



email: info@sgap.org.uk
 website: www.sgap.org.uk

Supported by South Gloucestershire Council

Newsletter

Sep 2003 Issue No 18

WELCOME!

There's lots going on, including our upcoming cultural trip to Leicester, and the Swindon Mela report, so read on.

The latest details are also on the website at www.sgap.org.uk.

Cancellation of Forest Of Dean Trip

Unfortunately, due to the bad weather, the trip to the Forest of Dean was cancelled. It did brighten up later in the day, but the heavy rain the night before would have made for a very muddy time. Better luck next year!

In This Issue

Cancellation of Forest Of Dean Trip	1
Cultural Trip/Day Out – Saturday 18 October	1
Swindon Mela	2
Tumhare Kahani Project.....	2
SGAP Bollywood Dance Classes.....	3
SGAP Tabla Classes.....	3
SGAP Bollywood Singing Classes.....	3
SGAP Activities for Year 2003/2004.....	4
SGAP Membership.....	4
Related News.....	4

Cultural Trip/Day Out – Saturday 18 October

The Cultural Trip/Day Out to Leicester has been put back to **Saturday 18 October 2003** to coincide with the switching on of the Diwali illuminations in Leicester, on Belgrave/Melton Road.

A double-decker coach, seating 70 people, will be taking us there, and will be leaving from Bradley Stoke at 11.00 am.

Coach tickets are available on a strictly first-come, first-serve basis, so get yours as soon as possible as the demand, judging by previous cultural trips, will be high.

Tickets can be purchased from any of the committee members on the telephone numbers below, or you can email SGAP at info@sgap.org.uk:

- o Jitesh Mistry on 0117 931 1505
- o Vijay Patel on 0117 979 8568
- o Pramod Mistry on 01454 201 855
- o Sangeeta Dewan on 0117 969 6934
- o Kamlesh Mistry on 0117 910 9039
- o Kermal Singh on 0117 956 7782
- o Vijay Chandiramani on 0117 931 4443

Coach Pick Up Point	:	Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre Car Park
Depart Bristol	:	11.00 am
Ticket Costs		
- Advance Purchase	:	MEMBERS - £8/£4 (Adults/Children) with under 5's free
	:	NON MEMBERS - £10/£5 Adults/Children)
- Bought on the day	:	£10/£5 (Adults/Children) for members AND non members
Depart Leicester	:	7.00 pm

It'll be a great day out with plenty to do including shopping, sight-seeing and an opportunity to visit the local Mandirs, Gurudwaras and Mosques, so make sure you come, and bring your friends and family!

Swindon Mela

The first Swindon Mela took place on Saturday 2nd August 2003 in Swindon's Old Town Gardens, attracting a mixture of Asians, and non-Asians, from all communities, who had come to see the event from as far as Leicester and London, and as nearby as Bristol, Bath and of course, Swindon.

Some of the many highlights on that gloriously sunny day included a showcase for Asian talent, including **Bollywood Dance** performances and workshops from **SGAP's** very own Perna Chandiramani, on the Community Stage.

Musical artists included the brilliant Dholblasters & Nachdey Hasdey, Bombay Baja, and in the evening DCS, who brought the Mela to a close with an excellent performance at the Swindon Bowl.



Other attractions included an amazing display of Sikh Martial Arts, a vibrant fashion show, lots of delicious food from the many food stalls, Sari-wearing demonstrations, and stalls showcasing amongst other things, Indian Head massage, mehndi (henna) tattoos, Asian jewellery and contemporary Asian clothing.

It was a really great, fun day out with lots to do, and plenty to see, and with such a variety of stalls, attractions and performing arts that you would have been hard pressed not to find something of interest.

Let's hope this is the start of an annual event which attracts as much interest in the future as it did this year (well in excess of 6,000 people in attendance), and encourages other regions in the UK to hold as big and successful an event as the Swindon Mela.

Tumhare Kahani Project

Tumhare Kahani is an exciting new creative writing initiative for Asians living in South Gloucestershire, funded by **SGAP** and the **Asian Arts Agency**.

The aim of the Tumhare Kahani Project is to encourage new, budding and existing Asian writers of all ages to develop their skills and creativity in all forms of writing.

