



SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ASIAN PROJECT

Supported by
South
Gloucestershire
Council



unsung heroes
Winners of
The Queen's Award for
Voluntary Service 2004

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NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME

We hope you had a great summer break, although the weather was very changeable; we even had to cancel the *SGAP Picnic/Fun Day Out* – maybe next year!

As there's a lot to tell you about in this newsletter, featuring a full report of our Queen's Award win, and several upcoming events, including the **Engage 2004 Festival of Culture**, we've enclosed some additional leaflets for you to have a look at. Enjoy!!

Jitesh Mistry – SGAP Chairperson

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QUEEN'S AWARD WIN

In the last newsletter, we announced that SGAP had been awarded **The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2004**. This 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

Meeting the Queen

Three of the founder members, Jitesh Mistry, Vijay Patel and Pramod Mistry were invited to a reception at St James Palace on 19th July, where they were privileged to meet and talk to the Queen and Prince Phillip.



It was also an opportunity to meet other winners from the UK, and some of the judging panel who chose the winners, who were very complimentary about our work.

The Queen's Award Presentation

The official presentation was made by the Lord Lieutenant Elwes on behalf of the Queen, at a special ceremony on Friday 30th July at the Village Hall in Emersons Green.

The invitees included members of South Gloucestershire Council, Avon & Somerset Constabulary, SGAP long standing members, teachers, committee & partners, and the press.



In true SGAP style, the evening began with a welcome from our Master of Ceremonies, Vijay Chandiramani, a romantic song from Sangeeta Dewan, and a slide show presentation of our events for the last 5 years.

This was followed by speeches from the Lord Lieutenant, the SGAP senior officers, and finally the presentation of the Award itself. There was a lot of praise from councillors for the way SGAP is managed, the dedication of the volunteers, the informative and interesting speeches, and with a photo session we had to get a time extension on the venue!

Vijay Patel – SGAP Treasurer



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SGAP ANTAKSHRI 2004

Saturday 30th October 2004

Antakshri is a fun singing competition, very popular with Indians all over the world.

There are 2 teams (usually men v women), and each team has to start a song with the ending syllable of the last song. There are variations of the competition, for example, the host will provide the second line or verse of the song and the participants have to identify the song and sing it. Or, the host will describe a scene/event and the participants have to pick a suitable song. We will provide a variety of such rounds and ensure everyone enjoys.

You don't have to be a good singer, or know all the words as team members will always help out and sing together. It is a form of Indian Karaoke, and songs are from popular Hindi films.

Our recent coach trips have proved the popularity of Antakshri, and we also have a few excellent musicians to accompany amateur singers.

We plan to hold our first Antakshri event on **30th October**. The time and venue will be confirmed in the next newsletter and on our website.

If you are interested - put the date in your diary, and start practicing! You may even win a prize or be featured on Radio!

Vijay Patel – SGAP Treasurer

SGAP CULTURAL EVENT 2004

Saturday 4th December 2004

As Bradley Stoke waits with bated breath, SGAP students and committee members are busy preparing for what promises to be the cultural dhamaka of 2004 - The **SGAP Cultural Event 2004!**

With workshops and events lined up for everyone in the family, we promise to set the streets of Bradley Stoke ablaze with music to rock every bone in your body and sizzling dances.

Now, now..! Hold your horses... tickets go on sale in the last week of October 2004 ... watch this space!!

SGAP TALENT SHOW 2005

Early 2005

Watch for details later this year.

REVIEWS

BRISTOL MELA 2004

The Bristol Mela was held on Sunday 29th Aug 2004 on The Downs in Bristol.

Organised by **Awaz Utaoh** and hosted by BBC Asian Network the indifferent British weather didn't put the dampers on a star-studded line-up including Black Moth Connection, Master Rakesh, Kam Bhamra, **Juggy D** and the latest Asian sensation **Raghav**.



In a stunning coup for the organisers a surprise Bollywood Star made a guest appearance - none other than the Beauty of Bollywood **Mahima Chaudhary** famous for movies like "Pardes" and "Bhagban" and the upcoming "Dobara".



