from their waste. It was inspiring to see the community driving forward the improvements themselves, and that WaterAid is using the money we raise to change people's lives. Before leaving we had a photo with the WSUC in the sunshine and were presented with a 'token of love' from them - a lovely framed picture. Between us, the team of 20 had raised nearly £100k for WaterAid's work. After six days in Nepal it was great to see how the efforts we had made are really making a difference.

The Nepal Earthquake

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal on 25 April 2015, followed by a second earthquake measuring 7.4, exacerbating the damages caused by the first. Together the quakes killed over 9,000 people, and destroyed more than 600,000 homes. The several strong aftershocks caused a huge amount of damage and trauma to the country. Seven out of 23 districts, where

WaterAid Nepal (WAN) had been working, were badly affected.

Working with local partners, WAN provided emergency WASH support to quake survivors in 11 districts. The key areas of response included improvement of water quality through purification tablets and community filters, rehabilitation of water supply systems, construction of temporary toilets, distribution of hygiene kits, and organisation of health and disease awareness campaigns. WAN's immediate response reached over 160,000 people. Further hampering the response to the earthquake was the border blockade in December 2015, relating to Nepal's new constitution.

Gokul Bajgain, 40, had his house destroyed completely, and his wife and daughter-in-law were trapped under the rubble. Neighbours were able to dig them out but looking at the pile of stones that remained, it was incredible that they were not more seriously injured; they were both badly scraped and bruised on their legs and arms. Gokul was in Barabasi at the time and had to rush to return to them.

His daughter-in-law, Sushmita Bajgain, 20, cannot walk well due to her injuries and is in pain, spending most of her days under a blanket, on the ground in a makeshift shelter of metal sheeting propped up with bits of salvaged wood against the hillside. Her three-month-old son, not yet named, is quiet and content but in badly soiled clothing. Her husband, Gokul's son, is away working in Saudi Arabia. Sushmita said: "We haven't had any illnesses, but I am not able to boil water for the baby and I can't look after him properly, keep him clean or change his

clothing. I am able to wash some of his clothes but not as I did before.

My injuries have made it hard for me to breastfeed my child. We have this tap nearby, so we have water all the time. We are using our neighbour's toilet. But it is so difficult. We need shelter, and food. "My husband's father and brother will help rebuild our house. In everyday life it is quite hard without my husband, but it has to be managed. In our house, we had a water source a little walk away, though it was not well managed. It took only a few minutes to walk to the well but I had to collect water three times a day for the family. We built this house only one year ago and now it's no more. The house is still standing, but it's so badly cracked that it looks like the slightest breeze might blow it over."

She asks us if we think it's safe to go in to retrieve her things - her cooking utensils,

her grain, and her blankets.

"We have paid more than nine lakh [100,000 rupees] for this house. We took a loan for it. Now we are so worried - and we are staying outside.

"My daughters are healthy so far, they have had no diarrhoea. We really depend on having clean water here. The men mostly don't work. It's difficult to look after the children and get the water too."

Nepal still faces a long recovery to rebuild the damage caused by the earthquake. WaterAid is one of a number of organisations working on the ground to help improve the situation for thousands of people.

For just £15 you can help provide one person with a lasting supply of safe water. www.wateraid.org

Honours and Awards

Mrs Wendy Marston, Co-founder of BVS-Nepal, has been awarded a British Empire Medal by Her Majesty The Queen in the Birthday Honours List 2015 for her services to survivors of burns in Nepal.

Wendy and her husband Robin, an ex-Gurkha drove overland to Nepal 38 years ago, as he was going to out to run Nepal's first trekking and mountaineering company 'Mountain Travel', originally set-up by Colonel Jimmy Roberts.

Wendy's first-hand experience of working with burns survivors drove her to work tirelessly to improve the quality and provision of burns care in Nepal.

Concerned at the conditions she saw in government hospitals, Wendy worked with doctors at Bir Hospital to support the creation of the first dedicated burns unit in Nepal.

In 2008, Wendy was helped by her daughter to establish BVS-Nepal.

The charity is dedicated to helping and supporting survivors of burns, and aims to ensure that the best available care and treatment is provided to them. BVS-Nepal provides medical treatment, counselling, physiotherapy and nutritional support to burns patients. It also provides recreational activities for the children in the burn ward at Kanti Children's Hospital.

Over the years Wendy has shown selfless dedication to supporting burns victims. With the support of her family, she has conducted extensive fundraising and awareness raising campaigns. Wendy has been personally involved in the care of

many burn patients. The charity she helped to establish works alongside a range of partner organisations to rehabilitate survivors of burns violence through an integrated and holistic approach, helping survivors live empowered and fulfilling lives with dignity. Through training courses, radio, street drama and other outreach BVS-Nepal also aims to prevent and diminish the occurrence of burns in Nepal.

In 2013 BVS-Nepal provided 795 nutrition baskets, helped more than 110 patients receive daily counselling, ensured 82 survivors received physiotherapy, and delivered plastic and reconstructive surgery to 65 people. BVS-Nepal is working in 10 hospitals across Nepal. With approximately 56,000 people suffering burn injuries every year in Nepal, and only 15 plastic surgeons for population of 28 million, there remains much to do. BVS-Nepal and its small dynamic and dedicated team has also played a significant role in recovery and rebuilding work since the April 25th and May 12th earthquakes in 2015. It has been the primary partner on the ground for the Nepal Earthquake Recovery Appeal (NERA), a funding appeal that has raised £325,000 set-up by Alison Marston through the Bulldog Trust, where she is Head of Grants and Philanthropy. The fund was set up to support the work of local grassroots NGO's working in the local communities affected by the earthquakes, by providing them with grants and profiling their work through a series of 12 short films.



The picture shows Mrs Wendy Marston being presented with her BEM by Mr Olisa, Lord Lieutenant of London at the Tower of London. The Society congratulates Wendy Marston on her well deserved award.

St Columba's Lent Appeal 2016

For a number of years the Society has held the annual Nepali Supper at St Columba's church hall. Members will be interested to learn that St Columba's Lent Appeal this year was directed to help Nepal. The appeal was to help a small overseas charity, House of Hope. Located on the outskirts of Kathmandu, House of Hope (HoH) is a small orphanage (currently 25 children). HoH ensure that children are cared for and educated in a family environment and encourage community and educational skills in the local area. The funds raised are to be used for a specific project: Children Basket Fund & Income Generation Programme. Funds will enable investment in chickens and goats, providing children with nutritional food (eggs & milk), and investment in a kitchen garden. The aim is to help children develop teamwork, management and responsibility. In the event the Appeal raised £6665.

The 2015 Journal frontispiece photograph

I was grateful to receive a letter from Col JR Cawthorne concerning the black and white frontispiece photograph in the last journal showing a group of Brigade of Gurkhas COs and Gurkha Majors. From the uniforms I had concluded that this photograph must be pre-WWII. I had discovered this photograph when, as executor to the late Mrs Mayura Brown, I was sorting through her papers. Subsequently I noted a copy hanging in a corridor in the Kaiser Library in Kathmandu. The library suffered considerable damage as a result of the earthquake. Colonel Cawthorne writes:

“Having done some research into the appointments and succession of Nepalese Honorary Colonels and Colonels-in-Chiefs to Gurkha regiments in British Service, I may be able to shed more light on the photograph on the front-piece to the 2015 Journal and your assumptions in the Editorial.

“In 1934, Honorary Lieutenant General HH Maharaja Sir Joodha Shumsher Jang Bahadur Rana GCSI GCIE Prime Minister and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of Nepal was appointed Honorary Colonel of all the Regiments of the Gurkha Brigade. He was the first Maharaja of Nepal to hold such an appointment; his predecessors had been Honorary Colonels of 4th Prince of Wales's Own Gurkha Rifles.

“The following year, Joodha Shumsher was invited to Delhi by the Viceroy, Lord Willingdon, and on 30th January 1935 received a deputation of British and Gurkha officers from each of the ten

Gurkha Regiments, headed by Major General WLO Twiss Military Secretary and Colonel 9th Gurkha Rifles; which I assume was when this group photograph was taken. He presented to each of the Gurkha Regiments a signed photograph of himself, a silver shield and a sum of money. Dress for the presentation was Review Order – Khaki Drill – with orders and decorations. The sources of this information come from the respective Gurkha regimental histories and the *News Bulletin* 2nd King Edward's Own Goorkhas 1935. During his visit, he was presented with the sword of a General Officer of The British Army from the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, Field Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode.

