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NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME

This issue features our **AGM/Holi 2005** review, and I'd like to congratulate the newest members of our elected SGAP Management Committee...!

Don't forget about renewing your **Membership!**

Jitesh Mistry – SGAP Chairperson

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SGAP AGM/HOLI REVIEW

SATURDAY 2 APRIL 2005

This year's AGM was held at the **Jubilee Centre, Bradley Stoke** on **Saturday 2nd April 2005**.



The meeting was opened with a warm greeting from the Chairperson **Jitesh Mistry** and proceeded promptly with a lively presentation (prepared by **Vijay Chandiramani**) explaining SGAP's achievements over the last 12 months.

Following this, Jitesh highlighted the incredible year SGAP have had, most notably SGAP winning the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in July 2004. He also thanked the existing committee, teachers and volunteers for their tremendous contribution over the year.

The guests speakers this year were PC Aqil Farooq, secretary of the Black Police Association (BPA) and Cllr Julian Barge, the Chair of Bradley Stoke Town Council.

PC Farooq talked about his role in the BPA, how it started, what it represented and also how he saw an opportunity to foster links between the BPA and SGAP. Cllr Julian Barge, no stranger to SGAP events, then talked about the community spirit that exists in Bradley Stoke, which SGAP contribute to by organising cultural activities.



The AGM also played host to the NHS PCT represented by Jane Kilpatrick and Geoff Mark, and also to South Gloucestershire Social Services represented by Lindsay Sandhu & Jane Dalton from Occupational Therapy and Stella Waller from Care Management. Both held stalls at the AGM to explain the services that they could provide to SGAP members. SGAP would like to thank both the NHS PCT and Social Services for taking time to talk about the services they provide in the community.

The main purpose of the AGM was to elect a new Management Committee to represent SGAP for 2005/2006 and this year saw a few familiar faces leaving the committee.

Pramod Mistry (SGAP Secretary) and Jitesh thanked the leaving committee members, who were:

Ruchir Dayal, two years as a SGAP committee member. Pramod said:

"Ruchir has worked very hard on various funding applications the biggest being the HLF application with Kamlesh for the SGAP Cultural Event held last December, and become a leading light for the committee in the preparation of funding applications. Ruchir also skilfully produced a DVD of the Queens Award ceremony held by SGAP in July last year. By compiling all the video footage and photos taken at the event, he produced a single DVD that captured the event, complete with speeches and back ground music: a very professional DVD it is too. We are sorry that he is leaving but Ruchir assures us that he will be about at various SGAP events - we wish him well. As Ruchir leaves the committee he informs the new SGAP committee of his success at obtaining new funds for SGAP's Hindi language class."

Kamlesh Mistry, three years of service as a SGAP committee member: Pramod explained:

"From the start Kamlesh has been the driving force behind the SGAP website taking it from a static

"SGAP Logo page", to a professionally built website. The website contains pages of information including the photo gallery, committee profiles, links, useful information and lots more. **SGAP** can be found as the second site listed on a google search. Kamlesh has also managed the regular newsletters that are published and sent out to the membership cards, with the same colourful graphics as used on the website. Kamlesh was involved in the joint fund raising and projecting managing of the SGAP Cultural Event, and represented SGAP on the award winning *Engage 2004* management committee."

Jitesh then proceeded to thank the third committee member to leave, **Vijay Patel** with the following:

"As a founder member of SGAP way back in March 1999 SGAP owes Vijay a big Thank-You for his contribution to the growth and success of the organisation. Vijay has been Treasurer for the whole of this time and totally dedicated to a task which is vital to any organisation. From budget forecasting, paying invoices, writing cheques, preparing the annual accounts to collecting cash Vijay has a thankless task but today I would like to say Thank-You from SGAP to Vijay for his hard work as Treasurer.

But, Vijay is a man of many talents and he has also contributed to SGAP with many other notable achievements including producing presentations documenting SGAP's activities, hosting SGAP's first Antakshri, singing live at the SGAP Cultural Event, managing the Tabla classes in the early SGAP days, plus much, much more than can be discussed in this short time. Recently singing has become a passion for Vijay and I know he will now have much more time to dedicate to this task, in addition to resuming his Tabla classes."

After a rousing ovation for the leaving members, Jitesh then handed over proceedings to Marian Jones from the Community Development Unit at South Gloucestershire Council, who was hosting the new committee elections.

The new 2005/2006 SGAP Management Committee was then duly elected as follows:

Chairman: **Jitesh Mistry**
 Treasurer: **Pramod Mistry**
 Secretary: **Meera Adodra**
 Committee Member: **Urmila Patel**
 Committee Member: **Vijay Chandiramani**
 Committee Member: **Kermal Singh**
 Committee Member: **Prashant Lele**
 Committee Member: **Sharad Saxena**
 Co-Opted Member: **Sangeeta Dewan**
 Co-Opted Member: **Anju Patel**

Congratulations to the new Committee.

The AGM was then bought to an exciting and captivating end with dance performances from the students of 3 SGAP Bollywood Classes (run by **Perna Chandiramani**) performing 3 Bollywood hits:

- **Group 2 (8-11yrs)** performing *Babuji* ;a dance reflecting a style from Maharashtra (West India).



