



SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ASIAN PROJECT

Supported by
South
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Council



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

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NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME

In this newsletter, read all about some very special SGAP events:

- This month sees our very first **Antakshri** function
- In December we have our fabulous **Cultural Event 2004!**

Also read all about the hugely successful **Engage 2004 Festival of Culture**, and how SGAP played a central role.

Jitesh Mistry – SGAP Chairperson

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ANTAKSHTRI 2004

SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER

We will be holding our first **Antakshri** event at

Brook Way Community/Activity Centre, Braydon Avenue, off Brookway, (next to the Doctor's Surgery), **Bradley Stoke BS32 9DA** (tel: 01454 615189).

on **Saturday 30th October** from **3pm-5.30pm**.

Antakshri (pronounced un-taak-shri) is a very popular, traditional, Indian singing game played in teams and is exciting and fun for all the family- it has proved to be the most enjoyable part of the SGAP cultural coach trips to Leicester and London!



As it is the first time SGAP are running such an event, teams will be formed on the day. You don't have to be a good singer or know all the words, as team members will always help out, but there are some simple rules, which will be explained on the day.

We plan to have about four rounds of Antakshri to add variety, and this will include an audio/visual section. Dhol players will be on hand and happy to provide the singer(s) with some backing music.

Everyone is welcome, and if you've heard about Antakshri before, you **will** want to be there! If you've never heard of it, now is the time to find out!

For further details, please contact Vijay Patel on 0117 9798568 or vj@vanda212.freeserve.co.uk.

Vijay Patel – SGAP Treasurer

CULTURAL EVENT 2004

SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER

As South Gloucestershire waits with bated breath, SGAP students and committee members are busy preparing for what promises to be **the** cultural dhamaka this year:

The SGAP Cultural Event 2004!

It promises to be a fantastic occasion showcasing the variety of Asian cultures in South Gloucestershire.

All communities can experience and enjoy the richness of some of the traditional arts, crafts, music, song, dance and cuisine which originate from South Asia. Don't miss it!!

Tickets go on sale at the end of October 2004 so watch this space for full details, and look out for details at the Antakshri Event!!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SGAP TALENT SHOW 2005

Early 2005

Following the amazing success of this year's **Talent Show**, we're already planning next year's event!

There will be a chance for budding artists, young and old, to show off their talents.

Keep checking the website and forthcoming newsletters for further details.

REVIEWS

FESTIVAL OF CULTURE

South Gloucestershire's first **Festival of Culture** was a fantastic occasion in which the whole family could

enjoy and experience the rich cultural diversity in the area.



The Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre played host to this unique event on Saturday 25th September 2004, which despite the early afternoon rain, attracted more than **3,000** people!!

The Festival was the culmination of a year long series of events in the **Engage 2004** project, whose goal is to celebrate the variety of cultures in our county.

The variety of activities, workshops, performances and food on the day were amazing!

The Festival was launched by a fantastic Chinese Lion Dance, after which visitors began to wander the Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre to experience the myriad activities on the day.



The wealth of activities ranged from the Malian Mud Painting workshop to the excellent Indian Bazaar in the Main Hall, the tuneful Samba and Steel Bands in the Performance Marquee to the talented artists in the Main Stage including wheelchair dancers, Egyptian Belly-dancer, and African dance fusion!



Activities in the Indian Bazaar



SGAP Food Stall



Drumming Taster



African and Egyptian Dance on the Main Stage

SGAP's contribution on the Main Stage included Bollywood Singing, from SGAP's singing teacher **Sangeeta Dewan**, and of course Bollywood Dance from the SGAP Dance Students.

At the Festival of Food Marquee, SGAP's stall provided tasty Asian vegetarian delicacies, including Samosas, Bhel (a crispy spicy snack) and traditional sweets.

The **Engage 2004** Project officially thanked SGAP for their support on the day, not least by visiting the Festival itself, and the SGAP Committee would like to say a big **Thank You** to everyone that contributed throughout the year to support this very worthy project.