“By making him Honorary Colonel of all the Regiments of the Gurkha Brigade, it is assumed that the Government of India was seeking his continued support for recruiting Nepalese citizens into its Gurkha Regiments and in anticipation that Joodha Shumsher might be able to persuade Nepal's religious leaders to agree to Gurkhas once more being able to travel overseas without the fear of being out-caste. This was subsequently achieved, with the attendance of Gurkha officers at the Coronation of King George VI and the selection of four Gurkha officers as King's Indian Orderly Officers in 1938, on the understanding that they should return to Kathmandu to undergo the ceremony to re-admit them to their caste (*Pani Patiya*). On the outbreak of the Second World War, Joodha Shumsher not only agreed to a substantial increase in Gurkha recruitment but also put the Nepalese Army at the disposal of the Government of India. He stood down as Prime Minister and Supreme Commander-in-Chief in 1945

and died in Dehra Dun in 1952 at the age of 77 years.”

Britain-Nepal Schools Link

Ashley Adams writes: “The Society continues to encourage and support contact between schools in Britain and Nepal to develop the seeds of a new generation of friendship and mutual interest between our peoples.

In the last journal, the Chairman reported on the Society's most successful and entertaining Kent Schools “Nepal” evening, which I organised in November 2015. A number of the Friendship Link Schools in Nepal were severely affected by the Earthquake, and it was rewarding that so many British Schools undertook a variety of fundraising events for the appeals. New links continue to be forged, but as so many Nepal schools are remote, have no internet, and at best erratic electricity, exchanges of pupil correspondence can be tortuous, and often rely on helpful on-line contacts in Nepal, they receive emails and then make long journeys into the hills. Solar power is, however, beginning to make an impact. Despite the expense, and length of travel, some British Schools are still visiting their Nepal counterparts, and find the experience richly rewarding.

If you know of any flourishing schools; friendship links, or would like any advice in setting one up, do contact: Ashley Adams at: ajhadams@hotmail.com.”

Himal Southasian

Some readers may have read that Himal Southasian, founded by Kanak Mani Dixit, has been forced at least temporarily to cease publication.

The late Robin Garton

Members will be sad to learn that Robin Garton, founder of the Glacier Trust, died whilst on a solo hike in the Stob Coire nam Beith area of Glencoe in the Scottish Highlands. Sadly, he fell and died instantly whilst on a scrambling route. His death took place on the 25th September 2015. His body was found by members of the public on 1st June 2016, over 8 months after Robin was reported as missing. The dedication and bravery shown by all members of the mountain rescue teams involved in the search was truly humbling. The trust describes Robin as a generous, kind, and enthusiastic individual, and was respected and liked by those who met him. His passion to help those less fortunate than himself was typified by his diligent work for the Nepal based charity he founded in 2008, The Glacier Trust. His uncanny ability to convert this kind-natured enthusiasm into donations to help those most in need was inspiring and has, and still does benefit poor, remote, mountain communities of Nepal. The trust has established the Robin Garton Memorial Fund in his memory. Details can be found at: robingartonmemorialfund.org

Post Earthquake Action at UNESCO sites in Kathmandu

A team from Durham University is working with national experts in Kathmandu as part of UNESCO's post-disaster and pre-reconstruction assessment of the Kathmandu World Heritage monuments.

This will involve ground penetrating radar survey and rescue excavations at three major sites and the results of the six week season will inform both planners and engineers in advance of the rebuilding and relaying of infrastructure.

Professor Robin Coningham described the work of his team at a lecture to the Society in May. I hope to be able to publish more of this work in subsequent editions of the journal.

For further information, please see the UN website:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52198#.ViDTM5NwZjo>

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REVIEW ARTICLE

(This review was first published in the 2009 edition of the journal and has been re-produced here to coincide with 'Nepal 200'. Ed.)

John Pemble. *Britain's Gurkha War – The Invasion of Nepal, 1814 – 16.*

Frontline Books, an imprint of Pen & Sword Books Ltd. Barnsley, S. Yorks, UK. 2008. pp. xv + 398. B&W plates. Maps. Appx. Bibliog. Index. Hb. £19.99. ISBN 978 1 84832 520 3.

This work was originally published in 1971 under the title of *The Invasion of Nepal – John Company at War* by the Clarendon Press, Oxford. It had become difficult to obtain with a cost of up to \$100 or more. Although the original price was £4.50, thought to be expensive by its then reviewer Sir Olaf Caroe in the Royal Society of Asian Affairs journal, *Asian Affairs*, its scarcity had turned it into something of a collectors' item. The author, John Pemble, had completed a spell as a civilian instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (now a senior research fellow at Bristol University) and used this topic for research which led to initial publication.

Lt Col John Cross was approached by Frontline Books for suggestions for any books on Nepal and the Gurkhas that they could publish. Cross recommended that this work be re-published. John Cross, a member of the Society, is possibly the pre-eminent authority on the history and languages of Nepal. He is the author of many books on the history of the Gurkhas and Nepal having served in Brigade of Gurkhas throughout his service life since 1944, finally retiring to live and study there. He was asked to write a forward for the re-launched book re-titled *Britain's Gurkha War*

–*The Invasion of Nepal 1814 – 16*, which is reproduced below:

“To respected Ean Ramsay, the great-great-great-grandson of General Ochterlony from the great-great-great-grandcousin of Bhakti Thapa. Two hundred years ago we were enemies, now we are friends.”

This was written on the back of a painting of Bhakti Thapa especially commissioned in Nepal by my surrogate Nepali hill man son, Buddhiman Gurung, to Ean Ramsay, the last direct descendant of the Great Man. Buddhiman, his wife and I gave it to Ean Ramsay when we met him in England in 1994.

In my view, and I have lived with Gurkhas, militarily from 1944 and in Nepal from 1976, almost one-third of the time of the British-Gurkha connection, it says it all. In straightforward un-poetical words, it captures the mystical dimension of the result of the Anglo-Nepal War which John Pemble so vividly and accurately describes in this book, arguably the best written and easiest to read book on this subject ever produced.

I have read widely and am of the opinion that, had Nepal's army had the same resources as had the East India Company and the 'Royal', British, Army, artillery piece for artillery piece, elephant for elephant et cetera, the British would not have prevailed. But prevail they did: the one column that beat the Gorkhas was in 'naya muluk' - 'the new country' - chiefly in Kumaon and Garhwal; the three columns that were beaten back from a few

timorous toe-holds in the Tarai failed to achieve anything positive. Apart from the incursion up to Makwanpur (and the Chinese incursion of 1792), Nepal's heartland cultural, religious and territorial virginity is still unscathed.

There is no doubt that Ochterlony was an excellent commander but as a civil administrator he was not popular: This is borne out in letters written by William Linnaeus Gardner, 1770-1835, founder of Gardner's Horse, still an Indian Army unit now designated 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse). In a letter dated 16 September 1820 he wrote: 'I have no hesitation in saying that the English name is at present disgraced. ... I wish for the sake of his character, that Sir David would die.' In an undated and earlier letter he wrote: 'Sir David is very unpopular here with all natives and all Europeans. Skinner [of Skinner's Horse fame] told him on taking leave that it was a pity he (Sir D) had not died 16 years ago, for then he would not have left a dry eye in Delhi, but that now, were he to die, there would be public rejoicings, and the *dhole* [drums] would resound in every house!!!' (The Gardner Papers, NAM 6305-56).

I have walked well over ten thousand miles in Nepal, am known to many and have spoken to thousands of Nepalis. It is striking that the motto, 'It is better to die than be a coward', reputedly the motto that has become the motto of all Gurkha soldiers to this day, has never once been mentioned. This is, I believe, because it never was the hill man's motto. Certainly, the hill Gurkha, like everyone else, does not want to lose. What the hill man will say is that, once there seems no hope of staying alive, that is when one can fight

without worrying about one's life. I do not know the originator of the quotation but Kaji Amarsing Thapa, a relation of Bhimsen Thapa, the prime minister, who started the Anglo-Nepal War and who also lost it, is reputed to have used the saying. Amarsing seems not to have approved of the war but, not wanting to appear against the most powerful man in Kathmandu, echoed, but did not originate similar sentiments as expressed by the Sikh, Mokhan Chand, in 1809 when Ochterlony moved from Delhi to compel the Sikh durbar to give up its recent conquests, 'It is better to die in honour than to live in shame' and later by the Afghan Muzaffar Khan, defender of Multan in 1818, 'It is more honourable to die fighting than to capitulate without firing a shot'.

