



the gujarati association  
*Cohesion through culture*

Mander Street (Off Upper Zoar Street), Pennfields, Wolverhampton WV3 0JZ  
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www.gujaratiassociation.org.uk  GA Distribution List  @GAWolves

## Newsletter - April 2015

The Committee hope that you have had a nice Easter break and are looking forward to the warmer weather. We have a busy and exciting year ahead of us again, but we also wanted to remind you all of our regular activities that take place.

### **GIRIBAPU KATHA (AS SEEN ON TV - ASTHA CHANNEL)**

From the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and until 30<sup>th</sup> May 2015 Giribapu will be reciting the Shiv Katha describing the pastimes of Lord Shiva. He will also describe the right way of living through the exemplary lessons from the Shiv Katha. Giribapu is conducting a national tour of the UK and we are honoured that our Sitara Hall has been chosen as the venue to represent the midlands and surrounding areas. We may not get another opportunity like this for some years, so please come along and bring your family and friends.

The following charges will apply for anyone wishing to take part in any of the following:-

Daily Aarti	-	£10.00 per person
Daily Yajman (Main guest for the day)	-	£200.00
Maha puja (25/05/15)	-	£25.00

Please note all items required for the 'Puja/Aarti' will be provided. Organised by Saakar Welfare Trust, the GA committee believe that this Katha will probably be the most important 'religious' event ever to be held at the GA and we are expecting large numbers of people. With that, we need as many volunteers as possible throughout the week whether it is during the day or in the evenings. To find out how you can help, please contact any member of the GA Committee or email us at [info@gujaratiassociation.org.uk](mailto:info@gujaratiassociation.org.uk).

### **AGM**

The AGM has been set for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 2.30pm. It's a little earlier this year to avoid school holidays and wedding season. Formal Notice of Agenda is attached, so please keep this date free in your diary.

We request that members of the 'public' forward any questions to the Management Committee **no later than midnight 21st June 2015** in writing or by email to [info@gujaratiassociation.org.uk](mailto:info@gujaratiassociation.org.uk), so that we can prepare answers to your questions. As done in last year's AGM, we only intend to answer questions which are received in writing. We hope that everyone co-operates fully with this request as it will mean we finish the AGM on time at 5pm.

### **COACH TRIPS**

Our ever popular coach trips have been scheduled as follows:

#### **LONDON - Rath Yatra & Ealing Road Shopping**

When: Sunday 14th June 2015

Times: Pick Up 7.15am at G.A. or 7.30am from Dudley Rd (Depart Ealing Road at 5.30pm)

Cost: £15.00

#### **PRESTON – Preston Temple & Southport (Machra Picking)**

When: Sunday 19th July 2015

Times: Pick Up 8.00am at G.A. or 8.15am from Dudley Rd (Depart Southport at 5.30pm)

Cost: £13.00

#### **LEICESTER – Jalaram Mandir, Sanatam Mandir and Belgrave Road Shopping**

When: Sunday 1st November 2015

Times: Pick Up 8.00am from Dudley Rd or 8.15am from G.A. (Depart Belgrave Road at 5.00pm)

Cost: £10.00

Names and confirmation of your seats will ONLY be taken upon receipt of money. To avoid disappointment, please telephone Kamlaben Patel on 01902 332323 or Champaben Patel 01902 312254.

### **HARE KRISHNA' GROUP (ISKCON BIRMINGHAM) - MONTHLY GET TOGETHER**

We are honoured to have the 'Hare Krishna' group committing to visiting the G.A on a monthly basis to share their knowledge about 'Hinduism'. The intention is to have a different theme each month, with the first one held on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015 (The Mysteries of Hinduism Revealed). A fantastic turnout was witnessed with so many young children and adults. The talk is presented in English and in 'lay-mans' terms and is related to everyday life. Further details of the next meeting will be provided once a date is finalised.

## **HALL BOOKINGS**

We are receiving a high number of enquiries for 2015 and 2016 many of which are leading to confirmed bookings ranging from religious ceremonies to parties. This is great news for the GA; however, it has meant that new pricing structures for both our halls have been implemented. To find out more details on the costs to hire either of our halls or to arrange a viewing, please contact the Hall Booking Team on 07580 329943 or by email on [info@gujaratiassociation.org.uk](mailto:info@gujaratiassociation.org.uk).

In view of this popularity, the GA are now looking for individuals or groups who may be interested in providing one or more services to support the set-up of either of our halls when they are booked – things like décor dressing, cleaning, movement of chairs and tables, security, waiter services etc. You may ask why the GA does not use already established local businesses, however, we feel that we should give our own community an opportunity first - please note that the GA are not expecting any services to be provided free of charge. For further details, please contact Anil Patel on 07890 663152 or by email at [anil@gujaratiassociation.org.uk](mailto:anil@gujaratiassociation.org.uk).

## **DONATION UPDATE**

For those who attended the last AGM, you may remember that approx. £30k was provided as interest-free loans towards the building fund, which are now due for repayment in 2015. Whilst we are receiving many hall bookings, only some of this income will allow us to make these repayments, as we also have the general running and maintenance costs to cover.

