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# SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ASIAN PROJECT

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## NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2004 **ISSUE 24**

*Newsletter Editor : Kamlesh Mistry*

## SGAP WIN THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The **SGAP Committee** are very proud to announce that SGAP have been awarded, on recommendation from the Home Office, the **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2004**.

This award, formerly known as The Queen's Golden Jubilee Award, is given for outstanding achievement by voluntary groups who:

- regularly devote their time to helping others in the community
- improve the quality of life and opportunity for others
- provide an outstanding service

We are greatly honoured to be one of only 110 groups nationwide who have been given this prestigious Award, which comes in the form of a Certificate signed by Her Majesty The Queen, and a Commemorative Crystal.

It is a reflection of the hundreds of hours of voluntary work that members of the SGAP committee, past and present, have devoted to ensure SGAP achieves its aims, and also recognising the commitment of many other volunteers who work behind the scene.

The Award will be presented on Her Majesty's behalf by the Lord-Lieutenant in July 2004, but before that, three SGAP representatives have been invited to attend a reception at St. James's Palace to meet Her Majesty The Queen!

Look out for the *Queens Award Newsletter Special* in August celebrating SGAP's unique Award.

For more information, visit the website <http://www.goldenjubileeaward.gov.uk>.

**Jitesh Mistry – SGAP Chairperson**



### ALSO THIS ISSUE

**\*\*\* WEBSITE PHOTO GALLERY NOW UPDATED \*\*\***

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### ⇨ URGENT NEWS ⇩

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The SGAP **Annual Membership Fee** of **£3 per adult aged 18 and over** became due on 1st April 2004.

Those members that completed either the SGAP Services Questionnaire, **OR** paid the £3 annual membership fee are now **PAID UP** members, and their membership cards are enclosed with this newsletter.

Your membership card entitles you to discounts at upcoming SGAP activities and events.

**\* PLEASE NOTE \***

1. The deadline for annual membership renewal was **31st May 2004**. You will have to wait until the next AGM to renew it
2. The current annual membership period runs from **1st April 2004 to 31st March 2005**.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### SGAP PICNIC/FUN DAY OUT

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2004**

Picnic at Ashton Court Estate (see poster on page 2).

#### SGAP CULTURAL EVENT 2004

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2004**

Following the success of last year's Annual Show, our flagship event this year, the **SGAP Cultural Event 2004**, will be *the* unmissable occasion of the SGAP calendar!! Details coming soon...

#### SGAP TALENT SHOW 2005

**Early 2005**

Date and time to be confirmed.

## RELATED NEWS

### TUMHARE KAHANI

The **Tumhare Kahani Project**, is an exciting creative writing initiative for Asians living in South Gloucestershire, and has now been re-launched with a **Short Story Competition**. In order to take part, visit **www.tumharekahani.com** or send an email to **info@sgap.org.uk** for further details.

Competition entries should be a short story or poem, less than 1000 words in length, about **Asian Life**.

The competition deadline is **30 September 2004**, and the winners will be presented their prizes at the **SGAP Cultural Event 2004**. Good Luck and happy writing!

## SGAP CLASSES

### BOLLYWOOD DANCE

The Bollywood Dance classes are held in the Green Hut at the **Baileys Court Activity Centre**, as follows:

- **4 to 7 yrs**      **4:00 to 5:00pm**      **Sundays**
- **8 to 11 yrs**    **5:00 to 6:00pm**      **Sundays**
- **12 to 18 yrs**   **6:30 to 7:30pm**      **Fridays**

If you are interested, please contact **Perna** on 0117 9314443, or email **khushboo@lycos.co.uk**.

### TABLA

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

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

### BOLLYWOOD SINGING

To learn how to sing Bollywood film songs, why not come to our singing classes which run **every Friday, from 7pm to 8pm**, in the **Beech room** at the **Jubilee Centre, Bradley Stoke**.

If you wish to enrol, please contact **Sangeeta Dewan** on **0117 9696934** [limited places].

### HINDI

SGAP will be introducing **Hindi Language Classes** soon, and the initial focus will be conversational Hindi, eventually progressing to a more advanced level.

If you are interested in attending this class, please contact **Sangeeta Dewan** on **0117 9696934**, or email **info@sgap.org.uk** for further details.