We aim to maintain our support in future years, as there's even talk of another Engage Festival next year ... watch this space!!



The Dholblasters close the Festival of Culture and get EVERYONE dancing!!

SGAP's role within Engage

SGAP were formally invited to work alongside South Gloucestershire Council when the project began last year, along with other community and voluntary groups in the region.

SGAP's numerous contributions include:

- Representation on the Steering, Funding and Marketing Committees of the project
- Coordination of other Asian community groups to help bring Asian cultural activities to the project
- Sourcing Asian performing artists for the Festival of Culture in conjunction with the Asian Arts Agency
- Provision of IT services to the project
- Participation in the Festival of Food
- Actively promoting and supporting Engage 2004 at all our activities, events and classes
- Hosting the official launch of the Engage Project in March this year at the SGAP AGM/Holi event

Engage Award Nomination

This week, we were delighted to hear that the Engage 2004 project has been nominated for an Award by the National Lottery, who supported the project via the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Engage 2004 is one of the nominees for outstanding achievement in the *Customs, Traditions and Crafts* category.

The nomination is a reflection of the merit of the project, and the commitment of all those groups, including SGAP, that helped make it happen.

Well done **Engage 2004!!**

ASIAN WOMEN'S GROUP

The idea to set up an Asian Women's Group came about when local health visitors were contacted by several Asian women who recently moved to Filton and Stoke Gifford.

They felt isolated in their neighbourhood, and wanted to find out if there were any Asian communities in South Gloucestershire.

The health visitors consulted the local Community Development Worker from South Gloucestershire Council, Marion Jones, who arranged some meetings with these women and gathered some information from them.

As a result, Marian contacted SGAP to see if we could help these women, by asking us to formally create an Asian Women's Group, which we have recently agreed to do, with assistance from the Council.

Sangeeta Dewan, SGAP Co-opted member and Bollywood Singing teacher, is coordinating this group. Having been in a similar position when she moved to Bradley Stoke, she can identify with the experiences of these women. She has already arranged a series of meetings and is trying to make it as relaxing and enjoyable an experience as possible in order to help them integrate into the community. The next meetings are:

- 17th November 2004-singing, with Gayatri Lele
- 14th December 2004-keep fit, with Prerna Chandiramani's Bollywood Workout

The meetings are held at **St. Michaels Church, The Old School Rooms, The Green, Stoke Gifford**, running from **1.00pm-3.00pm**. and a crèche worker is available to help look after young children.

RELATED NEWS

SGAP RADIO SHOW

Every year, the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum hosts a radio station and invites organisations/individuals to produce interesting programs. SGAP has been selected to run an Asian Cultural programme.

The Radio show, called **'Mirchhi'** will feature Bollywood music, history, gossip and Asian **'New World'** music & history. It will be aired on **Commonwealth FM 87.7**, starting **Sunday 7th November** from **12-2pm** for 4 weeks. It will also be available on the Commonwealth FM website as streaming audio!

(Visit <http://www.empiremuseum.co.uk/cfm.htm>).

Led by SGAP's Vijay Chandiramani, the show will be co-hosted by Bharat Adodra and Tejinder Bilkhu. Preparations are on in full swing...Tune in and join in the fun!!

Vijay Chandiramani – SGAP Committee Member

TUMHARE KAHANI

A new wave of Indian authors are enjoying success with their fictional take on contemporary Asian life.

100 Shades Of White by Preethi Nair is a moving story about family, forgiveness and the power of truth, and will soon be a major BBC TV production (visit Preethi's website www.gypsymasala.com).



SGAP Treasurer Vijay Patel recently met her at an Asian Women's Writing Group, where they were able to discuss the creative writing initiative the **Tumhare Kahani Project**, conceived by committee member Kamlesh Mistry.

This project is aimed at Asians who have always wanted to have a go at writing but didn't know where to start.

Fortunately SGAP are here to help, and are delighted to announce that Preethi Nair has agreed to be the Patron for **Tumhare Kahani**.

The Project has also recently received interest and partnership opportunities from other 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 **Prerna** 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.