This means the GA still need your help and not just from those who have already donated. Now that many of you have seen and experienced first-hand our brilliant facilities, if you have not donated already, you may see this as a worthwhile investment towards ensuring our community prospers. You may also not be aware that if an individual or couple donated at least £501 already towards the Building Fund, they automatically became a Life Member of the GA. This will also apply to anyone who donated less than £501, where you can 'top up' or contribute more towards your previous donation. If you would like to donate, then please contact any member of the Management Committee or email the GA on [info@gujaratiassociation.org.uk](mailto:info@gujaratiassociation.org.uk).

The GA has also displayed the current list of donors in the entrance of the Community Centre. To help us finalise the plaques for those who qualify, we kindly ask that you check your details for any errors or updates and notify the GA via email to [info@gujaratiassociation.org.uk](mailto:info@gujaratiassociation.org.uk) as soon as possible.

## **GUJARATI LESSONS – Saturdays 10am – 12pm**

The free weekly classes started in February and we have approx. 20 children and 5 adults attending (on average). The lessons are designed to cover both oral and written work for all abilities. The classes are conducted by a qualified tutor and her assistant who both previously provided their services through Adult Education Services. Although the classes have been running for a few weeks, it's not too late to join - for further details, please contact Anil Patel on 07890 663152 or by email at [anil@gujaratiassociation.org.uk](mailto:anil@gujaratiassociation.org.uk).

## **CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES – Saturdays 12.30pm – 1.30pm**

Manisha Patel and Snelly Patel are starting up the classes from 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and children of all abilities are welcome. The classes are free of charge and will be held upstairs in the Sitara Hall. For further information please contact either Manisha Patel on 07712 718895 or Snelly Patel on 07712 718895.

## **SAHKAR DAY CENTRE – Mondays 10.30am – 2pm**

For our older members of our community this weekly session gives a welcome break from the routine to enjoy each other's company as well as preparing a nourishing lunch for a small cost of £1.50. Table tennis, puzzles and mild exercise are provided and for those unable to make their way to the GA, Ring and Ride service is available for those eligible. For further details, please contact Jaswantbhai Patel on 01902 332323.

## **ADULT FITNESS CLASSES – Wednesdays 6pm – 7pm**

These classes have been running for nearly 2 years with a small dedicated group of 40-50 plus year olds attending. It's a group fitness class covering cardio and weights catered for all abilities. The environment is friendly, fun as well as being good for your health. For further details, please come along or contact Mingo Patel on 07828 542570.

## **YOGA CLASSES – Wednesdays 7pm – 8.30pm**

If you are looking for a more relaxing way to improve your health and wellbeing then these classes are for you! Held upstairs in the Sitara Hall, the setting is peaceful and comfortable. New joiners of all ages are always welcome so please come along or contact Fatehbhai Patel on 07956 827820 for more details.

## **BHAJANS – Thursdays 7.30pm – 9pm**

To those interested in singing or listening to spiritual songs, these sessions are back on again in the Mandir. For further details please contact Fatehbhai Patel on 07956 827820.

## **HINDUISM CLASSES – Fridays 6.30pm – 7pm**

Run by Manisha Patel, these classes are for children to help them learn in a fun and interactive way more about our religion. For further details, please bring your child along or contact Manisha Patel on 07712 718895.

## **YOUTH CLUB – Fridays 7pm – 9pm**

The popular Youth Club run by Panky and Kammy and their many helpers and volunteers always attracts lots of children of all age groups. Activities from playing sports to arts and crafts are on hand and now with the lighter evenings, the kids will soon be able to play outside. For further information please contact Panky Patel on 07968 144434 or Kammy Patel on 07753 290804.

# **G. A. Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 2.30 pm**

Please find below the agenda for the Meeting to be held at the G. A. (Sitara Hall), Mander Street, Wolverhampton WV3 0JZ.

## **AGENDA**

1. Prayer and Welcome
2. Apologies - Anil Patel
3. Conduct of meeting - Fateh Patel
4. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 31 /08/2014  
and Matters Arising - Anil Patel/ Pratibha Patel
5. Report from the President - Fateh Patel
6. Report of activities in 2014/2015
  - a. Gujarati Association - Anil Patel
  - b. Youth Club - Youth Club Leader
  - c. Sahkar Day Centre (Elderly Group) - Jaswant Patel
7. Presentation of Accounts - Raman Patel
  - a. Main accounts
  - b. Youth club accounts
  - c. Sahkar day Centre - Jaswant Patel
8. Sitara Hall update - Naresh Patel

### Refreshment Break

9. Questions and Answers - All
10. Election of Management Committee (Including Trustees)
12. Close – 5 pm

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We would like to encourage members to stand for positions on the Management Committee. For nomination forms please contact the President (Fateh Patel – 07956 827820) or the Secretary (Anil Patel – 07890 663152) or visit the G.A. on Mondays (11am -1pm) or Thursdays (7.30pm – 9pm).

When joining the committee you should be able to commit to a minimum of 50% attendance to meetings, if not then please consider becoming a volunteer instead.

Copies of our accounts for 2014-2015 and nomination forms will be available from the G.A. - please ask if you need one.

**Nominations close: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 @ 5.00 pm.**

**Last date of Withdrawal of nominations: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 @ 5pm.**