- **Group 1 the Bollywood princesses** (who don't like to be called tiny-tots anymore!) displayed their dancing talents to the song *Gori Gori* which brought back the nostalgic 60's era of rock-n-roll.



- The final performance was dedicated to Vijay Patel and one of his favourite songs *Maahi Ve*, for his dedicated service to SGAP as treasurer for 5 years. The dance was performed by the young girls from **12-16yrs group**, who showed excellent co-ordination.



All the performances were well received with thundering applause!! Cllr Julian Barge remarked:

"The dances were superb and highly entertaining!".

After some delicious Indian Snacks of Vegetable Samosa , Bhel Puri Chat and Gulab Jamun (prepared by Kalyani Saxena), SGAP's AGM finished with some Colour (in the form of confetti) and music to celebrate Holi (Festival of Colour).

SGAP PLAN - 2005/06

Planning for the events and activities for 2005-2006 have already started following the new SGAP committee's first meeting.

The SGAP diary of events currently looks like this:

- May 2005 Family Sports Day;** 23rd May 2005
- June 2005 Bradley Stoke Festival participation**
- July 2005** • **Bristol Zoo Fundraiser;** 22nd July 2005
- **Weston-Super-Mare Festival;** 10th July 2005
- **Swindon Mela;** 30th July 2005
- August 2005 Bristol Mela**
- September 2005 SGAP Cultural Trip**
- October 2005 Antakshri**
- November 2005 Annual Show;** 26th November 2005
- January 2006 Bollywood "Get Together"**
- February 2006 Talent Show**
- March 2006 AGM/Holi**

Some of the dates may change, so please always double-check the website for up-to-date information.

Please note this list is not complete as other activities are still to be confirmed, such as, for example Engage 2005, and the Commonwealth FM Radio shows.

Alongside our existing Bollywood Dance classes, Hindi singing classes, Asian Women's Group and Tabla classes, 2005 will see the start of our first **Hindi Language classes**; watch this space and website for full details.

In addition, we are looking to provide events with wider member participation, including sporting activities such as badminton, cricket and other outdoor pursuits; please let us know if there's something you'd like to see...

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The SGAP **Annual Membership Fee** of **£3 per adult aged 18 and over** became due on 1st April 2005.

Members that attended the AGM/Holi on the 2nd April 2005 (see below) were given the opportunity to have this fee waived by completing a questionnaire about SGAP services over the last year.

The SGAP committee have decided to extend this opportunity to all registered members.

If you complete and return the enclosed questionnaire to SGAP (the address is at the top of this newsletter) before **31st May 2005**, your annual membership fee will be waived.

There are two levels of membership:

1. REGISTERED MEMBERS

Registered members are people who have completed either a paper registration form, or have registered online from the website. You are a registered member if you receive this newsletter.

2. PAID-UP MEMBERS

PAID-UP members are registered members who have either:

- paid the £3 annual membership fee
- completed the last SGAP services questionnaire

Advantages of being a PAID-UP member..?

As well as receiving regular newsletters, you will receive membership cards which will entitle you to discounts at upcoming SGAP activities and events.

e.g. **Paid-Up** members will receive **£2** discount on the Cultural Trip, and **£3** off the ticket price to our Annual Show.

* PLEASE REMEMBER *

1. SGAP is a voluntary group. The £3 annual membership fee helps to maintain SGAP services and promote SGAP activities over the year.
2. The deadline for renewing your annual membership is **31st May 2005**.
You must pay your £3 membership fee **OR** return the enclosed questionnaire **BEFORE** this date.
3. The current annual membership period runs from **1st April 2005 to 31st March 2006**.

Those of you that completed the questionnaire at the AGM/Holi do not need to do so again.

SGAP CLASSES

BOLLYWOOD DANCE

Bollywood Dance classes are held in the Main Hall at the **Baileys Court Activity Centre** as follows:

- **GROUP 1 : 5 to 7 yrs**
4:00 to 5:00pm; every Sunday (Green Hut)
24th April to 17th July 2005
- **GROUP 2: 8 to 11 yrs**
5:00 to 6:00pm; every Sunday (Green Hut)
24th April to 17th July 2005
- **GROUP 3 : 12 to 16 yrs**
6:30 to 7:30pm; every Friday (Main Hall)
22nd April to 15th July 2005

Contact **Prerna Chandiramani** on 0117 9314443 for more information or email **info@sgap.org.uk**.

TABLA

SGAP organises lessons for tabla enthusiasts and new learners under the guidance of Tapan Roy.

Contact **Urmila Patel** on 01454 885139 for more information or email **info@sgap.org.uk**.

BOLLYWOOD SINGING

To learn how to sing Bollywood film songs, why not join our Bollywood Singing Classes..?

Classes run every Friday, 7-8pm, in the **Baileys Court Activity Centre** (lounge), Bradley Stoke.

Contact **Sangeeta Dewan** on 0117 9696934 for more information or email **info@sgap.org.uk**.

HINDI

SGAP will be introducing **Hindi Language Classes** in 2005. If you are interested, please contact **Sangeeta Dewan** on 0117 9696934, or email **info@sgap.org.uk** for further details.

**Don't forget
to check our
website!**

www.sgap.org.uk