
From: Membership Secretary
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First thoughts: Summer greetings to you all! This edition of the Bulletin contains much about the Curry Lunch in Winchester, so the focus on Cyprus will be delayed for a month!

We would like to draw your attention to the information about the Lunch and AGM in September at the end of this bulletin, so please read and mark the date in your diary!



Event News: Curry Lunch at the Gurkha Museum, Winchester

As one member commented, the curry lunch affair was noisy and fun, as members chatted and laughed through their shared memories and caught up with the latest news in their lives! The curry was delicious, as usual (one member confessed to having three helpings!) and there was a bit of sun to cheer the mood.

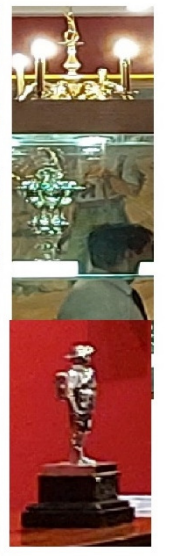
The Association secretary, Lynn Marshall, thanked members for making the day go so well, and also thanked Jane Tull for her capable organising skills and attention to details that made the event memorable and enjoyable.



The poster features a group of Gurkha soldiers in uniform. In the center is a globe with the text "BFES/SCEA ASSOCIATION" arched above it and "presents" below it. Below the globe, the text reads "A CURRY LUNCH" and "Saturday 22nd April 2023". At the bottom, there is a photograph of a dining room with a long table set for a meal. Below the photo is the logo for "THE GURKHA MUSEUM" (two crossed knives) and the text: "The McDonald Gallery", "The Gurkha Museum", "Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester, SO23 8TS".

In between the chat, there was time to enjoy the dramatic art work in the McDonald Gallery and take in the ambiance of the museum. The focus was, of course, on the meal and friends, but the story of the Gurkha regiments could not be missed as it surrounded us all. Magnificent metalwork, paintings and the telling of battles fought, both old and more recent, dominate the room. It made the event even more special.

Winchester, 2023





The museum has many fascinating items in its collection, and tells many stories of the men at the centre of the Gurkha history. You can take a virtual tour of the museum if you visit the website,

<https://thegurkhamuseum.co.uk/history-collections/>



Members Connections:

Jane Tull revealed interesting connections between her family and a Gurkha Regiment; she writes:

“When reading a newspaper article “*Wedding at Lahore 1902*” about my grandfather (Alfred Sandeman), I discovered he had served with the 1st Gurkha Rifles, Dharmsala. I contacted the museum for information about the regiment and his career. Doug Henderson, the assistant curator, and a volunteer archivist kindly provided the following information:

Dharmsala (now Dharamshala Himachal Pradesh state, India) was the home of 1GR. They were based here from 1860 to 1947, one of the longest tenures of a Gurkha regiment in any of their home stations.

Indian Army Lists record Alfred’s career. He was only very briefly with 1GR, which happened to coincide with his wedding.



Alfred P Sandeman

DOB 17th March 1878

First commissioned 2Lt
20th July 1898. Attached to
1st Bn Bedford regiment.

Appointed to the Indian
Staff Corps 12th April 1900.

Appointed 1/1GR 26
March 1901

Promoted Lt2 Sept 1901

On leave (private affairs)
out of India from 2 January
1903, initially for six
months but then extended
to 10 ½ months.

Alfred Sandeman was
appointed to the Civil
Service department in
1904 then went on to
other civil and military
duties, away from the 1st
Gurkha Rifles.

AGM and Lunch – Friday 22nd September, 2023

If you love history, listed buildings, London and good food, then this is an event not to be missed – note the date in your diary now! More information and the booking form will be attached to the June Bulletin – all members and their guests are welcome to attend.



Date: Friday 22nd September 2023

Where: RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly, London

Included: Lunch; Tour of the Grade II listed building; guest speaker; AGM.



Remembering Peter Hall:

Peter Hall passed away peacefully at home on 9th April 2023 aged 91, after a long illness. Many members will remember Peter as a true gentleman with a passion for education that benefitted many teachers and children during his working life. He was a stalwart member of the Association since 1981 and became the first to set up the Association Archives and establish a relationship with the Institute of Education to capture documents and items that might otherwise have been lost. He also contributed many articles and books related to MOD education that have been featured in the Journal and was proactive in spreading the story of service schools. Peter's contribution to the Association included a 16 year stint as secretary on the Committee and until his poor health, he was a regular attendee at events. He was made an Honorary Life Member to acknowledge his contributions to the Association and will be remembered with much affection and thanks by all who knew him. Peter taught in Hilden (1965-68), Detmold (1968-69), Krefeld (1970 – 71) and Sennelager (1974-81) when during this time he featured in the promotional film "School is Everywhere"!



A longer article tracing details of Peter's interesting life will appear in a future edition of the Journal.

We are always happy to include news about events and reunions, so hope that you enjoyed reading about Winchester. We are more than happy to include information about any reunions you plan to go to, or have attended, even if they are not directly connected to our Association. Photographs and text welcome!

There is a reunion taking place in Malta this coming September – if you would like to know more, do contact use via email.

And so, goodbye:

Best wishes Hugh and Christine Ritchie
Membership Secretaries
