

Autumn
2008



NOTTINGHAM ASIAN ARTS COUNCIL

C/O Nottingham City Council, Community & Culture
Isabella Street, Nottingham NG1 6AT

Telephone: 0115 915 8608 / 915 8613 Fax: 0115 915 8619

Welcome to the autumn 2008 edition of our newsletter
All members of the NAAC Full Council and staff would like to

Wish you Very Happy:

Gurgaddi Divas

Ramadhan and Eid

Navratri

Dusshera

Diwali

Halloween

Guru Nanak Devji's Birthday

Guy Fawkes Day... And ...

...Christmas which is not that far off!!!

We trust that all of you have had a wonderful and restful summer and hope that the weather did not dampen down your spirits and outdoor activities plans!!! NAAC's summer festival season was great...Even with the heavy downpours, our outdoor events proved to be a success – all THANKS to you, as you braved the storms to come out and support us!!! Summer has come and gone. The leaves are falling off, and there is a chill in the wind – Autumn's here - children are back at school, college and university and you are getting back to the daily grind!

The days of lazing in the sun somewhere else on this planet now seem a distant memory!! The nights are drawing in earlier and all seem doom and gloom! No! not at all, we have a bright and colourful program of events lined up for you! The season of lights, dance, music and theatre is upon us once again...Events & Festivals Galore this October! Seems like all the festivals have been packed in the month of October – from Eid to Halloween...which means just one thing...NAAC members are going to be very busy from now on. Get ready to Party.....and Enjoy yourself.....

Whatever your conclusions, positive and or constructively negative ones, please let us know so that we can try and deliver more or less of the same!!

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Don't Forget:

- *Diwali Civic Reception — Friday 31st October 2008 — Council House*
- *Eid Civic Reception — Friday 14th November 2008 — Council House*
- *Diwali Gala — Saturday 22nd November 2008 — Royal Concert Hall*

NOTTINGHAM ASIAN ARTS COUNCIL

October Newsletter



NAAC CAUX Conference — Switzerland

In summer 2008, the NAAC Youth Forum, in partnership with Hope in the Cities, part sponsored eight young people from Nottingham to attend one of two residential conferences at Caux-sur-Montreux in Switzerland. The theme of the first was "Can Artists Help Mend a Broken World?" and the second was "Learning to Live Together with Difference"

The participants experience at each conference varied slightly but overall they had a fantastic and enjoyable time and learned a lot from the conferences. Following is a summary from feedback given by the participants.

The whole experience of attending a conference abroad was something new to us. We went to Caux, with no expectations yet full of enthusiasm and excitement of the possibilities that lay ahead. We had acquired some brief knowledge about the conferences and assumed it would be like any other learning opportunity. However, it was very very different! Mountain House, Caux stands in a beautiful, tranquil and spiritual location, the atmosphere and the people that we met were truly inspirational.

We were privileged and honoured to meet so many people from so many different parts of the world. A wide range of nations, religions, cultures and communities were represented and people made a genuine effort to learn about each other. This helped to break down so many barriers, stereotypes and misconceptions without worrying whether one was being judged for asking questions or wanting to know more. One example was to talk about religion, in the context of religious difference i.e. Islam and Judaism, Christianity and Judaism and so forth. Another example was the freedom to ask questions about what it was like to live in another country i.e. if talking to a French national to ask what it was like in France?

It was comforting to know that there was a culture of mutual respect, no one was made to feel inferior or out of place, there was no hostility or animosity which helped to create an all inclusive environment for everybody present at the conference. Everybody was treated equally and we all played an equal part in the functioning of the conference. Yes, we helped to cook and serve the food and with the washing up! This bonded us as a team, building on our strengths and support for each other to achieve our goals. It was all done in a godly community spirit.

Our community group discussions, daily seminars and workshops all added to the experience. We learnt about projects and work that was being done by individuals in nearby countries such as France, Holland, Russia and many more countries across the world. The situation we find ourselves in England and Nottingham was not alien to other people at the conference. We all had commonalities and issues we could relate to which brought us closer together and allowed us to discuss in detail, solutions for the future.

On the other hand, some of the Renewal Arts conference participants felt that the focus of "mending a broken world" was only addressed at a limited level - some facilitators embraced and responded to the theme, others did not even refer to it. Whilst there was a lot of creative activity happening, it felt that there was much more potential to relate the programme content and theme of the conference.