To celebrate the introduction of the pilot phase of the project (**tk.0_03**), the Tumhare Kahani Project is launching a **Short Story Competition**, which is open to Asian writers of all ages in the South Gloucestershire area.

There are two age categories, under 18s and 18+, and the winner of each age category will receive a prize at this year's **SGAP Annual Community Show** in November.

- Under 18s winner will receive £50 in WHSmith vouchers.
- 18+ winner will receive £100 in cash.

For full details, please visit the website **www.tumharekahani.com**, and see the enclosed flyer.

The closing date for submission of your short stories is **Friday 17 October 2003**.

Why not have a go ?

SGAP Bollywood Dance Classes

The Bollywood Dance classes run by Prerna have been one of the many SGAP successes.



The classes are held in the Green Hut at the Baileys Court Activity Centre, with sessions for attendees aged:

- **3 to 7 yrs from 4:00 to 5:00pm**
- **8 to 16 yrs from 5:00 to 6:00pm**

New term begins on Sunday 14th September 2003.

For details of costs and confirmation of the venue and timings, please contact Prerna Chandiramani on 0117 931 4443, or email info@sgap.org.uk.

Also run by Prerna are the: **Ladies Bollywood Workout Classes** at the Woodland Suite, Jubilee Centre, Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke, from **7:30pm-8:30 p.m.**

New classes begins on Wednesday 17th September 2003.

SGAP Tabla Classes

The importance of Tabla as a musical instrumental in India has been established since the early 14th Century AD, but in the last twenty years or more it's sound has attracted the attention of a large number of students and lovers of music alike globally.

In South Gloucestershire and North Bristol we are very lucky to have a number of enthusiasts and lovers of art who can learn under the expert guidance of Tapan Roy.

SGAP organises lessons for enthusiasts and new learners with Tapanji, who has built up a formidable reputation as both a teacher and performer. His skills are in great demand from all over Britain and he gives lessons in Tabla to pupils in Bath, Bristol and surrounding areas.

So come on all you music lovers, of all ages, come and try Tabla lessons with SGAP.

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



SGAP Bollywood Singing Classes

Do you like Bollywood Films and wish you could sing like the big screen stars? Well here's your opportunity to impress your other half, friends and family by learning to sing a Bollywood Film Song!

These classes have already had a successful pilot launch, and regular classes are due to recommence every Sunday, starting on Sunday 21st September 2003 in the Beech room at the Jubilee Centre, Bradley Stoke.

If you wish to enrol, please contact Sangeeta Dewan on 0117 969 6934 - places are strictly limited.



SGAP Activities for Year 2003/2004

As part of our forward planning we have scheduled most of our major activities for 2003/2004:

- **18 October 2003** - Cultural Trip /Day Out to Leicester.

15 November 2003 - SGAP Annual Community Show

Full details coming soon

- **January 2004** (tbc) - Sports Open Day
- **March 2004** (tbc) - AGM/Holi

Full details of all of these events are coming soon, and as the year progresses, we will notify you of other activities which SGAP are involved with, like the Swindon Mela, and the Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre Swimming Pool Opening (Jan/Feb 2004).

SGAP Membership

In order to maintain our services and to promote further activities, we charge:

Annual Membership Fee of £3 per adult aged 18 and over.

By becoming a member you will be entitled to discounts at our functions. Last year members saved £2 on the cultural trips, £3 on the Annual Function, and are guaranteed hard copy newsletters advising you of past and future activities / events.

If you haven't already joined you must hurry, as the cut-off date for this year's membership (valid until March 2004), is 31st October 2003. By joining today, you'll save 20% on the ticket price for both the Cultural Trip, and our Annual Show!

Related News

Classical Singing and Harmonium Classes

Would you like to learn Classical singing or to play the Harmonium?



Gayatri Lele has several years experience of classical singing and harmonium in India.

She has passed 5 exams of Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, and has performed in programmes in India as well as in U.K.

If anybody is interested in learning classical singing or wishes to learn harmonium, please contact Gayatri on 0117 904 4239 or 07960 466733, or email her at gayatril@rediffmail.com.