



the gujarati association
Cohesion through culture

Mander Street (Off Upper Zoar Street), Pennfields, Wolverhampton WV3 0JZ
Tel: 07580 329943

www.gujaratiassociation.org.uk  GA Distribution List  @GAWolves

Newsletter - January 2015

We hope you had a prosperous and safe Christmas and are looking forward to 2015! For the GA, 2014 was a very busy year starting with our historical hall opening along with bigger than ever Navratri and Diwali celebrations. All of this would not have been possible without the support from our community whether it be from donating towards our new hall or attending the events that were organised. As well as that, our GA Management Committee and its many volunteers have worked hard to bring all these events together and have really noticed that the profile of the GA and its community are now being recognised. We all should be proud of this and hope this momentum continues into 2015 - so here are details of what has been going on since last summer:

MANDHATA SPORTS FESTIVAL

During the Bank Holiday in August the GA Youth Club entered various sports teams representing Wolverhampton into the annual Mandhata Sports Festival which was held in Birmingham. This was a successful weekend as collectively our teams came out as overall winners for the first time ever and a trophy haul of 21! Big thanks to Kammy, Pankaj, Sue, Gita and all the helpers for putting everything together and congratulations to all our talented sports people young and old!

AGM

The AGM was well attended with a number of positive news relating to the many activities and events that have been organised which has helped our community grow even further over the past 12 months. Currently the GA financial position is of priority for the new Management Committee as now that the Sitara Hall is fully operational, we must ensure its longevity to not only serve our community, but also for it to be commercially viable.

A petition was signed and handed at the AGM by a small number of members expressing their dissatisfaction that the Sitara Hall is being used for events where non-veg and alcohol are being consumed. Although it was passed and agreed by vote in previous AGMs to allow non-veg and alcohol in the new hall, the petition will still be reviewed by the Management Committee and their response will be published in the next newsletter.

The Management Committee decided that to ensure everyone had an opportunity to raise any questions or concerns at the AGM, that they could put this in writing, which was then read out. This was well received and details of what was submitted and the Management Committee responses on the day can be found on our noticeboard situated in the Community Centre. The Management Committee are keen to ensure a transparent and open approach to running the GA, meaning that any member of our community can raise questions or concerns at any time throughout the year with the many mediums by which we can be contacted.

NAVRATRI/SHARAD POONAM

Navratri was held in the Sitara Hall, providing a perfect venue to for the increase in numbers witnessed during the festival. The GA Management Committee was extremely pleased to see many new faces as well having a live band and singers available throughout.

The celebration of Sharad Poonam was moved to a Saturday to maximise the popularity of Garba during Navratri, which had not been done before and this proved to be another successful night attracting many people, including those from outside of Wolverhampton.

We would like to thank all those who donated generously during the festivals. Special thanks must also go to Kantibhai for co-ordinating all the singers and musicians who entertained the crowds.

ANNUAL DIWALI SHOW

In a break from tradition, the show was moved to a Saturday, starting in the afternoon and ending with a fireworks display. The Sitara Hall was transformed into a concert style venue, which was entertained by over 100 performers, to an audience of nearly 600. To date this was one of the biggest Diwali Shows held and it is clear that this is now becoming one of the most anticipated GA events of the year. We also exceeded from the previous year in raising £1,065 from the raffle tickets and donations.

There are many elements and people that need to be brought together to ensure a show of this scale is successful and so thanks must go to Shobhna Mavji, Snelly Patel, Anil Patel and Manisha Patel who organised the event. In addition, special mentions must go to the following:

- Serju Patel for extending the stage, acquiring the spotlights and stands as well as giving up a lot of his personal time to ensure the technical aspect of the show ran smoothly.
- To all the Satsung Ladies and other volunteers for cooking and preparing the ever popular dinner, which was donated by Madhuben Patel as a 10 year death anniversary of her late husband, Narsibhai.
- To the Youth Club and its helpers for serving the food – we think a record has been broken as everyone was fed in just over an hour!
- Urmilaben Patel for arranging the popular raffle and to those who generously donated the prizes.

DVDs of the show are now available to purchase at £5 each, please contact Anil Patel on 07890 663152 or email at anil@gujaratiassociation.org.uk to order.

GA HINDUISM CLASS PERFORMS IN FRONT OF ROYALTY

Children who attend the Hinduism Class were given a unique opportunity to perform in front of Prince Charles and Duchess of Cornwall as part of the 40th Anniversary of Interfaith Wolverhampton last November. They were amongst a small group of invited children and adults from other faiths groups who attended the event at the Royal School in Wolverhampton. The children performed a Prathna were also presented with a certificate and were lucky enough to meet Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall in person!

Thanks go to Manisha Patel and Snelly Patel for chaperoning the children on the day, who gave a rousing performance representing the GA and its community as well as showcasing our religion and culture.

