

NEWS ABOUT THE SGAP ANNUAL SHOW – AN UPGRADE

Every year we endeavour to give our members a new experience as well as provide a unique opportunity for SGAP students and members to show off their talents. This year is no exception. The SGAP committee took into consideration comments from you that you really enjoyed the SGAP Fashion and Dance show last year, but a lot of parents with very young children had to leave early, therefore missing out on the entertainment later in the evening.

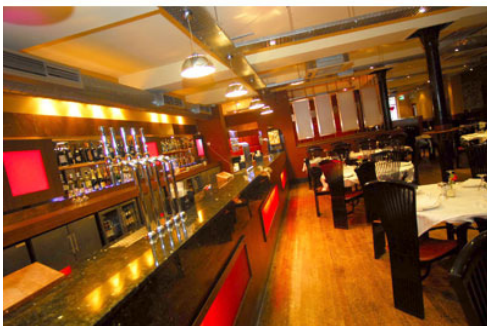
With these comments in mind, this year the SGAP committee have decided to arrange a Dinner and Dance Evening in Autumn and a separate full SGAP Talent Show in early spring 2008. This will ensure that you can enjoy a delicious meal and dance the night away with live evening entertainment. Watch this space for more details on the tickets for the Dinner and Dance late October 2007.

This approach will also allow the SGAP students and members to have a dedicated show that they always look forward to and work very hard for. The show in spring will give them the required time to prepare as well as having a longer performance time as supposed to the traditional one hour only.

As always the committee and I welcome ideas for our SGAP community events from our members. If anyone would like to put forward their views or suggestions for the early spring show, please do call me or e-mail us.

In the meantime, hope you have all had a safe and enjoyable holiday period. I look forward to seeing you at the Dinner and Dance Event.

Urmila Patel – Chairperson SGAP



CULTURAL TRIP LONDON



At the break of dawn of 14th July SGAP members woke up to the excitement of the much-awaited cultural trip. The weather was great, with the sun-god smiling at all of us probably paving the path for a nice clear journey to Swami Narayan Temple at Neasden. As some of us, know, this is the world's largest Hindu temple to be ever built outside India. Apart from being a marvel of architecture, with every molecule hand-crafted, it provides the additional bonus of tranquillity to the mind.

With those positive thoughts, we reached the Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre, where the waiting coach from Bakers Dolphin welcomed us with its open arms! (alright, open doors..!). Prashant Lele, the trip leader was ready and waiting with the list firmly in his hand. Yet again, he demonstrated efficiency and great organisational skills as everyone clambered up the coach in an orderly fashion. The attendance was great, with the youngest member being 2 years old and the oldest 75!

The coach started off as planned. Apart from the regulars, most people did not know one another. But it did not take very long to do the introductions and we started off with the great ice-breaker – songs! Everyone had to sing, followed by an analysis of their performance by an Indian version of Simon Cowell! It was great fun all the way and before we realised it, we were in the bustling town of Wembley. After everyone going off sightseeing, shopping and lunching, we met up at 3 pm at the temple. We were greeted by the local guide, who explained the history of the temple, followed

by an eye-opening video show. It described how the temple was constructed, the history and some basics of the faith. Our members were over-whelmed by the sheer scale, the materials used and the fact that it was constructed entirely by volunteers! After that educational video, the members went around the temple admiring the wonderful architecture, carvings and praying at the same time.

It was nearing the end of the day and we decided to round off the day with some 'chat-pat' snacks at the Saya Café near the temple. People had 'chai', samosa, dosa, etc., and shopped for some mithai to indulge their sweet-teeth.

We made our way to the coach and bid farewell to the temple. I remembered to say my quick thank-you the Lord Almighty, before the gears engaged and we rolled out off Neasden.

Thank you to **Vijay Chandiramani** for this fine article. It truly captures the day trip.

PICNIC AT BLAISE CASTLE



Photos by Nandini

Thank you for a lovely Funday - (Saturday 23rd June actually). Still the best most memorable weekend for the family so far this SUMMER. Not only because it was Dry and Sunny for a change!!!! but the kids , young and older, enjoyed the venue whilst the parents relaxed and enjoyed the good food – in my case the food on offer- Great traditional Asian Hospitality !!!!! – I was sure the day would be another washout but so pleased when we turned up to see such a large show.

The afternoon ended up in a high-spirited cricket game with the Fathers and children all taking part - Burning off all the food and later smiling - watching all the children tucking into their ice-creams.

Look forward to seeing any pictures of the day. The Children were reluctant to go back home – As they say – Time goes quickly when one is enjoying oneself.

Thanks again on behalf of the whole Family
Rishi (8) Riya (12) Vina & Pravin

Pravin Panchal

WOMENS GROUP

Asian women's group is for women from all lifestyles. You may be Asian women who came to this country and feel isolated, homemaker or women taking a break from work.

Over the years SGAP have successfully provided a wide range of activity session and workshops ranging from English classes, yoga, craft, card making, Indian head massage etc.

The first open session will take place on Tuesday 11th September 2007 @ 1pm to 3pm
at the Jubilee Centre, Savage Wood Rd, Bradley Stoke.
So ladies why not come along and join us for coffee/tea make friends

If you have any ideas / suggestions please put them forward on the day or you can email them to me email sgap.office@googlemail.com .

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.

I look forward seeing you all.
Anju

SGAP CLASSES

NEW TO SGAP **DHOL**

Hi, my name is Dilbagh and I will be running a series of "DHOL" workshops with SGAP. I am an artist that works individually and in partnership with colleagues conducting workshops. Having a passion for the Dhol I have worked in many local schools teaching the dhol on a regular basis.

