Presidential Address

*“Overland to Assam and Nepal 1967”*

*Dr.Chris Westwood*

Friday 12th October 2018 PGMC

22 members and 23 guests gathered to hear a most entertaining account of our President’s adventures when ,following 2ndMB(which much to his surprise he passed),he and two fellow students,David Ashton and Nick Gamper,managed to persuade the Dean of Charing Cross Medical School to allow them 6 months leave from their studies to travel overland to Assam and Nepal.The purpose of the trip was ostensibly to work at the Welsh Mission Hospital at Shillong,but in reality the main goal of the expedition was to indulge their passion for mountaineering.

The talk was lavishly illustrated throughout with photographs which had been renovated and digitized with great success.Starting in London with the purchase of a Land Rover for £300 Chris took us on a mesmerizing journey across Europe,the Middle East and on to the Subcontinent through countries now where it would be dangerous and even impossible to venture.

On arrival at Shillong they were given a very warm welcome and spent a memorable month when they even managed to learn some medicine and developed an interest in tropical diseases.Their mentor and head of the hospital was the inspiring Dr.R.A.Hughes who went on latterly to become the Vice Chancellor of Liverpool Medical School.

Although our intrepid trio managed to fit in some treks in the Himalayas,unfortunately they never managed to accomplish any true mountaineering.Never mind,the views were breathtaking.

On returning to London after 6 months Chris was relieved to find that his beloved Sarah was still waiting for him.When they married Nick was the best man and it was a particular joy to have Nick and his wife in the audience with us.

The evening concluded with a very enjoyable Curry Supper.