

**Funding raised by
The National Lottery**

and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



LOTTERY FUNDED

UK Nepali community heritage project wins National Lottery support

The UK Nepal Friendship Society (UKNFS: www.uknfs.org) has received a National Lottery grant of £28,500 for an exciting initiative to explore and share Nepali heritage in the UK.

The UK Nepali Cultural Heritage project will take place across Southern England (locations include North Hants, Kent, London, Dorset) and will focus on thematic topics of UK Nepali culture and British – Nepali culture through an exhibition, website resource, booklets (including on Nepali cuisine).

Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players and awarded through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the UK Nepali Cultural Heritage project will offer Nepali community members, and others with interest in the social and cultural heritage of the UK Nepali community, the opportunity to share their culture with the wider community. This will be achieved through events, exhibitions, and sharing stories and personal experiences. People will have the opportunity to take part in group meetings, interviews and writing workshops as well as event management volunteering opportunities and learning heritage recording and archiving skills.

The UK Nepal Friendship Society [UKNFS] is an organisation that works with all sections of the Nepali community in supporting their voice in regard to accessing services and contributes to profiling the uniqueness of Nepali culture and also its integration. There are approximately 70 different ethnic populations in Nepal almost of these are represented in the UK, especially the world renowned Gurkhas, who have been serving the nation in defence for 200 years, and also the legendary Sherpas of Himalayan mountaineering fame. The community is also exceptional for the phenomenon of its passion for football, with the annual Gurkha Cup now existing for more than 10 years, involving 40+ teams, and attracting spectators of up to 12,000 each year.

Commenting on the award, Alan Mercel-Sanca (on behalf of the UKNFS) said: “We are delighted to have received this support thanks to National Lottery players and are confident the project realise its goal of sharing the distinctness and great diverse aspects of the UK Nepali community with broader society and all those interested in the UK’s multicultural heritage. – The knowledge of the National Lottery support has proved electric across the whole of the UK Nepali community that is passionately committed to making the project a major success that they can be proud of.”

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Notes to editors

About the UKNFS:

Website: www.uknfs.org – email uknfs.contact@gmail.com or call 07811 269454.

Main/Project Registered Partner organisations (each of whom over many months from late 2017 to summer 2018 have worked closely with us in support of the project's shaping and implementation):

- **British Gurkha Welfare Society**
- **Tamu Dhee Association UK**
- **Sahara UK Association**
- **Sherpa Association UK**

Other/associate Partners:

- **Non-Residential Nepali Association UK**
- **Embassy of Nepal**
- **Greater Rushmoor Nepali Community [GRNC]**
- **Hampshire Cultural Trust**
- **Dorset History Centre**

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLottery and #HLFsupported.

Further information

For further information, images and interviews please contact Alan Mercel-Sanca (UKNFS) on 07811 269 454 or uknfs.contact@gmail.com