I am also a part of band, of different cultures/backgrounds and types of music. We have performance in and a around Bristol at many local and national events, as part of many bands

As Students, you can expect to learn about the history of the dhol, how it originated and where it is today in the music world. In addition, we will explore the taals (beats) of the dhol. This eight-week series of workshops is designed to introduce you to the dhol, the history, techniques and to play its amazing energetic rhythm's.

Feel free to come and learn a new skill (see below for times and dates). I look forward to seeing and hearing you.

Dilbagh

SGAP ACTIVITIES

At Filton High School:

SUNDAY CLASSES

BOLLYWOOD DANCE

with Prerna

Times:-

3pm - 4pm - Beginners

4.15pm - 5.15pm - improvers

5.30pm - 6.30pm - Group 2

Sept. 9th 16th 23rd & 30th

Oct. 7th, 14th & 21

Nov. 4th

HINDI

with Alpna

Time 3 - 4 pm

Sept. 6th 16th 23rd & 30th

Oct. 7th, 14th & 21

Nov. 4th

** NEW DHOL ** SESSION

with Dilbagh

Time 3-4pm

Sept. 9th 16th 23rd & 30th

Oct. 7th, 14th & 21

Nov. 4th

FRIDAY CLASSES

BOLLYWOOD DANCE

at **Jubilee Centre**

Time 6.30 to 7.30

Sept 14th 21st & 28th

Oct 5th, 12th & 19th

Nov. 2nd & 16th

The cost is £25 per term and must be paid in advance. Please bring cheque's payable to 'SGAP' on the first day of term.

WHATS ON?

ENGAGE 2007 & SGAP

- CULTURE THROUGH DANCE, DRAMA, MUSIC & FOOD

Many of you will remember what a tremendous success Engage 2004 festival of culture was as I am sure you were there on the day either performing, working a stall, workshop, volunteering or just visiting with the family

and enjoying the atmosphere of people enjoying themselves.

You will not be surprised to hear that many long term working relationships developed from the festival and communities in South Gloucestershire are still reaping the benefits derived from the event.

Since Engage 2004 we have had a number of small very locally focused Engage events. However we have been constantly asked by the community "When are we going to have another Engage Festival?" Well I am sure you have already guessed or heard that an Engage 2007 is being planned for Saturday 17 November 2007. It will be held at the new Bradley Stoke Community School.

Our aim is for the focus this time to be on Celebrating Cultural Freedom through Dance, Drama, Workshops and Food. SGAP's own Urmilla Patel and Anju Patel have been very much involved on the Engage 2007 steering group helping with pulling together contributions from the Asian communities. We have so far commitment for Bollywood dance, Classical Indian dance, Sari workshops, Henna and Indian head massage. This combined with contributions from the Polish, Irish, Chinese, African, English and African Caribbean communities will make the day a fantastic extravaganza celebrating cultural diversity in South Gloucestershire. The day will include stalls, workshops, and food stalls all with an ethnic or cultural flavour.

An event such as this I am sure many of you will recall, depends not only on the performers, stall holders etc. It also relies very much on volunteers to steward the other main ingredient for success and that is the visitors, the families that will come out to share the day and enjoy the activities and performances.

This year we are involving more local South Gloucestershire schools, with Cultural and BME groups providing dance tutors, to work with them and develop performances which will be showcased on the main event day.

So far it looks like the two stages will be occupied with live performances from the 10am start through to 8.30 last performances.

Stalls, stands and workshops are also looking very busy. There will be something to interest all the family from the very young to those of us who have progressed in years.

The event and the lead up to the event will encourage the various communities in South Gloucestershire to work together. This we believe will go a long way towards developing stronger, improved relationships, through knowledge and understanding thus Building safer stronger communities here in South Gloucestershire.

We will have a crew filming the main event with interviews from the public, Council officers and members. A DVD will be made from a collage of the filming. This will be combined with a magazine compiled from articles supplied by the participants about the origins of their activity, performance, stall, workshop or food. All the articles will be compiled with photographs into a magazine which will be distributed with the DVD at the end of the Engage 2007 project.

The Engage project will help increase people's knowledge of the diverse cultural heritage in South Gloucestershire by providing information and facts about the history and traditions of these cultures, and how these have developed in the context of today's contemporary multi-cultural society here in the UK.

Engage will help people experience and learn about these diverse cultural histories by:

I am still looking for a number of volunteers so if you wish to be a part of this super South Gloucestershire wide Engage 2007 event please let me know as soon as possible. Otherwise I hope to see you there enjoying yourselves on the day. (Saturday 17 November 2007, Bradley Stoke Community School 10am to 8:30pm)

George Kousouros
Community Project Officer
South Gloucestershire Council

DO YOU HAVE STORY TO TELL?

BBC Radio Bristol

We would like you to help BBC Radio Bristol celebrate Bradley Stoke's 20th Anniversary! We're planning a week of broadcasts in September, and we'd love you to get involved.

The stories will be part of Radio Bristol's programming in the lead up to the big day on September 20th when for one day only, BBC Radio Bradley Stoke will hit the airwaves.

Who are the people that make Bradley Stoke unique? Which stories deserve a wider audience? How would you like to see your town represented? Whether it's community group, a special event, a local hero, a serious or a quirky story- whatever your idea, we want to hear about it. We're also looking for people who are interested in learning some radio skills and helping us put this all together.

Contact Sally Heaven on 0117 9746972

FREE SAFETY ADVICE

Avon & fire and rescue services provide people with a free advice on all aspects of fire safety in the home. If required, some alarms will be fitted during the visit.

The visit and the some alarms are completely free - call them on freephone 0800 1693 999 or visit their website www.avonfire.gov.uk"