YOUTH CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year the Youth Club Co-ordinators decided to hold a Christmas Party for all the children and parents who have supported them throughout the year. It was a successful afternoon where the Sitara Hall was full of children enjoying the music, games and yummy food prepared – there was even a wide variety of novelty Christmas jumpers worn not only by the children but their parents as well! Many thanks to the Youth Club Co-ordinators and their helpers for organising and hosting the party.

NEW YEARS EVE

For the first time, the GA held its annual New Year's Eve Party at the Sitara Hall with an added twist of a Masquerade theme. Demand for tickets over exceeded all expectations as they were sold out almost immediately. The hall looked fantastic and the night was enjoyed by all, but this would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Sub-committee and their helpers lead by Manisha Patel.

GUJARATI CLASSES

Weekly Gujarati lessons will be starting on Saturday 7th February 2015 from 10am to 12pm. They are open to all age groups and will be conducted by trained and qualified tutors. The classes will be held upstairs in the Sitara Hall and if you would like to attend, please contact Anil Patel on 07890 663152 or email at anil@gujaratiassociation.org.uk.

HALL BOOKING PROCEDURE

There is now a Hall Booking Team who is in charge of arranging viewings and confirming all booking requirements for both halls. In addition, all bookings will require an agreement to be entered into along with a deposit to be paid. For any enquiries on hall bookings or to arrange a viewing, please telephone 07580 329943 ONLY.

DANCE CLASSES

The free of charge Saturday Dance Classes for children is currently on hold, however, if your child is interested in taking part in the new year, then please contact either Manisha Patel on 07712 718895 or Snelly Patel on 07939 463352.

Forthcoming events for your diaries

MAHA SHIVRATRI – Tue 17th February 2015 7.00pm – 9.30pm in the Mandir

HOLI – Thu 5th March 2015 7.00pm – 9.00pm in the carpark

SHREE RAM NAVMI – Sat 28th March 2015 10.00am – 1.30pm in the Mandir

HANUMAN JAYANTI (CHALISA) – Sat 4th April 2015 7.00pm – 3.30pm in the Mandir

If you wish to be added to our mailing list, please email us at info@gujaratiassociation.org.uk.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sahkar Day Centre: Mon 10.30am–2pm

Adult Exercise Classes: Wed 6pm-7pm & Sat 8.30am-9.30am £1.50 pp

Youth Club – Fri 7pm–9pm £1 per child over 5

Yoga – Wed 7pm-8.30pm £2 pp

Hinduism Classes – Fri 6.30pm-7pm

Bhajans – Thu 7.30pm-9pm



the gujarati association
Cohesion through culture

Mander Street (Off Upper Zoar St), Pennfields, Wolverhampton, WV3 0JZ
info@gujaratiassociation.org.uk

Tel: 07580 329943

www.gujaratiassociation.org.uk

FESTIVALS/EVENTS 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Festival/Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
17.02.15	Tuesday	Maha Shivratri	7.00pm - 9.30pm
05.03.15	Thursday	Holi	7.00pm - 9.00pm
28.03.15	Saturday	Shree Ram Navmi	10.00am -1.30pm
04.04.15	Saturday	Hanuman Jayanti (Chalisa)	7.00am - 3.30pm
24.05.15 –	Sunday	Giribapu Katha Start	4.00pm – 7.00pm
30.05.15	Saturday	Giribapu Katha Finish	4.00pm – 7.00pm
15.08.15	Saturday	Independence Day	10.00am -11.00am
15.08.15 -	Saturday	Mandhata Sports Festival – Walsall Campus	
16.08.15	Sunday	Mandhata Sports Festival – Walsall Campus	
23.08.15	Sunday	Gayatri Maha-Yagna	9.30am – 1.00pm
05.09.15	Saturday	Janmastami	7.00pm -12.30am
17.09.15	Thursday	Ganesh Choth	7.00pm - 9.30pm
11.10.15	Sunday	Sharad Bhajan	3.00pm – 5.00pm
13.10.15	Tuesday	Navratri Begins	7.00pm - 10.00pm
20.10.15	Tuesday	Durga Ashtami	7.00pm - 10.30pm
21.10.15	Wednesday	Navratri Ends/Dashera	7.00pm - 10.00pm
30.10.15	Friday	Sharad Poonam Garba	7.00pm – 9.30pm
31.10.15	Saturday	Kids Halloween Party	7.00pm – 9.00pm
11.11.15	Wednesday	Diwali/Fireworks	7.00pm – 9.00pm
14.11.15	Saturday	Diwali Show	3.00pm – 9.00pm
18.11.15	Wednesday	Jalaram Jayanti	6.30pm - 9.30pm
20.12.15	Sunday	Kids Christmas Party	3.00pm – 7.00pm
31.12.15	Thursday	New Year's Eve Party	7.00pm – 1.00am

PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME EVENT DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE