



NOTTINGHAM ASIAN ARTS COUNCIL

JANUARY  
2009

# NAAC



Happy New  
Year and  
Best Wishes  
for a  
prosperous  
**2009**

## Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for 2009

We are in the process of planning a wide range of programmes and events to make 2009 a memorable and fun year for you. We hope to keep you updated on the key Asian events in and around Nottingham in

the coming months, some of which have been included in this newsletter.

NAAC has produced a new Calendar for 2009 that has been appreciated by all and it has proved to be

really useful with all the festivals and religious dates for all faiths as well as school holidays. Please feel free to come and pick up your FREE copy from our office.

### NAAC

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### Contents

Message from Chair	2
2008.. the year that was	3/5
2009..the year ahead	6/7
NCC Events diary	8

# NAAC AGM & Annual General Meeting and Elections

## TRUSTEES (2009 TO 2013)

Mr Masud Ahmad

Cllr Mohammad Aslam

Mr Rajesh Sharma

Mrs Jivan Gajree

Prof. Karrar Khan

Mr Mohammed Munir

Mrs Sultan Syed

Mr Shailesh Thakrar

Dr Hemant Bagalkote

Mrs Sudershan Kumari Mohindra

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (OFFICERS)

Hon Chairperson – Dr Hemant Bagalkote

Hon Vice Chair – Mr Najeeb Nazir

Hon Secretary – Miss Raina Sood

Hon Asst. Secretary – Mr Masud Ahmad

Hon Treasurer – Mrs S K Mohindra

Hon Asst Treasurer – Mr Davinder S Viridi

## MEMBERS

Cllr Mohammad Aslam     Mrs Jai Verma

Mr Shailesh Thakrar     Cllr Mohammed Munir

Mr Saidar Azam Mirza     Mr Jivan Gajee

Dr Raj Chandran     Mrs Sultan Syed

Mr Jayesh P Jani     Mr Pawan Joshi

Dr Sudha Vashisht Puri     Mrs Usha Gadhia

Mr Ilyas Aziz     Mrs Jazwinder Biant

Mrs Roshni Parekh

Co-options will be done at a future meeting – anyone interested to be co-opted, please contact the NAAC offices



## Message from Dr Hemant Bagalkote, Chair NAAC

A very warm welcome to all our new members and a big thank you to existing members for their continued support and we look forward to much more in the New Year. We hope that you enjoyed all the events that we organised last year – the attendance and the participation at all these events was excellent. Nevertheless, we are always learning and your feedback of these events is valued by us. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make these events a success and hope that this years' events will be arranged and attended in the same unified Community spirit. A big thank-you to our funders, our volunteers and all our partner and affiliated organisations.

## NAAC AGM and Annual General Meeting and Elections

As you all know the NAAC AGM and elections took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2008 at The Pakistan Centre to elect the new Management Committee for the period 2009 – 2011. It provided an opportunity to reflect on the eventful last 12 months, receive reports from the Chair, Arts Officer, Treasurer and Secretary. We are thankful to all our funders who acknowledge the variety and value for money events that we deliver. A special thank you was sincerely expressed to Full Council members and a dedicated team of volunteers who form the backbone of the NAAC. NAAC would like to welcome the new committee members on board and hope that they will put their very best in whatever they do for the community and help grow NAAC.

We would also like to thank the outgoing committee members namely, Mr Sudheer Gupta, Mrs Harminderjeet Johal, Mr Amrik S Mahil, Mrs Aneeta Purwaha, Dr Shamim Ahmad, Mr Anwar-Ul-Haq Khan, Mrs Farzana Akhtar Khan and Miss Jagruti Bhatt and hope that they will continue to support NAAC activities and wish them well and hope that they are taking just a temporary break from the NAAC committee!!!



# 2008 Highlights ... the Year that was



## Diwali Gala

This has always been the highlight of our calendar and a fantastic opportunity for us to witness the wonderful talent of our gifted children. It is the highlight of the year because it gives our youngsters a chance to show to us what they have been learning all year, and for the parents it is a satisfaction that all the running around after school – ferrying the children to and fro classes – has not gone to waste! The Gala is a very special occasion that provides an opportunity to witness the fantastic talent of children and young people from the local voluntary and community organisations in the first half of the show. The participants have been nurtured and trained through NAAC supported workshops run by our affiliated organisations throughout the year, and only the very best perform at this showcase event!

The Gala held at the Royal Concert Hall, attracted an audience of around 1,000 and was compered by our very own committee members, Usha Gadhia and Davinder Viridi.