But it is pertinent to ask if, in fact, such a motto was 'binding'? No: the Gorkha commander, Bal Bhadra (Bahadur) Kunwar (a.k.a. Thapa, Singh), at Kalunga (Nala Pani), gained immortality in Nepalese annals by his bravery. His name is on the reverse of the same memorial that was erected to Gillespie. Nepalese history is silent that Bal Bhadra left the fighting after the battle of Kalunga and *Nepalko Sainik Itihas* (Nepal's Military History), published by Headquarters of the Royal Nepal Army, 1992, has it that such information only came from the British. William Moorcroft, Chief of Stud at Pusa, recorded in his journal, D248/59ff, that he saw Bal Bhadra killed as he led a Gurkha battalion of Ranjit Singh's army that attacked the Afghans near Attock, in 1824. And much more recently, in 1996, the request for the required 'constitution' to set up a Gurkha Museum in Kathmandu was turned down by the Chief District

Officer, his reason being that he would do nothing to help turncoats.

People ask why the Governor General of the time did not do more against Nepal than was the case. While this is fully explained by Pemble, it is fair to say that, had he, without doubt the remarkable relations the British and the Nepalis have had since the war would never have fructified in the way they have. Of a truth, the opposite would have been true. One proud Nepali boast is that it is still one of the very few countries in Asia that was never a colony, albeit the Government to its south did affect its behaviour.

Ochterlony's victory was in a minor war against a people unknown to those in England. Only on India's northern marches were the Nepalis (or Gorkhalis, as they were often called) known about. When the news of Ochterlony's victory eventually did reach England, the euphoria of Napoleon's defeat was still heady in military circles. Its significance and long-term implications were totally lost in England. And yet, today, not so far off the two-hundredth anniversary of the Britain-Nepal connection, more respect is paid to the hill man Gurkha than, again probably, to the vanquished of Waterloo.

Prior to the war, the tactics used in 'the new country' between 1790 and 1814 were sedulously copied by the Revolutionaries in the opening years of the civil war that started in the Far West of Nepal in 1996 but this time the opposition to such was insufficient to curb it - the government of the day could not use artillery against its own people. Another similarity is that, in both cases, one man from each house, willy-nilly, had to serve the army that was

trying to expand territorially. Likewise, the problems that were engendered by a 'baby king' in 1814 have, sadly in my view, been all too frequent between then and now.

Those whom Ochterlony was fighting against were only partly men from heartland Nepal. The rigour of the discipline and hardships encountered had the effect of many of them deserting, first to Ranjit Singh's army in Lahore and later to the British. Although there was no proof of this, I believe that those men from heartland Nepal thought that the British would be able to take them back to their home areas. They were disappointed in that but the paternalistic attitude of the British officers, the friendliness of the British soldiers and their own obvious superiority to the men from the plains, made them realise, probably for the first time ever, their value as fighting men. This factor still pertains. As an aside, Bhakti Thapa's weapons are in a cave at the top of a steep mountain and are still worshipped twice a year and the language of the prayers is that of the now-dead language of the Duras, Bhakti's mother tongue. At last count I saw that there were eight swords and five scimitars.

Since being soldiers in the Indian and British armies, the Gurkhas' record has been and is unsurpassed. Just three examples from modern times: without them the land war in Burma would not have been won in 1945, maybe never; the Emergency in Malaya and Confrontation in Borneo would have rumbled on for many more years, probably inconclusively; and, with much panache and efficiency, in Afghanistan and Iraq.

On another level, too, even when the 1st of Foot was no longer on the British Army's Order of Battle, the Gurkhas, albeit fewer in number, were retained. And not only that: the Gurkha soldier has a worldwide reputation of doing that bit extra for longer and at a higher standard than, probably, any other soldier. A high standard brings its own penalty of expectation and, luckily for Britain and independent India, Gurkhas are fully confident and able to maintain that standard to an almost mystical dimension.

Even so, please read on from here. Pemble's explicit and engaging writing shows how, against all expectations, this mystical dimension started.'

JP Cross

The book has attracted reviews from both Col Dennis Wood and Brig Bullock, both experienced historians of the Brigade of Gurkhas, having been serving officers of the Brigade and trustees of the Gurkha Museum.

Brig Bullock writes:

'This scholarly and erudite book throws a particularly interesting slant on the causes of The Anglo-Nepal war and the warrior state of Nepal which provoked it as well as covering the war itself in fascinating detail. Most books about the causes of the war tend to follow the line that because Nepal had occupied territories claimed by the British East India Company war resulted whereas Pemble looks much deeper in his quest for the reasons behind it which were complex and owed as much to personalities as politics. He also diverges from the commonly held view that the ruling class of Nepal originated

from the admixture of Rajputs fleeing north to avoid the Mogul invasion of India and Nepal's ethnic Mongolian inhabitants and predates them to a much earlier stage in the history of Nepal. This well researched and thought provoking work makes clear that the Anglo-Nepal War of 1814-16 was fundamental to the subsequent relations between the two countries leading to the recruitment of the hillmen of Nepal, the Gurkhas first by the British in India and subsequently their employment separately by Britain and India.

In 1814 Nepal was a warlike expansionist state whose highly efficient army had already invaded Tibet and now occupied the sensitive North West Indian states of Kumaon and Garhwal. Already embroiled elsewhere with Sikhs and Maharattas it was a tricky situation for the surrogate of British power, The Honourable East India Company and it took drastic, if reluctant military steps to solve it. At first it limited itself to driving the Nepalese army out of the territories they had occupied and when this did not curb Nepal's militaristic tendencies by invading Nepal itself. Clearing the Nepalese out of the territories they had occupied was a major undertaking involving large numbers of King's Service British troops and East India Company sepoy but even so met with mixed success most of the columns being baulked by the determined Gurkha resistance. Fortunately in General Ochterlony, his energy in no way abated by the possession of two Indian wives and numerous progeny, the British had a leader of real quality in stark contrast to some of his fellow column commanders. His column's victory in the first campaign was enough to convince the Nepalese to agree

to a negotiated settlement which they subsequently renounced believing, erroneously, that the British were over extended.

Ochterlony's masterly conduct of the second campaign, the invasion of Nepal itself, was a desperate race against the onset of monsoon conditions and makes for compulsive reading. This second campaign, no longer bedevilled by the foibles and inadequacies of fellow commanders, showed just how quickly Ochterlony had transformed his East India Company army after the first bitter experience of being confronted by the formidable fighting power of the Gurkha army and its charismatic leaders. What distinguished the fighting throughout was that despite its severity both sides behaved with exceptional civility in regard to prisoners and wounded founded on a mutual respect that has continued to the present day.

Colonel John Cross who writes the Foreword is probably the greatest living expert on the Gurkha state having spent his entire adult life with them first as a Gurkha officer and then as an inhabitant of Nepal itself. It is thus not surprising that he sets the scene so subtly for this fascinating book.'

Col Wood writes:

'The Nepal War could have been of very little interest to the British public at the time. It was fought in a remote part of the world where British interests were then controlled and managed by the Honourable East India Company (HEIC), motivated as a trading organisation, rather than by the British Government. Even the

HEIC's hierarchy knew very little about Nepal, and no one could have foreseen the war's future effects. Moreover it must have been eclipsed by the threat from the nearby French *bêtes noires* with their chief ogre's escape from Elba and the crucial battle of Waterloo taking place in the middle of it. Yet its consequences, unimaginable at the time, have been of huge value to both Britain and Nepal. From it have followed 200 years of alliance and friendship between the two nations which provided peace in an important frontier region of India and extraordinary military support for Britain ever since, including the long hard times of two World Wars beside the Indian Mutiny of 1857-58 when the going was also tough. In short, Britain has gained incalculable value from Gurkha soldiers who have been enlisted for service under the Crown since 1815. Even now the British army has nearly 4,500 Gurkhas in its infantry, engineer, signals and logistics forces. In return, Nepal has also had great benefit from the inward flow of money, education and training of its people and an external source of employment for a country where jobs were once few except in domestic agriculture and basic trades.

