

Presentation of donation cheque to the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas

Following the wonderful Christmas Concert performed by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas held on Friday 9th December in All Saints' Church, Lydd, Councillor Clive Goddard and the Town Clerk, Angela visited Shorncliffe Army Camp to meet with the Director of Music – Capt. Esther Hayes so that Cllr Goddard could present the cheque raised from the proceeds of the concert.

Cllr Clive Goddard had requested permission from Lydd Town Council to hold the Christmas Band Concert and talks began at the beginning of the year with Major Rick Bevan (retired) to invite the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas to perform in Lydd for a third year.

The Lydd Town Concert raised £1,500 after the expenses had been paid for the transport for the band and their kit and to All Saints' Church for the refreshments served during the interval and to heat the Church. The money raised has been donated to the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

As well as providing health checks, medicines and a Winter Allowance which provides items to keep the pensioners warm during the chilly winter months: with items such as jackets, blankets, hats and thermos flasks, the Gurkha Welfare Trust are helping to finance earthquake resilient homes to keep people safe. To put the donation raised into perspective £1,401.35 could buy a third of the building materials for a pensioner's new home. To break this down further, £51.20 could buy 80kg of steel to reinforce a pensioner's new home and help protect them and £708.44 could buy all the bricks needed to build the walls of a pensioner's new home.

The Gurkha Welfare Trust also continue to provide a Welfare Pension, currently £93.75/month, that is distributed to impoverished Gurkha veterans or veterans who are not eligible for the standard Army pension. This is for some their only income.

Councillor Goddard said:

"I would like to thank Major Bevan and the Town Clerk, Angela for their work to organise the event, Rev. Chris Maclean and the Church Wardens for granting permission to hold the concert in All Saints' and their hospitality.

I would also like to thank the many local businesses who supported the Town Council with this charitable community event and generously donated raffle prizes.

They are Action Watersports, Lydd £42 voucher, Spar, Lydd £40 voucher, The Pilot, Dungeness £25 voucher, Lydd Golf Club— 30-minute golf lesson and McColls, Lydd on Sea, Usher Motors, Lyons Outfitters, Lydd, Lydd Vets, Morrisons, Lydd and M&M Richardson, Dungeness.

We were delighted that Mayors attended from Hythe, Winchelsea, Faversham, Tenterden, Ashford, Swanley, Folkestone and Maidstone and the Chairman of KCC and Deputy Chair of FHDC and District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee and gave their support to the event.

Myself and Angela have already begun negotiations for this years' Christmas concert and we will be meeting in late Spring with the band master to discuss future arrangements".

