

Adventure in Nepal



Chris Searle, pictured left in Fairlynch's Costume Room, is not content with just helping out as Treasurer at the Museum in Budleigh. He'll be taking time out later this year as a volunteer in Nepal as part of a group involved in the reconstruction of the country's schools following the disastrous earthquake of 24 April 2015.

Most people know of Nepal as the home of the Gurkhas, and Chris' choice of destination seems appropriate in a way.

For over 200 years the fighting spirit of Nepalese hill-soldiers has been valued by our Army, with Gurkha regiments serving alongside British forces in conflicts all over the world. Famed as a place of retirement for former military personnel who had spent their careers in the Indian sub-continent, Budleigh Salterton residents of the past included many who had links with Gurkha regiments.

Various members of the Beddy family had served in India before coming to live at West Hill Lodge on Budleigh's West Hill. It was with the 1st Battalion of the 5th Gurkha Rifles that Rafe Langdon Beddy was fighting during World War I when he was killed in action on 4 June 1915, although the young Lieutenant's name does not appear on any of the town's war memorials.



'India's fighting men in action A Gurkha charge which the Germans could not face' is the caption for this illustration in The Graphic of 5 December 1914. It is described as drawn by J. Dodworth from the description by an Officer of the 2nd Gurkhas



Nepal: 'A beautiful country that will capture both heart and imagination' say volunteers with the charity Supporting Nepal's Children. You can read more at www.supportingnepalschildren.org.uk

Chris works from Budleigh Salterton High Street at Coast Wealth Management, a Partner Practice of St James's Place, the FTSE 100 company which offers financial and investment advice. When the St James's Place Foundation decided to back the charity Supporting Nepal's Children with its 'Build and Trek Adventure' Chris was inspired to join in.



Rebuilding work in progress

Picture credit: www.supportingnepalschildren.org.uk

'Groups of up to 12 participants will arrive at the site of a school that they have helped to fund through sponsorship,' he explains. 'Each participant will be responsible for funding one classroom, which costs approximately £6,000, raised by donations from friends, supporters and other well-wishers.'

Chris himself will be working for two weeks on rebuilding a school based in a rural community, south of Kathmandu, when he flies out to Nepal in November. If you would like to be involved or find out more please contact him on 07706606641 or email Chris.Searle@sjpp.co.uk