Dr Pemble, a Senior Research Fellow at Bristol University and once on the staff at Sandhurst is an historian and author of wide interests and considerable skill. Here he describes the invasion of Nepal with clarity and accuracy in just over half the book's content, and adds extra value by devoting almost a third of the book to setting the scene in some detail for about 50 years or more prior to 1814. In this lead-in he gives lucid and interesting descriptions and comments on the Gurkha people, their depredations and annexation

of their neighbours' lands, their quarrel with the British, the geography and the truth about Himalayan trade and the Bengal army. His analysis of the size and state of the Company's and British forces over several decades is an eye-opener and very helpful to a reader trying to understand why they often performed poorly during the operations of 1814-16. Officers and men: their numbers, Morale, organisation, dress, equipment, pay, promotion systems, age and service, training and the enervating effects of the Indian climate are among the topics covered and they make fascinating reading.

Although the Nepal war brought British victory in the end, it was a sorry tale of many military failures. John Pemble describes the strategy and tactics, the problems caused by immensely difficult terrain, and the qualities of people on both sides including those of the opposing commanders (most of the senior British ones proving to be inept). There are good descriptions of the invading columns, their opponents and their success and failures; although it is a pity that the black & white maps show only the basic geography and not the columns' routes or the sites of their actions. The Bengal Army and the British regiments revealed major shortcomings in several ways for mountain warfare in inaccessible places. But fortunately for Britain, as is often the case, most of the officers and men endured hardship, dangerous living and fighting with admirable courage and fortitude. They were said to have suffered 3,000 battle casualties besides 2,000 lost from sickness

and desertion. Importantly, the book also describes the circumstances and origins of recruiting those Gurkhas and other hillmen who formed the 1st & 2nd Nusseree, Sirmoor and Kemaon Battalions in April 1815; three of which later became the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Gurkha Rifles. One of those original recruits was senior Subedar in the Sirmoor Battalion, during the Indian Mutiny 42 years later.

This is a definitive account of a relatively obscure war from which sprang the shoots of that wonderful alliance and friendship between Britain and Nepal which has been of huge benefit to both countries for nearly 200 years. It is not only a splendid historical record which everyone interested in Gurkhas and in India should have for reference but good reading and excellent value for money as well.'

As both the reviews above fully demonstrate, there is a great deal of very detailed information contained within this work. Members who attended will long remember Pemble's thought provoking lecture that he delivered to the Society in March. He postulated that at the time the British were, may be subconsciously, looking for heroes as their empire developed across the world. The text of the lecture has been printed in the November 2009 edition of *Asian Affairs*, the journal of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs. This is not a book to read on a flight to Kathmandu. It deserves serious study and will serve as an outstanding source for reference for the origins of the British - Gurkha connection and the history of that time.

The Gurkhas – 200 Years of Service to the Crown. By Major General JC Lawrence. *Uniform Press Ltd. 2015. Pp xii + 241. Illus, colour & B&W photos. Bibliog. Appx. Notes. Index. Hb. £30. ISBN 978-1-910500-02-6.*

This work, a pictorial history of the Brigade of Gurkhas, has been written as part of the celebrations that marked the 200 year-old connection between the Gurkhas of Nepal and their military service to Great Britain. Even before the end of the Anglo-Nepal War in 1816, the British officers of the Honourable East India Company (HEIC) had begun recruiting their erstwhile enemies, the tough hill men from the Nepal highlands. Despite the war an unusual respect had grown up between the opposing sides. The book is in a coffee table format and has been lavishly illustrated. It does not purport to be a detailed history as Bullocks's *Britain's Gurkhas* (see review in *Journal Edn 33, 2009*), but is a broad sweep of the Brigade's history in visual format from first beginnings using an excellent selection of illustrations. The chapters are laid out chronologically from 1814 to 2015. These are followed by a number of 'Special Interest Sections' which include details on the place of bagpipes and tartans as worn in the Brigade, 'Khad', or hill racing, Bands, Paratroopers, details of VCs won and the 'Gurkha Kukri'. The appendices list Battle Honours, the current Brigade 'ORBAT' and details of the Gurkha Museum and the Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT). Joanna Lumley, a vice patron of the GWT, has

contributed an introduction about the Trust's work. HRH The Prince of Wales has written a forward as patron of the Trust in which he takes a serious and active interest. I can best endorse this work by quoting him: 'As the pictures in the book show, the standards, traditions and spirit of the Gurkhas have given a great deal to our country, and they have stood by us in our time of need. I commend both this book and the charity to you in this notable two hundredth year of loyal and dedicated Gurkha service.' All royalties go to the GWT and the book can be purchased through the Gurkha Museum.

GDB

A Yak in the Fridge. By Col John Dickinson and family. *Xulon Press. 2016. Pp 222. Illus, colour photos. Maps. Bibliog. Appx. Index. Pb (& ebook). ISBN 978-1-498461-22-1. Available via Amazon, Xulon Press & Castle Hill Bookshop, Richmond, N Yorks.*

This interesting work written by Dickinson with contributions by his family describes his medical career very largely based in Nepal. Having qualified as a doctor and motivated by a strong Christian faith he was sent out by the United Mission to Nepal (UNM). His timeframe is from 1969 when the family first arrived to visits made up to 2015 post earthquake. His first appointment was as Consultant Physician (aged 29) at the Shanta Bhawan Hospital in Patan.

The first priority, set by the hospital, was to concentrate on learning Nepali rather than practising immediately. He maintains

that the first year at Shanta Bhawan was the hardest of his life needing to come to terms with practising in such relatively primitive conditions, coping with the language and family domestic arrangements. Those who have lived and worked in Nepal at that time will readily recognise the problems the Dickinsons faced. The book is full of amusing and telling anecdotes about the patients and people and their travels around Nepal told with great warmth and insight. He describes dealing with the stream of hippies who travelled to Nepal in the 70s. Poor sanitation and ‘hash’ were common problems, the latter causing consternation when it was necessary to restrain patients suffering the effects of drugs. (I know this from personal experience as duty officer at the embassy in the 90s!). The book consists of chapters dealing with various aspects of Dickinson’s life and interests which include high altitude medicine and the establishment of a medical teaching facility. He was the first Medical Director of the Patan Hospital 1982-86. Somewhat surprisingly, as he himself recognises, he joins the army and is commissioned into the RAMC. Since he was not a GP he could not be appointed as Regimental Medical Officer (RMO) to a Gurkha unit but good use was made of his knowledge of Nepal and Nepali. He went out to Pokhara for the recruiting process and was also involved in a field hospital the first Gulf War. There he came across the Gurkha contingent for Gulf War I which consisted largely of elements of the Gurkha Transport Regiment and the Brigade Band (deployed as medical orderlies. These two units formed an ambulance squadron.) Although only expecting to serve for 3-4 years, he ended up serving thirteen years. Postings included military hospitals at

Woolwich, Catterick and Cyprus and finishing as Head of Postgraduate Medical Education at the Royal Defence Medical College. Other chapters look at changes and development on Nepal over time. The annexes include articles written by Dickinson for the British Medical Journal. Amongst the others I particularly enjoyed the one describing his experience in 1981 running around the then relatively traffic free ring road. This very much accorded with the experience of my seven-year old son when he was taken along the road by my orderly on his bicycle! I suspect there may well be a few members who have been treated by Dr Dickinson on their travels around Nepal. I recommend this book as a good read, especially for those of us who have known Nepal over the last fifty years or so.

GDB

Burnett of Borneo – Major-General EJS ‘Bunny’ Burnett CB, DSO, MC. By Rupert Litherland. *Litherland & Sons. 2016. Pp 212. Illus B&W. Maps. Drawings. Bibliog. Glossary. ISBN 978 0 9576204 1 4. £12.50 (incl p &.). This work can be purchased directly through Rupert Litherland, email: rupertlitherland@gmail.com.*

Litherland, a former officer of 10th Gurkha Rifles, has undertaken some serious research into the life and times of one of the most decorated Brigades of Gurkhas officers of recent times. Burnett left little in terms of records and was not greatly interested in writing about his own distinguished career. Litherland, rightly, thought that his service should be made known to a wider audience and particularly in respect of the history of the 10th Gurkha Rifles, to the extent that this work has been privately published.

