

As I prepare to depart the Gurkha Museum, I want to offer my enormous thanks to those who have supported the Museum, and me as an individual, throughout my tenure. There are simply too many of you, for me to write individually, so I hope you will forgive this shotgun approach.

It has been an immense privilege and a real pleasure to lead the Gurkha Museum at the most pivotal moment in its existence since the move to Winchester 36 years ago.

I move on only because the opportunity that has arisen for me – to be Master of the Lord Leycester Hospital – is a unique one; it combines my passions for history, historic buildings and support for the military veteran community in a way no other role could.

Project Kaida is now well advanced. The necessary infrastructure development is moving on apace, and plans for the detailed interpretation and redisplay of our fabulous collection are fully in hand. The team I leave behind is a strong one, fully able to see things to completion. Robust interim arrangements are in place to cover the period until my successor, Col David Robinson, can take up the role. I can think of no-one better to take up the reins and in wishing him every success I also promise every support I can offer.

I have been blessed with a great team, incredibly supportive trustees (including a truly remarkably committed Chairman) and a Gurkha family that has given me (and Jill) the warmest welcome anyone could hope for. We have truly been taken into the fold, and for that we are immensely grateful.

The Gurkha Museum now punches well above its weight and is held up as an exemplar of what a small- to mid-sized military museum can achieve. This is only possible because of the support of the serving and retired Brigade, who fully support THEIR museum, and because of the generous support from so many volunteers, who share its commitment and sense of purpose in preserving and promoting the heritage of Gurkhas' immeasurable commitment and service to the United Kingdom.

Dherai, dherai dhanyabad. Jai Gurkha Museum

Daren