

GURKHA MEMORIAL FUND



ACHIEVEMENTS & ACTIVITIES

2009 – 2020

PROJECT 1: Gurkha Memorial Statue

The Gurkha Memorial Fund was established on the 11th July 2009 as a Registered Charity no: 1137393.

The renowned sculptor Rebecca Hawkins designed the memorial statue and plinth and created the perfect statue of a modern Gurkha.

After a long fund-raising campaigning, the bronze statue was erected in the Garden of Remembrance on Sandgate Road, Folkestone, and was officially unveiled on 4th October 2015 by British actress and Gurkha justice campaigner Miss Joanna Lumley OBE in the presence of the former foreign Minister Hon Sujata Koirala MP from Nepal and MP for Folkestone & Hythe Damian Collins. On this day we also celebrated 200 years of Gurkha service with the UK Armed Forces.

The statue was nominated for an award at the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association Marsh Awards for Excellence in Public Sculpture.

We are delighted to have achieved the provision of a unique memorial in Folkestone for the Gurkhas, to show our respect for their service, to promote their positive role in our country and to educate, inform and inspire people. Over 46,000 Gurkhas have died in service for our country for over the last 200 years and 13 Victoria Crosses have been awarded to the British Army Gurkhas.



Our main project completed we decided to direct our work to supporting Community Development Projects in UK and Nepal:

- 1) To continue maintenance of the Memorial and hold a yearly Service of Remembrance on the first Sunday in October.
- 2) Education
- 3) Health
- 4) Supporting the needs of the Nepalese Community.



PROJECT 2: Earthquake Aid & Relief

During the May 2015 earthquake disaster in Nepal, the GMF was heavily involved. Mr. Dhan Gurung, Ray Johnson and John Barber coordinated the appeal to help stricken communities.

As an 'Associate Member' of UK Fire Aid International Development, the GMF Trustees with assistance provided by Miss Joanna Lumley OBE, Folkestone and Channel Rotary Clubs and the local community, raised awareness of the needs and provided over £250,000 of goods and help.

Our Chairman Mr. Dhan Gurung headed to Nepal on June 28th to complete the task of distributing the aid. He was joined by 4 other members from the Gurkha Memorial Fund Nepal.

Three trucks transported these materials to Mechinagar Municipality Jhapa District. The



entire operation took nearly 15 hours to load and transport. A total of 7 tonnes of supplies (tents, clothes, blankets, food) were handed over and approx. 3 tonnes of emergency aid and medicinal supplies.

£20,000 was officially handed over to CNN Heroine Mrs Anuradha Koirala at Maiti Nepal Yard to assist orphaned or homeless children in the presence of Hon Mr Robin Koirala MP.

PROJECT 3: Computer Technology Provision Completed October 2017

The GMF aim to provide basic computer education and skills for the poor children in rural schools, who have never had access or had an opportunity to use computers before, was realised when we provided a permanent computer technology education centre called the Ambar Bhakti Centre at the Shree Kakarbhiitta Higher Secondary School Jhapa (eastern part of Nepal) in the Municipality of Mechinagar.

The class room construction, underground wiring and decoration were completed in July



2017, carpets were laid and 31 standard classroom tables and chairs were installed. 33 x laptop computers and power charge leads were provided with manual books for the class room with 10 power distribution stabiliser boxes, ceiling mounted teacher projector, wall mounted screen, projector speakers left and right, photocopy machine, filing cabinet and generator (as electricity power is inconsistent and unreliable).

We also provided 1 x laptop for an instructor and a skilled instructor/teacher on basic salary to provide the necessary training to the school teachers in a number of schools. The classroom is used Sunday to Friday each week. 7 lessons each day of 40 minutes. The total cost was £20,000. On Thursdays nine neighbouring schools visit the computer centre. Progress assessment takes place at the end of the week. Quarterly and annual assessment exams are tested as per national computer technology education curriculum board of Nepal.

The GMF Nepal Team regularly monitors the project and continues to provide necessary support as and when required.

PROJECT 4: Computer Technology Provision

Completed February 2020

To further our aims of providing Disaster Awareness & Support, Health & Wellbeing and Education, and following the successful implementation of our computer technology education project in 2017/18. GMF ventured into a second project, located 300km north west of Kathmandu in the village of Thawang, Rolpa District, a "hill" district with a population of approximately 221,177. By Nepalese standards Rolpa is an underdeveloped area.

Bir Balbhadra Secondary School is a public academic institute and is the only school that has access to electricity and internet. Children have to commute to school for more than 20 miles in order to gain access to these facilities. The Joanna Lumley Computer Technology Centre with fully refurbished classroom for 21 computers for the students to use was inaugurated on 23rd February 2020 with the handover ceremony arranged by our sister group The Gurkha Memorial Foundation Nepal. The total cost of the project was £12,000

His Excellency the Vice-President of Nepal Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun officially opened the centre with the Education Minister Hon Giriraj Mani Pokhrel, Energy Minister Hon Baraman Pun and GMF Chairman Mr. Dhan Gurung. The



Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal made a special commitment to ensure improved satellite links would be provided to compliment the project, ensuring regular connection speeds which are currently sporadic.

Much of the money raised for this project came from very generous donations, and our annual Spring Charity Fundraising Dinner in the Channel Suite at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone and the Folkestone Coastal 10K.



We need your help!

It is only through the support and donations of thousands of people that the Gurkha Memorial Fund is able to continue its work. If you can help in any way, contact us on info@gurkhamemorialfund.org.uk If you would like to donate, please use one of the following options: BACS (Folkestone Gurkha Memorial Fund; sort code 52-41-42; Account No. 47202290) or visit gurkhamemorialfund.org.uk/make-a-donation.

Payment by cheque to GMF, 34 Julian Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT18 5HW.

Please let us know your contact details so that we may thank you!