Burnett was born into a well-to-do doctors' family in Southampton. Both his elder brothers were set to follow the family medical line but early on John opted to follow a different path, possibly into the Royal Navy. He was educated at Kelly College, a public school on the edge of Dartmoor. Poor eyesight precluded any thoughts of a naval career.

In 1939 John was articled to a firm of accountants for which he was not really suited. The possibility of war was increasing. At the age of eighteen he enlisted into the 5/7th battalion of the Hampshire Regiment, Territorial Army. He had prior knowledge of the eye sight 'test card' which he memorised in order to get through the medical. Soon after attending the annual camp the battalion was mobilised. After various adventures in the ranks, Burnett was sent, in April 1941, for officer training and on commissioning he elected for service with the Gurkha Brigade of the Indian Army. Like many of his generation who joined the Indian Army, this marked the start of a long career in the Far East (notably the Burma campaign) followed by the horrors of the partition of India, the Malayan emergency and 'Confrontasi' with Indonesia. On joining his battalion 4/4th Gurkha Rifles, he found himself occupied with coastal defence duties and it was not until 1944 that the 4/4th were dispatched to Burma on active service. By this time 'Bunny, as he had become known was a company commander, the youngest in his unit. It was in May 1945 that Bunny's company was involved in very sharp action that resulted in the award of the MC to Bunny and the IDSM to one of his junior NCOs, Lance Naik Narbahadur Limbu. It was around this time that Bunny decided to become a regular officer. His regular

commission into the Hampshire Regiment was gazetted in December 1945. With the end of the war and the forthcoming independence of India, units were being disbanded which included 4/4th GR. Burnett went to the 4th GR Centre at Bakloh. He was on leave in England in August 1947 and on return to the Indian subcontinent was for a time CO 2/8th GR in Lahore prior to its handover to an Indian officer. Litherland describes the confusion and difficulties facing former Indian Army officers transferring to British service at this time with the new post-war conditions and the somewhat half-hearted attitude displayed by the government and the War Office of the time. (Plus ca change!). Burnett found himself as a company commander in Hong Kong with 2/10th GR. Whilst in Hong Kong Burnett got married to Jane whom he had first met in Calcutta. His next move was to Malaya where 2/10th were engaged in the Malayan emergency. However elements of 2/10th GR were called to Singapore to help quell what became known as the 'Maria Hertogh' riots. The dispute was about custody of a child originally brought up as a catholic by Dutch Eurasian parents in Java from whom she became separated as a result of the Japanese invasion. Latterly she had been brought up by a Malay (Islamic) family then living in NE Malaya. A complicated custody battle ensued which stirred up the Christians in Singapore as she had been quickly married off to a Malay husband. All this was against UK and Dutch law. This small incident had echoes around the world as Litherland explains. The army was deployed 'in aid of the civil power' in a classic urban internal security role. These operations can be very tricky as they are difficult to understand and passions run

high with the possibility of violence getting out of hand. Burnett's company was sent from Johore Bahru just over the causeway from Singapore. The detail of events and the aftermath are well described. Burnett ordered his troops to open fire on the rioters who were calling for "British blood". This had the desired effect but as in all these incidents a detailed inquiry followed and was rather inconclusive in respect of the military response. At the end of his tour in Malaya which included the Singapore incident, Burnett was awarded a Mention-in-Despatches. He may have been lucky but no record has come to light concerning the detail of this award.

His next posting was to Calcutta in what was then known as HQ British Gurkhas India. This HQ was responsible for running the line of communications needed to permit recruits and leave parties to travel to & from Nepal from Malaya/Singapore/Hong Kong, transit facilities were needed in India. Arrangements for this were part of the 1947 Tripartite Agreement. However India was left-leaning and communists were asking why India was supporting troops engaged against the communist insurgency in Malaya. Negotiations to transfer facilities to Nepal were started and as the only staff officer in the HQ, Burnett played a leading part in this. It was the first of what would be three tours of duty in the L of C. This work led to the eventual establishment of Dharan, Paklihawa and eventually Pokhara and Kathmandu. For his work in preparing for the new arrangements he was awarded the MBE. In addition he was awarded the Star of Nepal (Class IV) by the King of Nepal. He returned to regimental duty in Malaya.

The next few years were rather sad as his marriage broke up. In 1957 he was again posted to HQ British Gurkhas India, this time for duty at the British embassy in Kathmandu. He was the first 'military attaché' and his character featured in Han Su Yin's novel *The Mountain is Young*. He lived in the Royal Hotel run by the legendary Boris Lissanovitch and his wife Inger. After this tour he found himself as Brigade Major, Brigade of Gurkhas back in Malaya. With the end of the Malayan Emergency the War office were looking for the inevitable defence cuts (Plus ca change!). As staff officer to the Major General, then the formidable Maj-Gen Walter Walker he played his part in defending possible cuts to the overall Gurkha strength (then some 16,000). Walker was clearly well satisfied with Burnett's work as he was posted to 1/10 GR as 2IC and CO designate. It was this tour of operational duty that would be the highlight of Burnett's career. Although the CTs of Malaya had been defeated and with proposed changes in the newly forming Malaysia, President Sukarno of Indonesia sought to take advantage of this, resulting in what became known as 'Confrontation' or 'Confrontasi'. This, at least temporarily, had the effect of delaying potential cuts to Gurkha Brigade strength. He was to have two very successful operational tours in Sabah and Sarawak. For the first he was awarded a MID and for the second a DSO. Litherland goes into some details of the conduct of these operations and it is clear that Burnett was a wily operator who somehow was able to anticipate enemy intentions. However this was not the end of operations as the Indonesians opened a second front by parachuting troops onto the Malaysian mainland. Burnett's battalion were first onto this and killed

some 24 enemy parachutists and capturing another 27 but with the loss of one British officer and one NCO. The award of the OBE followed. In 1966 he was promoted to Colonel and was for a short time a College Commander at Sandhurst. It was during this time that he met and married his second wife. This was quickly followed by his appointment to command 48 Gurkha Brigade in Hong Kong. On completion he was posted for his third tour of duty in Nepal on the L of C as Commander British Gurkhas Nepal. His final appointment was as Major General Brigade of Gurkhas which was in effect deputy commander of troops in Hong Kong for which he was awarded the CB. His was an unusual military career. To rise to two star rank without attending any staff college was astonishing. But as Litherland points out his career was well away from what was then the mainstream army, so much geared to the cold war in Europe. As is usually the case in military life, there is always an element of luck and of being in the right place at the right time, as well as ability. In Burnett's case all three played a part. Litherland has written, researched and produced an interesting and sensitive account of a distinguished career of which will be of great interest to military readers.

GDB

SHORT NOTICE

A Face Like a Chicken's Backside.

By JP Cross. The History Press. Stroud, UK. 2015. Pp 244. Illus B&W photos. Map. Index.Pb. £13.99. ISBN 978 0 7509 6437 1.

The History Press has re-published one of Colonel JP Cross's autobiographical works. This was originally published in 1996 by Greenhill Books/Leventhal Ltd. It describes his career of 38 years as a British officer with Gurkhas. In this addition he has added a contemplative tail-piece that looks back over fifty years and wonders whether it was all worth it. Reviews of the first publication include: *The Economist*: 'One of those gifted, dedicated eccentrics that the British Army has the habit of spawning.' *Asian Affairs*. Journal of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs: 'This is the best book about jungle fighting that I have read. There are people like him in every army - a brilliant Roman "Centurion" leading his 100 men, fiercely defending their interests but unable to adapt to the hierarchical structure which an army must have if it is going to win wars. Men like Cross win battles but they cannot conceal their contempt for their more conventional superior officers.'

Major General RL Clutterbuck CB CBE.

This edition can be purchased through The History Press, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, GL5 2QG.

OBITUARIES

Barbara Adams 1931 – 2016

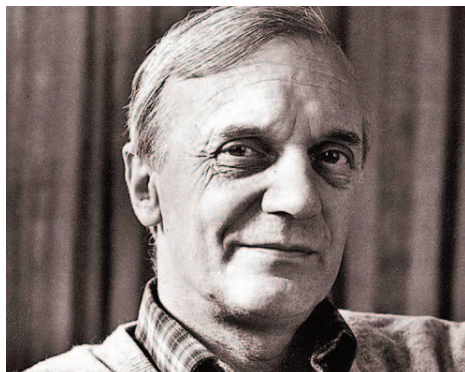
Members may not have seen the announcement of Barbara Adams's death and obituary in the *Daily Telegraph* earlier in the year. Although not a Society member, she was a rather exotic figure of the Kathmandu expat community in the early 1960s and 1970s. Adams was born in New York and after university in the USA she took up journalism and wrote for *Mondo Nuovo*, an Italian magazine. She was asked to go to Kathmandu to cover the visit of the Queen in 1961. Not able to get a flight she arrived after the visit had been completed. In those days the centre of expat activity, not to say gossip, centred on the famous Yak & Yeti bar in the Royal Hotel, run by Boris and Inger Lissanovitch. It was there she met Prince Basundhara. Younger brother of King Mahendra, the Prince was estranged from his Nepali wife and was much taken by the attractive young American. She became what was known as 'a royal consort', recognised by Nepali law, and moved into the Palace. For the next 15 years she accompanied Prince Basundhara to all official functions apart from those held in the Palace. She helped to open up Nepal to the developing tourist trade by founding 'Third Eye Tourism and Travel'. Her subsequent life was inevitably affected by both Palace and national politics especially after the death of Prince Basundhara in 1977 and when King Birendra became king. She was twice deported and had to sell jewellery given to her by the Prince to continue to live. She had built up a collection of Nepalese and Indian art and Bhutanese textiles which she

sold for a considerable sum to Swedish businessman. She was finally granted Nepali citizenship in 2009 following the fall of the monarchy and the ending of the Maoist rebellion. In February she had a serious heart attack and died two months later on 24th April after the earthquake. Those of us who lived or visited Kathmandu in her heyday will remember her driving around in a white open-topped Sunbeam sports car, her long hair blowing in the breeze!

GDB

Lord Chorley 1930 – 2016

Roger Chorley, 2nd Baron Chorley was the son of an academic lawyer, Robert Chorley. He has been described as a mountaineer, environmentalist and accountant. His father was sent to the House of Lords by Clement Attlee following an unsuccessful attempt at becoming an MP in 1945. Roger Chorley was a longstanding member of the Society but due to his very busy life was not often able to attend. His interest in Nepal came about as a result of mountaineering activities started at Cambridge where he



read natural sciences and economics at Gonville & Caius College. He joined the accountancy firm Coopers & Lybrand, later Price Waterhouse Coopers and his talent for committee work became apparent. As he gained experience he was in demand to serve on a number of high level committees and organisations. He was chairman of the National Trust 1991-1996. He contributed to many public bodies including the British Council, the Top Salaries Review Body, the National Environment Research Council and the Royal Commission on the Press amongst others. He made significant contribution also in the House of Lords as a hereditary peer, retiring in 2014. He was a keen and enthusiastic geographer serving on the Council of the RGS for ten years and as President 1987-1990. He was heavily involved in the early stages of the development of the Geographical Information Science & Systems (GIS). Undoubtedly his interest in geography stemmed from his love of mountaineering. Sadly it was in Nepal that he contracted polio in 1957 whilst on an expedition to climb Machapuchare. With him on this epic climb were Col Jimmy Roberts, Col Charles Wylie, Wilfred Noyce and Noyce's climbing partner, Don Cox. Chorley was carried in a basket back to hospital by porters. As was so often the case at that time, his limbs were badly damaged and medication not much developed which precluded further serious mountaineering. In 2000 he spoke to the Society, with Charles Wylie about this climb in a very emotional talk. Permission for the climb had been given by the Nepalese government on condition that the top most part of the summit was to remain unclimbed on cultural and religious grounds. Machapuchare will be well known by members who have visited Pokhara as

although only just over 23,000 feet it is a striking feature. It was a very technical climb that was hard to achieve. The condition was honoured and no other attempts have been made on this mountain as far as is known. (*The text of this talk was written by the late Charles Wylie and published in Edition No 24 of the journal. Ed.*) Nonetheless Chorley recovered but was not able climb to such heights again. Chorley made a significant contribution to British public life for which he will long be remembered. (A full obituary can be found in *The Times* of 8th April 2016.)

GDB

Dr Penny Cunningham

Dr Penny Cunningham, a founder member of the Britain-Nepal Medical Trust died in July 2015 after a long illness. In April 1968 she was one of eleven young men and women who set out from England in three landrovers to drive to Nepal, 7,000 miles away in the Himalayas. They were the first medical team of the newly formed trust, the brainchild of John and Penny Cunningham. The success of their tuberculosis control work encouraged the establishment of the National Tuberculosis Control Programme in Nepal. BNMT was also the first charity to train community health volunteers and establish reliable supplies of essential medicines across the whole of eastern Nepal, into the most remote health posts and clinics. What a tremendous legacy that that first medical team left and what an inspiration they have been to those who followed after. (*Dr Cunningham was a member of the Society. This tribute appeared in the 2014/15 BNMT annual report. Ed*)

Alan Durston 1929 – 2016

The Society was sad to learn of the death early in the year of Alan Durston. Alan and his wife Patricia became members of the Society following a visit they made together to Nepal in 1981. Alan discovered hill-walking in his early professional life as an escape from a busy office life. Like many others before him he graduated to the Alps, particularly in Austria, joining the Austrian Alpine Club. His first venture outside Europe was to Nepal with his wife, Patricia. They went on an early walking tour organised by Bales Tours in 1981, a small party of twelve which included, Patricia remembers, a member of the Bales family. The walk (now the activity known as ‘trekking’) was in the Pokhara area below Annapurna. The people and the Himalayan scenery made a lasting impression upon Alan to the extent that they joined the Society. Many Society members are imbued to join as a result of their work, may be diplomats, military, aid, teaching or voluntary work; in Alan’s case it was one visit which made such a lasting impression. Throughout his remaining life they continued to travel and made some seven visits to various regions across the Himalaya including the Hindu Kush, Uzbekistan and Tibet. Patricia particularly remembers their drive along the Karakoram Highway and walking across the frontier into China. Both Alan and Patricia were strong supporters of the Society. Alan served on the committee and was Treasurer 1990-1996. As a result of his travels Alan became a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and wrote a number of published articles for travel journals. The Society will miss his support.

GDB

Professor David Snellgrove 1920 – 2016

Professor Snellgrove was one of the early scholars of the languages and history of India and Tibet. He was not a member of the Society though older members may well have read some of his early works, published in the 1950s and 1960s, in an effort to discover more of the region which had been closed for so long. He and Professor Von Fuhrer Haimondorf were the pioneers in this field having early access to the more remote parts of Nepal. There were few books written about the area at this time unlike the present day when there seems to be an increasing number of scholars and authors studying this part of the world. He was born in Portsmouth, the son of a Royal Naval officer and educated at Christ’s Hospital and Southampton University where he read French and German. In 1941 he was conscripted into the Royal Engineers and then found himself in intelligence work in the War Office. He applied to go to India but found problems with the climate in Barrackpore so was medically evacuated to Leborg , Darjeeling. It was whilst there that he developed an interest in Tibetan, visiting Buddhist monasteries in the area. The climate continued to affect him (shades of Hodgson?), contracting malaria he returned to Kalimpong. Later he took the opportunity to visit Buddhist sites in Ceylon. He took leave and visited Sikkim where he met the ICS political officer, Sir Basil Gould, who had represented the British Government at the enthronement of the Dalai Lama in 1940. He planned to join the ICS but impending Indian independence frustrated him in this endeavour. He decided to study Tibetan but no such course existed. Instead he studied Sanskrit under Professor Harold Bailey at Queen’s

College Cambridge. (*Sir Harold Bailey's legacy lives on in Cambridge. His extensive library has been preserved in his former Victorian residence, Brooklands House, through The Ancient India & Iran Trust. Ed.*). On completion of his degree he was appointed to the post of lecturer in Tibetan at SOAS. In 1953 he was granted a year's study leave but the Chinese invasion of Tibet meant that travel was no longer possible so he travelled to the Tibetan speaking area of India to Spiti and Lahul for six weeks of field work before moving to Kalimpong taking a young Sherpa as guide and companion. They worked together for the next ten years. They researched the cities of the Kathmandu valley resulting *Buddhist Himalaya* published in 1957. They were granted access to the remote north-western area of Dolpo, adjacent to the Tibetan (Chinese) frontier, which had not been researched. This took seven months. The record of his travels and research was published in *Himalayan Pilgrimage* in 1961. [Sam and Anne Cowan followed largely in Snellgrove's footsteps and quoted from this work in their description of their treks in Dolpo in 2002 and 2009. Little had changed. See journal editions no 27 & 28]. Further explorations in Dolpo resulted in another seminal work *Four Lamas of Dolpo*. He brought back to UK a group of Tibetan monks, one of whom had lost a leg whilst escaping from Tibet. Their appearance on the streets of UK in Tibetan dress caused them to be the centre of much attention which they did not relish. They had to be provided with suits by an English tailor! Snellgrove was appointed Reader in Tibetan at SOAS in 1961. He became involved with the Tibetan refugees who had settled in India and worked with Hugh Richardson, the last UK diplomatic Head of Mission in Lhasa, and wrote *A Cultural*

History of Tibet. They formed a trust at Tring in Hertfordshire which is now the Institute of Buddhist Studies. He drove out to India via Afghanistan, visiting Bamiyan. His studies took him to Bhutan and Sikkim. His academic career developed and he was elected to the British Academy. He served on the Papal Secretariat for non-Christian religions. He became involved in UNESCO projects and lectured in Germany and the USA. When Ladakh was opened to foreign visitors in 1974 he spent much time studying religious festivals. He was appointed Professor in 1978, retiring in 1982. In retirement he developed an interest in Cambodia, in particular Angkor Wat and the Khmer civilisation. In 2014 a senior lecturer ship was named after him. (A full obituary can be found in *The Daily Telegraph* of 19th April 2016.)

GDB

Brigadier AB (Tony) Taggart MC 1918 – 2016

Tony and his twin sister, Pam, were born in Shanghai where their father worked in the Chartered Bank. After his father's various postings in the Far East Tony was sent back to UK to boarding school as was the norm in those days. At Marlborough College he joined the Cadets and from there attended Sandhurst. He opted for the Indian Army and initially went to Ambala. He joined 2nd Battalion 3rd Gurkha Rifles (2/3 GR) at Wana on the North West Frontier. His division moved to the Middle East and Taggart saw action in Iraq before his unit was moved to Egypt. They were heavily involved in the battle of El Alamein and he was fortunate not to have been wounded or taken prisoner at that stage as 2/3 GR were overrun by the German advance. Later in 1943 he was mentioned in dispatches.

After the Allied success in North Africa Taggart's unit took part in the advance through Italy. On 13th July his company was ordered to capture a strategic strong-point at Citta di Castello north of Perugia before a major battalion attack on the main objective of Monte delle Gorgacce. Taggart's company came under heavy machine gun fire which resulted in the loss of his three platoon commanders. Notwithstanding they captured two prisoners and five machine guns and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. The company then endured some three hours of shelling and mortar fire. Taggart was severely wounded in the leg as a result but refused to be evacuated until he was able to handover his company. He was awarded an immediate MC for his courage and inspiring leadership. He was evacuated to UK to the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool as his wound was so serious that for a time amputation was feared. He suffered pain for the remainder of his life as some shrapnel could not be removed. In 1947, on Indian Independence when the Brigade of Gurkhas was split between the British and Indian Armies, Taggart was transferred to 1st /2nd Goorkha Rifles with whom he served in Singapore and Malaya until 1950 before again transferring to 2nd 6th Gurkha Rifles. During this period of service he was again recognised and awarded a mention in dispatches. After a tour of duty as Brigade Major Brigade of Gurkhas he took command of 2nd/10th Gurkha Rifles. After command he was appointed to be British Gurkha Liaison Officer at the War Office. On promotion to brigadier he was successively Commander 48 Gurkha Brigade in Hong Kong, Commander British Gurkha Lines of Communication in Dharan and finally Defence Attache in Seoul. From 1970 to 1973 he was appointed ADC to the

Queen. On retirement he worked in the FCO in London. He was a keen photographer and trekked in Nepal. On one occasion he was briefly faced by a tiger in the jungle, looking to his bearer for his gun he discovered that he had climbed a nearby tree! Older members will remember him as our Society Chairman from 1978 to 1984, later being appointed a vice-president. In latter years he lived in a flat in London and finally as he aged he moved into the Knellwood War Memorial home in Farnborough.

GDB

(I am grateful to Heather Taggart, Tony's niece, and the Daily Telegraph for information for this piece. Ed.)

Dr Peter Trott (1934 - 2015)

The Society was shocked and saddened to learn of the unexpected death of Peter Trott who had recently handed over after ten years as the Society's treasurer. Peter was a longstanding member of the Society and had kindly volunteered to take on this task which he did with his own inimitable style. Peter's interest in Nepal stemmed from his national service as the Regimental Medical Officer (RMO) of 2nd /7th Gurkha Rifles (2/7 GR) in Singapore in 1961/62. Whilst in 2/7 GR he was given the opportunity to trek in east Nepal and visit the British Military Hospital (BMH) that had recently been established to support the staff of HQ British Gurkha Lines of Communication in Dharan. Although he enjoyed his time with the Gurkhas, his time in Singapore was to result in a life-changing and life-threatening event. As a result of swimming in the sea off Singapore he contracted a serious form of polio which at that time was not curable. The salk vaccine had not then been

discovered. He was extremely ill and his mother flew out to be with him which was a huge boost to his morale at that time. He was flown back to UK in an iron lung to Stoke Mandeville Hospital. It was here that he met his first wife. He spent time at Headley Court to help with his recovery but he never got back his mobility and spent much of the remainder of his life severely disabled and largely wheelchair-bound. Peter was born in Tehran in 1934, as at that time his father, who was in the diplomatic service, was serving on the embassy staff. He later rose to become British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. As was the custom, Peter was sent to boarding school at Repton. He made quite an impression there and later at Cambridge, as those of us who attended Peter's memorial service learnt. He was keen footballer, playing in goal for school teams. After reading medicine at St John's College he went on to train at Guy's Hospital. Following his national service and only partial recovery from polio a change of career direction was necessary. The only possible medical option was to become a pathologist. This entailed a good deal of additional study. He became an expert in his field, pioneering and establishing a technique known as 'fine needle aspiration' used in the diagnosis of various types of cancer. He became known both nationally and internationally in his field, acknowledged by his appointment as President of the Society of Cyto-pathology. As his career developed he worked at prestigious hospitals such as St Stevens Fulham, the Royal Marsden and probably the most famous private hospital, the London Clinic. After his first marriage he met his second wife, Sue, with whom he lived for some eleven years. From all those who attended his memorial service it was clear that he was a great character, full of

stories. He clearly had a great way with people both as a friend, a colleague held in high respect and a family man. To have been so badly affected by polio so early in his life but to have achieved so much with such good humour shows his outstanding character and ability and who will be much missed by so many whose lives he touched.

GDB

(I am grateful to Dr John Rickett and Mr Toby Turl for information for this piece. Ed.)

Dr. Charles McDougal 1930 to 2016

Dr. Charles McDougal PhD passed away peacefully on 11 May 2016 in Kathmandu. Always known as Chuck, he was a leading tiger ecologist, conservationist, researcher and writer, who pioneered responsible wildlife tourism standards in South Asia. He is survived by his devoted wife Margie, and children Robert, Juan Carlos, Malcolm and Linda.

Originally from Colorado USA, Chuck first came to the subcontinent as an anthropologist studying the Juang tribal peoples in Orissa in eastern India and undertook the definitive study on the Kulunge Rai in Nepal. Inspired by the jungle life of Jim Corbett's books,



Chuck switched his attention to tigers, initially to hunting then soon to research and conservation, based in Nepal since the early 1960s. Chuck was a dedicated and self-effacing man with a gentle and modest manner, widely respected for his uncompromising approach to tiger conservation, and exacting standards for wildlife tourism.