Before the start of the performances, a tribute was made to **Mr Jimmy Ashworth** (Managing Director of Royal Centre), who had passed away just a few weeks before the Gala. Everybody was informed of all his fantastic work and help towards NAAC.

Following the showcase of local talent, there was a mesmerising performance from **Udayan, Desi Masti, Heena Sindhal and Santu Singh**. This brilliant line-up fused together superb dances, vocals, harmonies and stunningly skilful musicianship and produced an act, head and shoulders above the rest.

Finally, photographs of the Diwali Gala are now available and can be purchased directly from the website at [www.frontlineimages.com](http://www.frontlineimages.com) go to 'your photos' then 'events'. Once again thanks to Jagdish Patel for offering his photography services free of charge.

Frontlineimages can be contacted at 21 Station Street, Nottingham, BG2 3AJ or 07792 428 764

## Talent & Fashion Show

This is another event that is increasing in popularity. It is organised and run by a steering group with representatives from our key affiliated organisations. There were around 70 participants that took the opportunity to showcase their talent. It was wonderful to see children as young as 5 perform and at the other end of the scale, we were very pleased to see our youth play musical instruments, sing devotional songs, dance and take to the catwalk and provide a fantastic fashion show. The whole show was enjoyed by an audience of around 250 – Well done to all the performers.

NAAC workshops have become a vehicle for developing the confidence of young people to perform in front of live audiences at shows like the Talent Show, Diwali Gala and many other public events.

## Nottingham Mela 2008

And what a Mela it was – in its new home, the Old Market Square with live music, dancing, arts and food galore! The Mela proved to be a fantastic opportunity for all to experience Nottingham's up-and-coming artists performing and exhibiting their talents. Showcasing at last years' Mela were the internationally acclaimed Pratap Pawar and Triveni Dance Company, chart topping Bhangra artist JASSI SIDHU, and Khan Brothers for the ghazal and quawalli fans. Last years' Mela was bursting with entertainment and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



## Eid Gala

Held at the Pakistan Centre with an interior decorative marquee, the Eid Gala was well received and enjoyed by all who attended. The artists featured was the well received and enjoyed by all. The artist featured was Punjabi and Urdu singer BUSHRA SADIQ and PARTY from Pakistan with Naheed Sadiq, Mubasher Mian and Akhtar Hussain Akhtar.

*In addition to all the events mentioned above, NAAC brought to you many other events organised in partnership with other organisations, for example, Nottingham City Council, Royal Concert Hall, Lakeside, Hindu Temple, Gujarat Samaj, etc.*

These events included:

**Black & White** – a superb charity concert held in Nottingham which proved to be a truly live audio visual experience by the singers of Sa Re Ga Ma fame singing songs from The Golden Era of Hindi Cinema — 1948 to 1965. Partnership with Royal Concert Hall and SEWA International.

**Chhau Dance** – a rare and unique production of episodes from the RAMAYANA. In association with the Hindu Temple.

**Kala Chethena Kathakali Company** – a 500 year old dance/drama from Kerala, South India, in association with Lakeside.

Party in association with Lakeside – an English play, interspersed with Hindi & Bengali mirroring the hypocrisies of the cultural and intellectual glitterati.

**Navratri** – Held at the Bramcote Hills Community in association with Gujarat Samaj, a special nine nights Dance Festival with the best Raas Garba in the County. Last year everybody was entertained by an outstanding

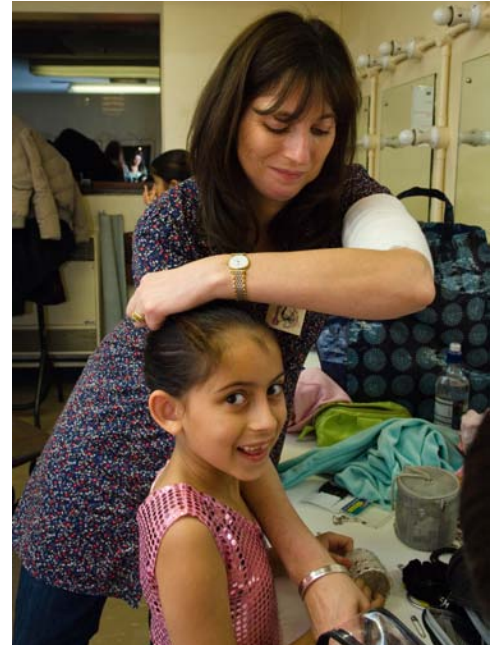
## Volunteers Celebration Evening

This is an annual event to express our appreciation to all the NAAC workshop participants, team leaders, and volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year, an event about “valuing our volunteers”! Around 400 people of all ages came together at the prestigious ICCA building to celebrate & acknowledge the partnership working and thank all the supporters, participants and volunteers that have assisted the NAAC over the last year. The entertainment on the evening, which was aimed and met the needs of all age groups, was provided by Elite Soundz, Desi Nach, Offlicence and Gurmeet Singh. The delicious food was cooked by the ICCA's in-house catering staff. All the volunteers and participants were presented with certificates (if you have not received yours, then please contact the NAAC office).

