



# GUJARATI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER 2023

Jai Shree Krishna everyone, The Gujarati Association Wolverhampton wishes everyone a happy new year, may you all be blessed with good health and prosperity. We had a very busy year at GA in 2022, with lots of big celebrations for religious occasions and we look forward to celebrating and getting together in 2023. This newsletter contains information from the past year, updates about the hall and what to look forward to next in 2023.

## GA EVENTS AND FESTIVALS IN 2022

### Holi

We had our first Holi after lockdown in 2022 and it was amazing to see so many of our members come along for darshan. Holi is the celebration of good over evil and the story of Vishnu's avatar Narasimha.



### Ram Navami

Jai Shree Ram! Ram Navami is the celebration of the birth of Shree Ram, he was born at 12pm on Navami day in the month of Chaitra. We had a great celebration in the hall



### Hanuman Jayanti

Hanuman Jayanti was on a Saturday this year, so we were able to do our Hanuman Jayanti puja and sing 51 Hanuman Chalisas on the same day. This is the celebration of the birth of Hanuman. We had a large turnout and lots of people took part in singing and giving prasad.



### Jalaram Bapa Mandir Trip

We went to Wembley to Jalaram Bapa's Mandir where we had the chance to do the Aarti and take part in prayers. We went Ealing Road shopping after too.



### Southport Trip

We were very lucky to have good weather on our trip to Southport, we went on the beach, ate food, and got seaweed!



### Leicester Trip

Our last coach trip was to Leicester, we visited Jalaram Bapa's Mandir and went shopping on Melton Road! Great turnout.



Thank you to Champaben and Kamlaben for organising these amazing trips.

### Summer Garba Party

What a great party, so many attending and it was a great time. We had a great evening with Garba, food and dancing. And our all famous Falooda!

Thank you to Ariyan, Manisha, and team for organising such a fun party.



### India Independence Day and Vadilonu Samellan

We had the honour of celebrating India Independence Day, in the best way; in conjunction with our Vadilonu Samellan. It was nice to see members of our older community together.



### Janmashtami

This is the celebration of the birth of Krishna, on the day of Aatham in the month of Shravan. We sang bhajans, did Garba and Aarti, Thal.



### Ganesh Utsav

We welcomed Ganpati Bapa to GA, for 10 days we did Aarti and Bhajans. We went to Stratford for Visarjan. Thank you to everyone for attending and to all our volunteers.



## Navratri

Wow, this was one of our greatest Navratri's yet, we had the most amazing celebration. We had so many people in attendance to welcome Ambe Maa and celebrated for 10 days before we wished goodbye. The garba music sung by Vaishali Patel and Bollywood Echoes. It was very ambient and the atmosphere was exceptional. Thank you to our organisers and volunteers. Maa Ambe will always protect those that come with true heart and true intentions.



## Mohammed Rafi Tribute Concert

Thank you everyone for attending the concert. It was a great afternoon by Girishbhai, and he performed so well.



## Jalaram Jayanti

Jay Jalaram Bapa. It was our busiest Jalaram Jayanti to date. We had so many people sing, help organise, cook, and volunteer. The khichdi kadhi was divine.



## Diwali Show 2022

Amazing dances, amazing speeches, perfect acts! We had the most perfect Diwali Show this year, with a huge range of acts and performances. There was many VIPs from the council, and we had a great time watching all the variety of performances. We had over 300 people attend, and we all thoroughly enjoyed the food at the end of the evening. Thank you to the organisers and volunteers, Manisha, Snelly, Ariyan, Cooking ladies and raffle ticket sellers!





**GA Youth Club Christmas Party**  
We were very happy to have our first famous Christmas Party after so many years. The turnout was amazing, we played lots of games, met Santa Claus, ate some delicious food and had a great time with all the inflatables, thanks to all the volunteers that supported the event. A very big thanks to Gina for working so hard and organising the event.

### **New Year's Eve Party**

This Party was one to remember, thank you for such a great turnout, so many people and so much fun! We danced, sang, took photos on the 360 booths, and most importantly had a fantastic time. The food was delicious, and the music was wicked. We welcomed the new year in full style. Thank you to the organisers, Snelly, Anil, Ariyan, Achin and everyone that supported us along the way.



## **GA CHARITY SUPPORT 2022**

### **Phoenix Park Diwali Mela**

Every year the Wolverhampton City Council organises a Diwali Mela for the community, with support from local charities, organisations and businesses, the GA continues to support this event every year by donating money. This year we donated **£500.00** to support this event. It was an amazing evening with lots of people and festivities. We were very proud of our GA Shree Shakti Garba Group, as the under 16s took part in the mela and performed an absolutely phenomenal Garba routine, it was fantastic to be able to show off our culture to the whole of Wolverhampton; they even made it on BBC News!

### **Ukraine Charity Appeal**

It is greatly upsetting to see such horror and unprecedented times in Ukraine. In times of war and terror in foreign countries, we must help to ensure that they are able to continue life and build back normality. The UK has supported Ukraine with its asylum plans and have sent money to help sustain the country. We have donated **£500.00** to the Ukraine Charity Appeal so we can play our part in helping the people of Ukraine.

## **GA MEMBERSHIP**

The Gujarati Association Wolverhampton has over 500 life members and many annual members. We plan to increase opportunities and benefits for all of our members over the coming year, with discounted ticket prices to events and festivals, more chances to support and take part in our events and unique packages for hall bookings at Sitara Hall/GA Hall. Currently we charge £100.00 per person for a life membership and £25.00 a year for annual membership. For more details visit our website and find information on the About Us page.

## **GA VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATION**

In the last year we have seen an increase in volunteers supporting us at GA, we are very grateful and happy to see so many people working hard for the benefit of the community. We want to thank you all so much and we all really do appreciate all the efforts and sacrifices made to ensure the GA and GA Events run smoothly. We hope to see your continued support in the future at our events and please bring more family and friends along. If you wish to participate or support any events or tasks, please let the committee know. We are nothing without each other's support.

“Seva is the worship to God, in the heart of everyone”- Shree Sai Baba



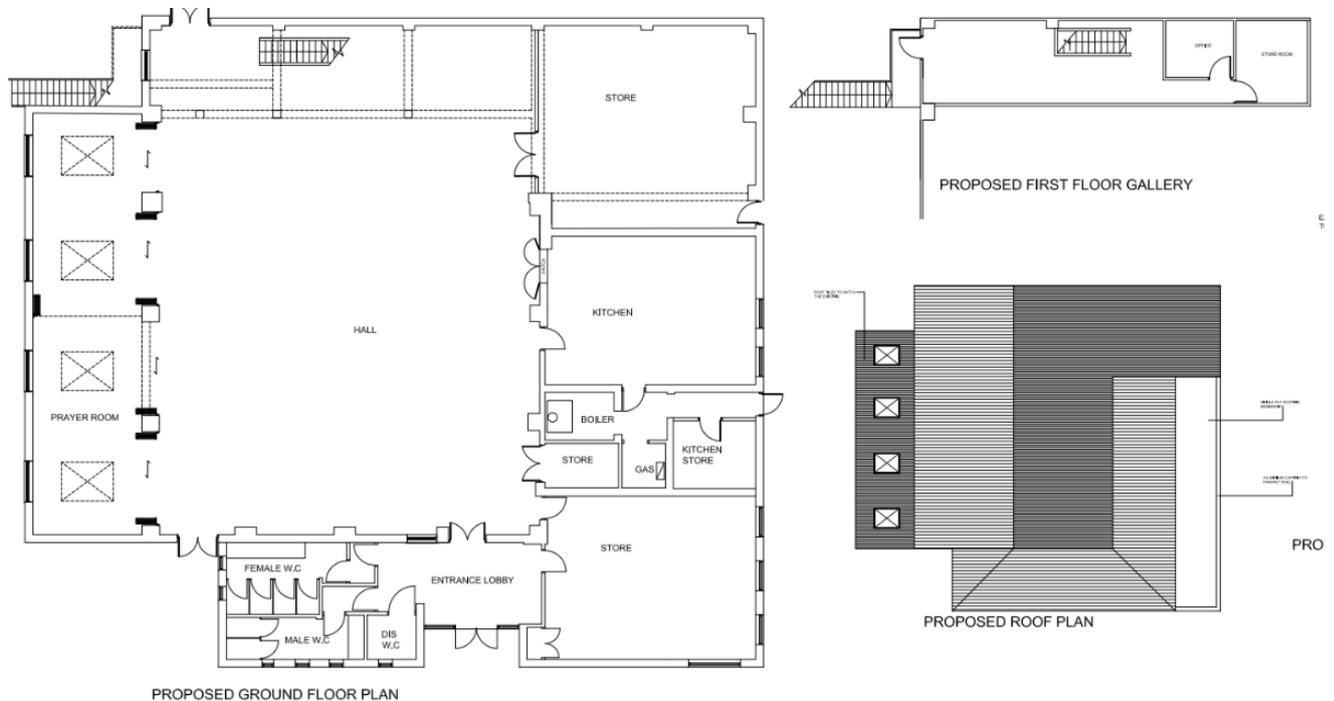
# **GA HALL UPDATES AND PLANS**

## **GA HALL EXTENSION PROPOSAL**

Below we have the proposed plans for a hall extension for the GA Hall. We would like to utilise all the space that we have and make the hall more accessible to all our community. As you can see in the plans, we would like to create one large kitchen space, rather than having the separate wet room that we have right now.

Currently, the GA Mandir is at the back of the hall on the right, according to Hindu Vaastu Shastra the Mandir should be facing on the side of the hall, where it is proposed in the designs. The plans have been successfully approved by councils' planning permissions.

We would very much like to open these big decisions up, for discussion to our members. We plan to hold a consultation meeting in the future at the GA Hall, for all members of the GA to be able to discuss their thoughts and we are able to show physically what our ideas are.



## **GA HALL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LAST 3 YEARS**

Over the past few years, we have taken full advantage of the lockdowns by making improvements in our GA Hall and Sitara Hall, as we have come back to normality, we have been able to improve the hall more and more for the needs of the samaj.

- Complete repainting of the GA Hall, with new bright white as the main colour and blue paint on the pillars.
- GA Hall kitchen has been fully cleaned, large new gas cookers, new refrigerators and freezers, new silver tables and surfaces.
- Large cupboards bought and placed in storage rooms to organise our kitchen and hall items.

If you have any ideas on how to improve any aspects of our two halls, please let us know as we are looking to constantly improve our hall to benefit the community.

## **WEEKLY ACTIVITY TIMETABLE**

We have a wide range of different of activities at the GA, we are very happy to run these classes every week. If any of the classes interest you, please come along with friends and family. We are always happy to take on new members in our activities. It is a good chance for people to socialise and become a part of our community.

|           |                                      |                   |  |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Monday    | Sakhar Day Centre                    | 10.30am – 2.00pm  | A club for the elderly members of our community to come and join, to play some games, time to chat and get to know each other more. As well as an amazing tasty, traditional Gujarati meal for all of the people.                                    |
| Monday    | Fitness Class<br>Babs<br>(£2 Charge) | 5.45pm – 6.45pm   | Babs is an excellent teacher and lots of young members are attending this popular class so may be just the right activity to get fit.  |
| Monday    | Yoga Class<br>Kajal                  | 7.00pm – 8.30pm   | Kajal runs our Monday class the health benefits are great, therefore if you have not done any yoga before, please come along and you may become devoted and reap the benefits.   |
| Wednesday | Aerobics Class<br>Babs               | 6.30pm – 7.30pm   | Babs is an excellent teacher and lots of young members are attending this popular class so may be just the right activity to get fit.  |
| Thursday  | Bhajans                              | 7.00pm – 9.00pm   | Every Thursday our community comes together and sings bhajans, with a lot of devotion. It is an auspicious evening, where we pray and praise bhagwan. Lots of people of all ages come and express gratitude, peace, and Their happiness towards God. |
| Friday    | Cricket Classes<br>for Youth         | 6.00pm – 7.00pm   | Cricket Classes for our youth, come along and improve your skills and have a great time. We have started these new classes and it is a great chance to also make friends.  |
| Friday    | GA Youth Club                        | 7.00pm – 8.30pm   | Our amazing youth club, for kids up to the age of 18. It is an amazing opportunity to make friends, play games, do arts and crafts, play sports, and improve skills. Come along.   |
| Saturday  | Yoga Class<br>Marie<br>(On Zoom)     | 10.00pm - 11.30pm | Marie focuses on vinyasa flow / ashtanga. The health benefits are great, therefore if you have not done any yoga before, please come along   |

You can also join our 'GA Fitness And Yoga' WhatsApp Group for information on the fitness activities, by contacting Naresh Patel: 07748 758169, you can also contact this number if you have any questions about any of our other activities. There is more information is available on our GA website about our classes and teachers. If you wish to join our "GA Youth Club" WhatsApp Group, please contact Gina Patel: 07718 493138.

## **THE GUJARATI ASSOCIATION'S SHREE SHAKTI GARBA GROUP**

The Gujarati Association's new 2022 Garba classes known as the Shree Shakti Group, is an amazing way to learn new moves of our Gujarati culture as well as being a good exercise. It is open to all people of all skill levels and this year we had the chance at Navratri to show off our moves. We have also taken part in competitions and live performances. Our teacher Pintu Solanki is an amazingly skilled teacher and teaches us moves that he has learnt over the years in India. We want to promote the classes more and more, so when we reopen in the summer, we will have lots of people to teach and make part of our group. We aim to restart the classes in May/June time, so we have enough time to prepare for Navratri, please keep a look out for any notices and announcements regarding the restarting of the classes. All are welcome.

Jai Adhyashakti Ambe Maa!



## **GUJARATI ASSOCIATION TIFFIN SERVICE**

The GA began a tiffin service 2 years ago for the community, this was mainly aimed at the elderly members of our community but is open to everyone. We would like to help and support members of our community with providing meals, so we only charge a small price of £6 per tiffin per delivery or £5 for collection.

We cook two days a week, Tuesday and Thursday and you receive two days' worth of food. The food is pure vegetarian Gujarati cuisine, and has 2 shaaks, 6 rotlis, rice, dal/kadhi. Once a month we will also provide you with a sweet dish at no extra charge.

Payments are made once a month and we provide receipts to you. If you wish to sign up for a tiffin, please contact Naresh Patel: 07748 758169.



We would like to thank and recognise the hard work our kitchen staff do twice a week. On the left is our original team that have been working twice a week since August 2021. On the right is our new team of cooks that have successfully supported the Tiffin Service twice a week, while our cooks are in India. We are very grateful and lucky to have dedicated staff like these.

## **GUJARATI CLASSES FOR THE YOUTH**

The GA wish to bring back its Gujarati Classes for members of the youth. It is important that we teach and support our youth in learning about our culture, our heritage, and our mother tongue. We hope to start Gujarati Classes online via Zoom for kids or in person depending on demand.

For this we need to know how many people would be interested in joining, if it is something that your child would enjoy, please contact Fatehbhai Patel: 07956 827820.

## **GA'S ONLINE PLATFORMS**

The Gujarati Association has many forms of social media, where you can access information, news, and updates. We have an amazing website, a Facebook Group Page, and a WhatsApp distribution list. To keep regularly updated on what is happening at GA, join and keep a look out on our social platforms. We have an amazing website where you can also access all of our information and updates, as well as find old memories and pictures. If you have any enquiries or having difficulties accessing any of our platform, please contact Ariyan Patel: 07968980210.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mahashivratri – Saturday 18th February, from 7.00pm – 9.30pm

Holi – Tuesday 7th March, from 6.30pm – 8.00pm

Ram Navami – Thursday 30th March, from 10.00am – 2.00pm

## **THANK YOU ALL AND JAI SHREE KRISHNA**

We wish all our community and members the very best for this coming year and may you all be blessed with prosperity and good health. We always look for more volunteers and more support at the GA and we hope to see more faces over the coming year. We work together to bring happiness for the whole community, and we are so grateful for all of your attendance at our events. As a registered charity, our motto is “Connecting our Community” and to this day we wish to stick to this, to create a cohesive environment for all our members. All information about The Gujarati Association, Wolverhampton can be researched on the GA website at [www.gujaratiassociation.org.uk](http://www.gujaratiassociation.org.uk) and other information in relation to accounts and charity information is available on the charity commission website; it is open for all to see and read. For any questions, please contact Fatehbhai Patel: 07956827820. We hope to see you all soon at our events and thank you again to everyone for their ongoing support. Jai Shree Krishna.

“You are what you believe in, you become what you believe you can become”.

- Shrimad Bhagavad Geeta

“Through selfless service you will always be fruitful and find the fulfilment of your desires”.

- Shrimad Bhagavad Geeta



## ગુજરાતી એસોસિએશન ન્યૂઝલેટર ૨૦૨૩

જય શ્રી કૃષ્ણ અને સૌને નુતન વર્ષ ચિભનંદન. ભગવાન તમને બધા ને સારી તંદુરસ્તી અને સમૃદ્ધિ આપે એવા અમારા તમને શુભકામના. ગુજરાતી એસોસિએશન માં આ વર્ષે ઘણા બધા કાર્યક્રમો અને તહેવારો ની યોજના કરી છે અને તે તમામ કાર્યક્રમો અને ધાર્મિક તહેવારોમાં તમને આમંત્રિત કરીએ છીએ. સાથે સાથે તમને એમા મળવા માટે પણ અમે ઘણા ઉત્સુક છીએ. કૃપા કરીને ગયા વર્ષ અને આ વર્ષના કાર્યક્રમોની જાણકારી માટે નીચે વાંચો.

### ધાર્મિક તહેવારો ૨૦૨૨

ગયા વર્ષે આપણે ઘણા કાર્યક્રમો ઉજવ્યા અને તમારી હાજરી આપવા બદલ તથા આનંદમય વાતાવરણ બનાવવા માટે તમારા સૌનો ખૂબ ખૂબ આભાર માનીએ છીએ. ગયા વર્ષે આપણા મુખ્ય કાર્યક્રમો નવરાત્રિ, દિવાળી, હનુમાન જયંતિ અને જલારામ જયંતિમાં ઘણા લોકો જોવા મળ્યા અને લોકડાઉન પછી આટલા બધા લોકોને જોઈને ઘણો આનંદ થયો. અમારા તમામ કાર્યક્રમોમાં આટલી મહેનત કરવા બદલ અમારા બધા સ્વયંસેવકોનો ખૂબ ખૂબ આભાર, અમે તમારા સતત સહકાર અને યોગદાન માટે હંમેશા માટે આભારી છીએ.

### સાપ્તાહિક પ્રવૃત્તિઓ

|        |                        |                           |   |
|--------|------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| સોમવાર | સહકાર ડે સેન્ટર        | સવારે ૧૦:૩૦ થી બપોરે ૨:૦૦ | તમે આવજો કેમ કે તે અમારા વડિલ લોકોના માટે ખુલ્લું છે. સ્વાદિષ્ટ ભોજન આપવામા આવે છે સાથે સાથે ભજન ગવાય, કેરમ રમીએ અને ઘણુમ પ્રવૃત્તિ |
| સોમવાર | એરોબિક્સ ક્લાસ (ફર ફી) | સાંજે ૫:૪૫ થી ૬:૪૫        | GA ના આ ફિટનેસ ક્લાસ ની ફી £2 છે.   |
| સોમવાર | યોગા ક્લાસ કાજલ        | સાંજે ૭:૦૦- ૮:૩૦          | હોલમાં કાજલ દ્વારા શીખવવામાં આવે છે.  |

|          |                      |                         |   |
|----------|----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| બુધવાર   | ફિટનેસ ક્લાસ         | સાંજે ૬:૩૦ -<br>૭:૩૦    | GA હોલમાં                                     |
| ગુરુવાર  | ભજન સત્સન્ગ          | સાંજે ૭.૦૦ થી<br>૮:૦૦   | આપણા GA મંદિરમાં.                             |
| શુક્રવાર | યુથ ક્રિકેટ<br>ક્લાસ | સાંજે ૬:૦૦ થી<br>૭:૦૦   | આપણા યુવા માટે.                               |
| શુક્રવાર | જી. આ યુથ<br>ક્લબ    | સાંજે ૭:૦૦ થી<br>૮:૩૦   | બધા બાળકો રમવા અને મિત્રો<br>બનાવવા માટે આજો. |
| શનિવાર   | યોગા ક્લાસ<br>ઓનલાઈન | સવારે ૧૦:૦૦ થી<br>૧૧:૩૦ | આ ક્લાસ મેરી દ્વારા શીખવવામાં આવે<br>છે.      |

### ટિફિન સર્વિસ

GA દર મંગળવાર અને ગુરુવારે ટિફિન સર્વિસ આપે છે. જો તમને તમારા ઘરે ડિલવરી જોયતી હોય તો તે \$6 ચાર્જ અથવા જો તમે GA માથી જાતે લઈ જાવ તો \$5 ચાર્જ. ટિફિનમાં 2 શાક, 6 રોટલી, ભાત, દાળ/કઢી હોય છે. ટિફિન સંપૂર્ણપણે શાકાહારી છે અને મહિનામાં એક વખત GA દ્વારા મીઠી વાનગી આપાય છે.

### આવનારા કાર્યક્રમો

મહાશિવરાત્રિ - શનિવાર ૧૮ ફેબ્રુઆરી, સાંજે ૭:૦૦ થી ૮:૩૦ વાગ્યા સુધી

હોળી - મંગળવાર ૭ માર્ચ, સાંજે ૬:૩૦ થી ૮:૦૦ વાગ્યા

દિલગીરી સાથે આપણા સમુદાયના તમામ સભ્યોને યાદ કરીને કે જેઓ છેલ્લા વર્ષમાં મૃત્યુ પામ્યા છે તેઓ જ્યાં પણ હોય ત્યાં પ્રભુ તેમના આત્મા ને શાંતિ આપે.

તમારા સતત પ્રોત્સાહન અને સહકાર માટે તમારા બધાનો અમે દિલથી તમારો આભાર માનીએ છીએ અને ભવિષ્યમાં પણ તમને બધાને મળવાની આશા રાખીએ છીએ.