Greeted by Simi Choudhry and the Mayor of Bristol, Mahima made a belated entrance to the Bristol Mela and put the sun back into a rather cloudy and damp start at the Mela.

The Mela's first visit to the (Durham) Downs can be deemed a success with exotic International Food, a Fun Fair, soothing Asian Therapies, Asian Fashion Show, Bhangra & Dhol (drums) workshops, Bollywood Dance and of course the Live Music from Fusion Artists who have conquered the International Urban & Asian music scene, to match any Mela in the UK this year.

Jitesh Mistry – SGAP Chairperson

SWINDON MELA 2004

This year's Swindon Mela took place at the Town Gardens in Old Town on Saturday 31 July 2004 - a feast of Asian music, dance and activities, the Mela had something for everyone.

The day was very bright, sunny and hot, despite the downpour a few days before.



"Love the life you Live and Live the Life you Love" was one of the many tracks played by **Apache Indian** from his latest album KARMA, also many more top names from the Asian entertainment scene including , Dalvinder Singh, Malkit Singh. The entertainment took place on three stages plus the Youth Zone featuring RDB's Indy Sagu.

Food is an essential ingredient of any mela and top quality caterers offered a mouth-watering variety of cuisine from the Indian sub-continent, but some SGAP families that were there took their own mouth-watering food such as roti, saag, chicken curry and even green chillies to spice the day in a wonderful picnic "Indian Style".



The Swindon Mela was organised by Swindon Artscape, and was even bigger and better than last year's with an attendance of over 12,000 ... a true celebration of South Asian culture!

Kermal Singh – SGAP Committee Member

RELATED NEWS

FESTIVAL OF CULTURE



South Gloucestershire's first **Festival of Culture** is an event for the whole family. A chance to discover and experience new cultures and have fun!

It's happening on **Saturday 25th September 2004** at the Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre.

See the enclosed **Festival of Culture** programme and newsletter for full details.

SGAP RADIO SHOW

Every year, the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum hosts a radio station (**FM 87.7**) and invites organisations/individuals to produce interesting programs.

SGAP committee member Vijay Chandiramani put his hat in the ring on behalf of SGAP and has been selected to produce a Bollywood based radio program.

Tentatively titled **'Mirchhi FM'**, the program will feature music, gossip and history of Bollywood. The program will run every Sunday from November 1 to November 28 2004 between 12 - 2 pm. Stay tuned!!

Vijay Chandiramani – SGAP Committee Member

YOUTH PROJECT

Young Bristol is a vibrant city wide youth work charity, providing exciting opportunities for young people to learn, develop and enjoy themselves free from harm or prejudice.

In South Gloucestershire, Young Bristol delivers the **Millennium Volunteers (MV)** programme (www.millenniumvolunteers.gov.uk) to young people **aged 16 - 24 years old**.

In 2005, MV is running a youth exchange project part funded by the **Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council (CYEC)** and is essentially a three week trip, but it is the full preparation, evaluation and return hosting that make the learning experience unique and valuable.

The young people involved will be expected to participate with the return visit from the initial host country, who will be young people of a similar age and interests, and also have the opportunity to complete a **Millennium Volunteers Award of**

Excellence as part of the process. MV is recognised by universities, employers and other institutions and looks great on a CV.

A team of young people is needed quickly; the final date to register interest is the **29th October 2004**, the first meeting being on the **19th November!**

Around 4/5 young people from South Glos. are needed - interested? For more details, contact :

Tom Blower

Millennium Volunteers Development Worker.

Young Bristol Action: www.youngbristol.com.

www.yatevoluntarylink.org.uk - 01454 317289.

TUMHARE KAHANI

The **Tumhare Kahani Project** is an exciting creative writing initiative for Asians living in South Gloucestershire. The Project has recently received interest and partnership opportunities from organisations around the country and for this reason, the Project, and related Short Story Competition, have been temporarily put on hold.

Keep an eye on our website for more details shortly!

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 join our Bollywood Singing Classes..?

The autumn session commences Friday **1st October** until **19 November 2004** (but not 22nd and 29th October due to the half-term break).

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

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

HINDI

SGAP will be introducing **Hindi Language Classes** in 2005.

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