The evening proved to be a huge success with everyone enjoying a delicious meal and dancing right up to closing time and a great opportunity for NAAC to acknowledge all the Diwali Gala and Talent Show participants, other young volunteers and all our helpers at our various events. A get-together for our young talents to meet and get their performances acknowledged.

We would sincerely like to thank Mumta Sharma, member of NAAC Youth Forum for her tremendous help in organising this very special event.

If you have any spare time and would like to undertake voluntary activities with us, please contact Bhavesh Jani or Nina Viridi.



group from India “Rang”, with well known artists and lead male singer Jayu Raval.

**Devangana** – Brought to you by NAAC in association with Bharitya Vidya Bhavan, Devangana (Divine Soul) was a Dance ballet about Somnath Temple’s divine dancer, Chauladevi, a Devangana — a celestial who was on Earth in Somnath Temple to serve Lord Somnath.

**Civic Receptions** – Eid and Diwali – Organised in conjunction with Nottingham City Council, were very well attended.

NAAC has partnerships and associations with the wider community groups and also supported and were sponsors (marketing partners) of the Business Community network events with Catalyst.

### **Well Done Mrs Verma!**

Mrs Jai Verma is a very prominent and active NAAC committee member who acted as chair whilst Dr Hemant Bagalkote was on sabbatical, as well as being the Chairperson of Gitanjali Multilingual Literary Circle Trent.

Mrs Jai Verma's book will be launched jointly by Nottingham Asian Arts Council, Hindu Temple Nottingham, Kala Niketan Hindi School, Indian Women's Association, Indian Community Centre Association & Gitanjali Multilingual Literary Circle Trent, on the

*1<sup>st</sup> of March 2009, at the Hindu Temple from 11.30am to 2.30pm.*

There will also be a Kavi Samelan from 12.30pm followed by the book launch and lunch.





# 2009 .. the year that will be .. NAAC Events

Before we give you the all important dates – January started the year with a wide range of celebrations for all our different communities...the birthday of Guru Gobind Singhji – tenth Sikh Guru and founder of the Khalsa (5<sup>th</sup> January); Lohri (12<sup>th</sup> January); Makar Sankrat (14<sup>th</sup> January); Pongal Festival (Tamil Nadu – 14/15<sup>th</sup> January) and India's Republic Day (26<sup>th</sup> January)... Best wishes to all celebrating, whatever the event....

For those of you not familiar with Lohri, Makar Sankrati and Pongal Festivals – they are all celebrated for the same reason albeit in different ways by the different communities ...all in all it is an annual thanksgiving day and an extremely popular harvest festival marking the beginning of the harvest season!

We will be having regular mehfil music nights for the next three months on the last Thursday of the month, the first one being on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2009 (details below). Please bear in mind that sometimes due to short notice of artist availability and to keep the postage costs to a minimum, we will be publicising via e-mails and our website. Therefore if you are not on our e-mail list, please get in touch with us.

## Other news and events

### Indian Community Centre (ICCA) Youth Cricket Indoor Nets

For the eighth year running, the Indian Community Centre (ICCA) Youth Cricket club are organising this winter's indoor cricket nets. The indoor Cricket nets/games/coaching are for boys and girls aged from 5 to 19 years of age. Last year the nets were over subscribed and over 80 children took part.

13 weekly sessions have been booked every Saturday from 10th January 2009 onwards in 4 nets between 2:00pm to 3:00pm and a further 4 nets between 3:00pm to 4:00pm at the Old John Birch Sports Centre.

For further information and enrolment forms please contact Hemant Patel on:

Telephone: 0115-9162508 / Mobile: 07767070746.

E-mail: [hemant.patel1@ntlworld.com](mailto:hemant.patel1@ntlworld.com)

**Music workshops** (Vocal, Harmonium, Tabla) are held at Radford Unity Complex, Radford Road on Wednesday from 7.00 to 9.00pm for children and adults.

**Dance workshops** are held at Radford Unity complex on Wednesday evening from 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. for children. For more information, please call Mrs Chandri Vora at 0115-9750275 or 07779158644.