As Director of Wildlife of Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge, Chitwan National Park was Chuck's base for tiger research since 1972, giving him unrivalled access to the study and long-term monitoring of the world's most powerful predator.

Working with the government of Nepal's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, the Smithsonian Institution of Washington DC, and teams of locally recruited trackers and naturalists, Chuck pioneered tiger census methods and introduced camera-trapping techniques to photograph and record tigers.

His painstaking research followed generations of individual animals in Chitwan National Park, resulting in one of the largest and longest-running data sets of any tiger population in the world. Chuck's decades of work uncovered the secret world of tigers and what they need to survive in their forest habitat, providing today's wildlife managers with the vital information required to protect these iconic animals. Chuck's work has raised considerable donations and helped authorities develop anti-poaching policies that put many tiger poachers in gaol.

Crucial to the data collection was Chuck's innovative development of cameratrapping in the 1970s. I vividly recall his uncharacteristic excitement when the first tiger successfully photographed himself.

Chuck's Nikon F2 camera had an accessory electronic shutter release, which he wired to a switch in a homemade pressure plate, strategically placed on a path known to be used by tigers patrolling their territory. Built from two wooden planks, compression springs held the electrical contact apart. The pressure pad was buried in a shallow depression so that when a heavy animal stepped on the wooden pad the battery-powered circuit was closed, triggering the camera and its flash. Over the years he photographed hundreds of different tigers and also an impressive inventory of other creatures including sloth bears, leopards, jungle cats and the rare honey badger.

Chuck's authoritative book, *Face of the Tiger*, was published in 1977, the result of thousands of hours of observation and tracking that examines the life of the tiger. Senior scientist Dr. George Schaller much admired Chuck's work, and wrote: "His well-documented book ... presents the best available account of the tiger's social life." Always generous by encouraging fellow researchers as co-authors, Chuck published many scientific papers himself and with colleagues, notably Professor J.L. David Smith of the University of Minnesota with whom a major work on the tiger is being published by Harvard University Press. Chuck recently completed a collection of jungle tales that will be published posthumously, which perfectly capture his abiding passion for nature and love for life in the wild.

Chuck's interest in Asia dated back to childhood when, aged 11, he and a school friend set off walking to Tibet to meet the Dalai Lama, as part of a school project. They planned to head up through Canada to Alaska, across the Bering Straits through

Russia and China to Lhasa, only to be picked up by the Chicago police on the shores of Lake Michigan! In the early 1950s he was commissioned into the US Marine Corps, before leaving military life in favour of academic studies at the University of New Mexico and at SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) University of London, studying with the renowned Himalayan anthropologist, Dr. Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf.

Having made his way to Nepal he soon teamed up with English-born A. V. Jim Edwards, an enthusiast then working for Pan American World Airways (Pan Am) in New York, to found Nepal Wildlife Adventures, an early hunting company in the Nepal Terai. A winning partnership of entrepreneurial energy and wildlife acumen, the pair realised it was time to abandon hunting and embrace conservation ideals. In February 1972, Jim and Chuck took over the management of Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge from the two Texan millionaires and big game hunters, Toddy Lee Wynne Jr and Herbert W. Klein, who had started the venture in 1964 in what was then a Terai rhinoceros sanctuary.

Wildlife attractions in Chitwan include tiger, rhino, gaur (South Asia's imposing wild cattle), leopard, deer, wild boar, monkeys, crocodiles and over 540 bird species, against the backdrop of the snow-capped Himalayan peaks. Together their brand of purist wildlife expertise combined with commercial realities to set global standards for the adventure tourism industry. Whilst Jim Edwards took care of business and marketing from the Kathmandu office, Chuck avoided the limelight. Preferring to be based in his natural habitat of the

Chitwan jungles, he established Tiger Tops' awesome reputation for high quality wildlife experiences, skilled naturalist guiding, and fierce wildlife integrity - "no bullshit" was Chuck's creed. The evening slide show educating guests about the flora, fauna and environmental issues was written by him, narrated in his soft drawl. With a strong emphasis on nature interpretation, at its height, Tiger Tops wildlife lodges and tented camps extended throughout India as well as Nepal, with activities in Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Tibet and beyond. Tiger Tops formula of responsible wildlife tourism and conservation synergy was an acknowledged model long before ecotourism became an established concept and buzzword.

Chuck not only mentored scientists, researchers, naturalists and ornithologists, but worked with many wildlife filmmakers, including cameramen from BBC and Survival Anglia television who relied on his unrivalled field expertise to get their shots. Wildlife operations throughout South Asia today are still managed and staffed by Chuck McDougal-trained specialists, who regard the quiet American as their guru and inspiration. He had an uncanny gift for imparting information without being didactic or overbearing, always supportive to acolytes, and with a twinkle in his eye for those ready to appreciate it.

Chuck retired from Tiger Tops in 2001, and devoted himself to travel, research and writing, continuing his tiger monitoring programmes in the Nepal Terai through the International Trust for Nature Conservation of which he remained an active Trustee. Co-author of the first tiger conservation strategy for the Royal Government of Bhutan, Chuck also observed the unique tiger population of the Bangladesh

Sundarbans. Among other accolades, his work received awards from Nepal's Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation in 1997 for his "lifelong dedication to tiger conservation in Nepal", from WWF the Abraham Conservation Award in 2006, and from Himalayan Nature the Brian Hodgson Award in 2012. The Nepal Tiger Trust recognised him in 2014 " ... for passionately mentoring and coaching a younger generation of conservationists".

In later years, Chuck developed a pessimistic ambivalence towards the more

rampant impacts of tourism, advocating that benefits only accrue when tourism is more carefully controlled and channelled as a positive force for conservation. However, he leaves behind him legions of tourists forever grateful to him for revealing and interpreting the wonders of the subcontinent's wildlife and jungles, and a generation of trained South Asian scientists and naturalists with unparalleled guiding integrity, skilled at showing visitors a glimpse of the wild tiger world that he so loved and valued.

LC

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The Britain-Nepal Medical Trust
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www.thebritainnepalmedicaltrust.org.uk

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www.nepal-trade.org.uk

The Gurkha Museum
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www.thegurkhamuseum.co.uk

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NOTES ON THE BRITAIN-NEPAL SOCIETY
President: HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO

The Britain-Nepal Society was founded in 1960 to promote good relations between the peoples of the UK and Nepal. We especially wish to foster friendship between UK citizens with a particular interest in Nepal and Nepalese citizens resident - whether permanently or temporarily - in this country. A much valued feature of the Society is the ease and conviviality with which members of every background and all ages mingle together.

Members are drawn from all walks of life including mountaineers, travellers, students, teachers, returned volunteers, aid workers, doctors, business people, members of the Diplomatic Service and Armed Forces. The bond they all share is an abiding interest in and affection for Nepal and the Nepalese people. Membership is open to those of all ages over 18 and a particular welcome goes to applications from those under 35. Ordinary members pay a subscription of £20, joint (same address) members £30 per annum. Life membership is a single payment of £350, joint life membership a payment of £550; corporate business members £75 per annum. Concessionary membership of £15 per annum is available to those under 25 or over 75 on production of proof of age. The annual journal includes a wide range of articles about Nepal and is sent free to all members.

We keep in close touch with the Nepal-Britain Society in Kathmandu and their members are welcome to attend all the Britain-Nepal Society's functions. However we do not have reciprocal membership.

Members of the Yeti Association which provides equally for Nepalese residents or those staying in this country are also welcome to attend the Britain-Nepal Society's functions, and can become full members of the Britain-Nepal Society in the usual way. The Yeti is a flourishing organization and they publish their own attractive journal. Throughout the year, the Society holds a programme of evening lectures, which are currently held at the Medical Society of London, Chandos Street, off Cavendish Square where members are encouraged to meet each other over a drink beforehand.

The Society holds an Annual Nepali Supper in the early part of the year and in the autumn we hold our AGM. The Society also holds receptions and hospitality for visiting senior Nepalese.

Those interested in joining the Society should contact the treasurer, Col Rupert Litherland at: rupertlitherland@gmail.com

Website: www.britainnepalsociety.org

THE BRITAIN-NEPAL SOCIETY

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