## SGAP PICNIC/FUN DAY OUT

Picnic Sunday 11th July 2004  
at Ashton Court Estate Bristol



*Meet up with friends, make new friends and have fun socialising !!*

*Join in a day out, play a game of cricket, rounders or football, fly a kite, but please bring your own sports equipment.*

*Let the children have a fun day out with friends, enjoying the Estate and grounds.*

Meet up at the  
**Ashton Court Estate for a Picnic at 12:00 noon by the main house**



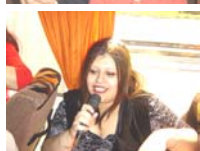
*Ashton Court Estate situated across from the Clifton suspension bridge, it has 840 acres of mixture of woodlands and open space, there are steep grassy slopes, plantations of native and ornamental trees and a deer park. Used annually for the North Somerset Show, the Kite fiesta and the very popular balloon festival.*

*Access to the estate is free.*

[www.about-bristol.co.uk/prk-02.asp](http://www.about-bristol.co.uk/prk-02.asp)

# REVIEW

## CULTURAL TRIP - SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2004



"On the bright and sunny Saturday morning I reached Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre Coach park, the atmosphere was alive and exciting. I instantly felt that we were going to be treated to another memorable cultural trip. We set off just after 11:15 am, but suddenly had a minor panic when one family had remembered they'd left behind a bag in their car!! Luckily we were still in Bradley Stoke so a short u-turn later off we went...

As soon as the coach hit the motorway, we had an announcement about a surprise **bonus** included in the trip - a short sightseeing tour of Central London was to be included after leaving Southall.

Soon everyone was settled in the bus and having fun. Some children were playing cards, others were listening to music and some of the younger children were drawing and colouring. While the younger children were showing their creativity, the adults began to display their creative flair through singing Bollywood songs. This began with a smash hit from the movie **Kal Ho Na Ho**, *Pretty Woman* by Vijay Patel, the newest student of the Bollywood Singing Classes, followed by another one from the same movie, *Maahi Ve*. We hope Vijay will be singing in next year's Talent Show!

Everyone joined in by singing their favourite songs in turns. This time many people were better prepared with printed copies of Hindi song lyrics, I also noticed that someone had an A-Z list of Hindi songs!! I think now on we should call this event the *Cultural Singing Talent Trip!* The fun atmosphere was nicely complemented by home made mouth watering snacks. Vanita had brought *Onion Bhaji*, Sheena had made the popular Gujarati dish *Pudla* (gram flour pan cakes) with hot Red Garlic Chutney and Urmila had made another popular Gujarati dish *Dhokla* (gram flour spicy cakes). We were so busy singing and eating the lovely food, before we realised we reached Southall Gurdwara at 1:30 pm.

**Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha** is the largest Gurdwara in Europe and opened in March 2003. The cost of the project (£20 million) was funded entirely by donations from the devoted community of Sikhs, from both within and outside the UK.

We had a guided tour of the Gurdwara. Like any other temple, shoes were not allowed and we covered our heads as a mark of respect. The ground floor had a reception and library rooms, a very big foyer and a very large Langar Hall (free kitchen) which currently serves, on average, a thousand cooked vegetarian meals per day.

Two beautifully constructed staircases on either side of the main foyer lead to the first floor, which had two congregation halls were constructed without pillars for an unobstructed view of services and ceremonies. A huge dome in the centre of the main hall adds a feeling of heavenly space. Both the halls have large glass windows commissioned in a contemporary design and using predominantly the traditional Khalsa colours of blue and saffron. The big front window above the main entrance depicted the creation of the Khalsa on Vaisakhi day, 1699. We then had a presentation which was an overview of the Sikh religion and its philosophy. After having food in the Langar Hall we set off to Old Southall just after 3:00 pm.

We spent four hours in Old Southall. The main streets are filled with shops which sell Indian outfits, groceries, DVDs, CDs, Indian jewellery.....you name it and you are guaranteed to find it! There was plenty to do here for everyone. Many people went shopping, some met up with their friends and family who lived close by while some sat in the pub as it was a very hot a day! Most of the people had authentic food in the restaurants just before we set off for Central London at 7:15 pm.

Our tour finished at 8:30 pm and then it was time to head back to Bristol, and on route everyone celebrated Kamlesh's birthday (a week earlier) with some champagne! Next we started **Antakshari** between the *front seats* and the *back-benchers* groups in the coach. It was great fun and without anyone realizing, it slowly turned into Antakshari between the men and the women! No prizes for guessing who won that one!!! We all had some more of the home made snacks left from the morning; at one point, everyone began to dedicate the songs to *Dhoklas*, which was quite amusing. You had to be there to know what I mean!!!!

Around 11:15 pm we reached Bradley Stoke. Some children were tired and had gone to sleep but the rest of us, I am sure, would have carried on for a few more hours of singing!!! All in all it was a fantastic day out. And the singing keeps getting better with every trip!!"

Words: **Meera Adodra** Pictures: **Sheena Mistry**