**Dhol Classes** for Beginners are held at Indian Community Centre, 99 Hucknall Road, Carrington, Nottingham NG5 1QZ every Tuesday 6.00 to 8.00pm and Dhol for Advanced every Wednesday from 6.00 to 8.00pm.

**One Giddha Class** is held at Indian Community Centre every Thursday from 6.30 to 8.30pm.

For more information, please call Mrs Harminderjeet Kaur Johal at 07790952146 or Jivan Gajree on 0771 4003854.

**The Sikh Temple** holds a Harmonium/Vocal Workshop on Wednesday evenings at 5.15 to 7.45pm and a Tabla Workshop held on Wednesday evenings at 5.45 to 7.15pm at the Sikh Temple, 26 Nottingham Road, Nottingham. For more information please contact Balraj Johal on 0115 9622132 or 07966538241.

**The Kala Niketan Hindi School** holds Kathak Dance Workshops for Beginners/Intermediate and Advanced on Monday evenings 6.00 to 9.00pm at Queens Walk Community Centre, Meadows, Nottingham.

**One Classical Dance Workshop** is held every Saturday 10.30am to 12.30pm and a Vocal Bhajan Workshop for Beginners at 1.15 to 2.15pm at the Hindu Temple, 215 Carlton Road, Nottingham. For more information, please call Mrs S. Mohindra on 0115-9131426 or 07944926889 or Vina Ladwa on 07957938043.

**Bhangra Workshops** are held every Friday evenings from 4.45 to 7.45pm at Jesse Gray School, Musters Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham For more information please contact Ravinder Bilkhu on 07701093057.

## Language Classes:

**RSN Punjabi School** — Punjabi Classes to GCSE level held at Edna G Olds Primary School, Church St, Lenton, on Saturday from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Please call Mr Jagdish S Nagi on 0115 9288697 for more details.

**Hindi Classes** at The Hindu Temple, Carlton Road on Saturdays. Call Mrs S. Mohindra on 0115-9131426 for more details.

**Gujarati Classes** held at Bramcote Hills Sports College every Saturday. Please call Gujarat Samaj on 0115 9119007 for more details.

**For details on Urdu Classes** please call the Pakistan Centre on 0115 9582973.

It is with sadness, that we have to inform you that the NAAC has not received any funding support from Nottinghamshire County Council for the past two years. Traditionally, the County Council's support has enabled us to deliver an extensive range of festivals and events which have been sustained by using our reserves. However, the situation cannot carry on and the NAAC will have to make critical decisions for our 2009/10 festivals and events programme. As discussions are continuing with the County Council, we are hopeful that the funding will be restored. We will keep you

Feb

26th

**Mehfil Evening with Live Music,**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at The Viceroy Restaurant, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Hillcrest House, 326 - 330 Hucknall Road, Sherwood, Nottingham NG5 1FS (8.00 for 8.30pm)**

This is going to be the first of our regular mehfls with the well renowned group, Orchestra Navrang, from India who will entertain you and perform all your favourite tunes and requests. Tickets are priced at £10.00 per person which includes a buffet dinner by the Viceroy Restaurant.

Tickets are available from the NAAC office **(01159158608 / 9158613 / 07968480796)**, the Viceroy **(0115 844 9116)** or from the NAAC committee members. We hope to see you all there and hopefully make it a regular/monthly event if we get positive response from you, our members.

March

10

**Annual Holi Celebrations Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009 from 6pm onwards, Victoria Embankment Park**

A free event brought to you by Gujarat Samaj Nottingham. Holi, the Festival of Colours marks the coming of Spring and is a celebration of new life and the seasons. Holi is the most vibrant Indian festival, when distinctions of caste, class, age or gender are set to one side and everyone has fun by smearing each other with paint and throwing coloured water at each other, all done in a spirit of celebration. This year the even is being held at a new venue just off Victoria Embankment in the park behind Kings School in the Meadows. The park is on the corner of Green Street and Wilford Crescent East, NG2 2LA. There will be opportunity for people to play with colours and you can either bring your own colours (so long as they are washable) or there will be colours on sale at the venue.

For further details please contact Hasmukh Mistry 07946643403 or Kumar Seth 07949220154

**Active Women's Open Day @ The Lenton Centre, Willoughby Street, Lenton Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009, 12.00am - 5.00pm: FREE EVENT** brought to you by Nottingham City Council, in partnership with the Lenton Centre. A free day of physical activity opportunities for women, including swimming lessons, aqua-aerobics, exercise and dance classes - ranging from Pilates and aerobics to Bollywood Dancing and other forms of Asian arts. Suitable for all levels, even if it's your first time! The day includes free refreshments and snacks for all participants, as well as the opportunity to pick up free information and advice on how to improve your lifestyle and become healthier. For more details contact Sameer Patel, Active Communities Development Officer on 0115-9152742.

June

7

**Nottingham Mela 2009, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June in the Old Market Square**

This year we are celebrating the 21st Anniversary of Mela, Nottingham being the oldest Mela in Europe. This years' date has been brought forward to coincide with the 20/20 World Cup cricket tournament. The World Cup cricket schedule will start at Trent Bridge on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2009 with India v Bangladesh.

We are in the process of setting up a steering committee to partnership with the NAE, City Council and community organisations. Watch this space

Sep

19-28

Navratri Festival of Dance from Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009 to Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Please note these dates in your diary and we will keep you updated with more details.

Nov

21

**Diwali Gala - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009**

Following the success of last years' it has been decided to have the Gala again on Saturday at the Royal Concert Hall. More details to follow.

A very special ghazal evening is also in the pipeline!

# Exciting Family events the year ahead

## The Nottingham City Council Festival and Listings for 2009

LIGHT NIGHT  
13 FEBRUARY  
OLD MARKET SQUARE  
FREE ADMISSION  
After dark events and illuminations for people of all ages including the Nottingham Eye, lighting trails, tours and entertainment.

CITY PULSE  
23 - 25 MAY  
OLD MARKET SQUARE  
FREE ADMISSION  
A city centre music festival will have the city buzzing with live music from soul to country, folk to jazz, Latin to pop.

OUTDOOR  
THEATRE SEASON  
NOTTINGHAM CASTLE  
ADMISSION CHARGES APPLY  
Outstanding theatre performed in the beautiful grounds of Nottingham Castle.

13 JUNE  
**Wind in the Willows**  
3 JULY  
**Emma**  
12 AUGUST  
**The wonderful world of Grimm**  
29 & 30 AUGUST  
**As you like It**  
NEWSTEAD ABBEY  
ADMISSION CHARGES APPLY  
Outdoor theatre will also be taking place in the grounds of Newstead Abbey, the ancestral home of the famous poet Lord Byron. For more information visit  
["http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/whatson"](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/whatson)  
[www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/whatson](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/whatson)

ONE WORLD FESTIVAL  
6 - 7 JUNE  
OLD MARKET SQUARE  
FREE ADMISSION  
Nottingham City Council brings you music and performances from across the globe with international food and markets in a festival atmosphere.

VETERAN'S WEEKEND  
27 - 28 JUNE  
WOLLATON PARK  
FREE ADMISSION  
CAR PARKING CHARGES APPLY  
An annual weekend of family fun celebrating Veteran's Day, including military displays, special tours and activities galore.

SPLENDOUR  
18 - 19 JULY  
WOLLATON PARK  
ADMISSION CHARGES APPLY  
A weekend of outdoor music at its best for music fans and festival goers in the beautiful grounds of Wollaton Park.

RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL  
31 JULY - 2 AUGUST  
VICTORIA EMBANKMENT  
FREE ADMISSION  
Nottingham's largest outdoor festival returns to the beautiful Trent riverside with live music, street theatre and fairground plus fabulous fireworks.

NOTTINGHAM  
CHILDREN'S  
FESTIVAL  
31 JULY - 16 AUGUST  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS  
AROUND THE CITY  
A festival just for children filled with fun packed activities that will keep them busy during the summer months.

GOOSE FAIR  
30 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER  
FOREST RECREATION  
GROUND  
FREE ADMISSION  
One of Europe's largest travelling fairs with over 500 attractions makes its annual stop in Nottingham.

ROBIN HOOD  
PAGEANT  
24 - 25 OCTOBER  
NOTTINGHAM CASTLE  
ADMISSION CHARGES APPLY

Celebrate the world's most famous outlaw, Robin Hood, in a pageant for all the family to enjoy.

FESTIVE EVENTS  
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER  
OLD MARKET SQUARE  
FREE ADMISSION  
Experience the magic of Christmas in Nottingham. Enjoy a glass of Glühwein at the German Christmas Market as you soak up the sights, sounds and smells that add festive flavour to the Square.

For more information about these events and others in Nottingham call 0844 477 5678 or visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/whatson"](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/whatson)  
[www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/whatson](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/whatson).

NOTTINGHAM ASIAN ARTS COUNCIL (NAAC)

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Finally, we are now live on the web...

so go on and click [www.asianarts.org.uk](http://www.asianarts.org.uk) for all the latest happenings in and around Nottinghamshire. Hope you like the new website – please do let us have your thoughts, both positive and negative and how we can improve it.

Till next time – Enjoy...