Overall, the ethos, principles and vision of Caux helped us to look deep within ourselves and bring about a positive change through examining ones own actions and thoughts so that we can become better role models for other young people. Caux was a life changing experience that will always hold a special place in our hearts and minds.

In terms of follow up actions, the participants want to develop three projects: Further development and promotion of the NNREC United Voices Project.

As part of the Asian Art Councils' Youth Forum they want to better coordinate activities between the different youth projects and forums using arts as a foundation (day events, workshops, activities, residential, etc) for people to come together. They also hope to have a fashion show that includes: painting, clothes designing, music, dance, technical production and stage setup prop making etc. workshops - all leading up to the showcase.

Watch this space for future developments!

FORTHCOMING NAAC EVENTS

- ◆ **Diwali Civic Reception – Friday 31st October 2008 At The Council House, Market Square**

A civic reception is to be held at Nottingham's Council House to celebrate Diwali – the festival of lights. More than 200 members and volunteers will attend the reception at the Council House. **Free tickets that were allocated on a first come first serve basis have now all gone!!!**

- ◆ **Shruti Arts 25th Anniversary – Curve Theatre, Rutland Street, Leicester – Saturday 8th November, 8pm to 11.30pm.**

The legendary Bansuri maestro Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia will enthral music connoisseurs with an evening of Indian classical flute recital accompanied by Rakesh Chaurasia (Bansuri), Bhavani Shankar (Pakhavaj) & Vijay Ghate (Tabla). Tickets — NAAC Concessions £18.00 and £13.00. Tel 0116 2612264

- ◆ **Empower Me — 12th November from 6.00pm - 9.00p.m. at Park Inn Mansfield Rd, Nottingham.**

This event is going to be led by a well known expert on business relationships - **Rob Brown**. If you want to understand what factors affect peak performance and how to do more of what you do best everyday, then join top motivational speaker Rob, who will focus on relation between strengths, skills and talents. This is going to be a interactive and enjoyable evening. Cost: £15.00 to include a delicious buffet Call Pratibha on 0779 0774 689 or e-mail pratibha@catalyst.co.uk for confirmation.

- ◆ **Eid Civic Reception – Friday 14th November 2008 At The Council House, Market Square**

A civic reception is to be held at Nottingham's Council House to celebrate Eid and the end of Ramadhan (fasting season). **Free tickets will be allocated on a first come first serve basis so book early to avoid disappointment!** Refreshments will also be provided. For more information please contact The Council House on 0115-9155012 or civic.office@nottinghamcity.gov.uk.



- ◆ **Diwali Gala — Saturday 22nd November 2008, 6.00pm for 7.00pm start At The Royal Concert Hall — Tickets – £8.00 and £6.00 (Concessions and Children)**



The lighting of the Diva (Lamp) on the 22nd November 2008 at the fantastic Royal Concert Hall will commence the Nottingham Asian Arts Councils' highlight of the year. Preparations are already underway for this prestigious event, the showcase of all our workshops, all the hard work done by the directors, choreographers and of course all the talented youngsters and older people!! and all the NAAC affiliated organisations will bring an unforgettable night to remember. It is an opportunity to come and support our talented young people, enjoy a diverse range of music and dance items and see high calibre national artists. It is the highlight of the year because it gives our youngsters a chance to show to

Important DATE!

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 we only allow the very best to perform at this showcase event! Based on feedback from the last Gala, we have tried to change the program to involve more young people and reflect their values and views. Please let us know if you can help in any way by joining the Diwali Gala sub-committee. And finally – a message from the **Diwali Gala Sub-Committee Chair – Shailesh Thakrar**: "Be there and watch "Spectacular Dance Forms" performed by our youths. Look out for the Elegant / Classic Costumes !!!!! The residents of Nottinghamshire and its neighbours have benefited with this Annual event with the support of our partners - Nottingham City Council, Royal Concert Hall, Arts Council of England. Therefore we request your support by attending and informing all you friends and families to be there. Finally, I would personally like to thank all the workshops coordinators/volunteers in their efforts and from the point of the review team it helps to see the item once rather than twice. This also helps the standard attained and encourages more participation from all. I would also like to thank all the parents for encouraging their children to take part in this event. Once again we hope you will all be attending the Diwali Gala showcase. Hope to see you all soon and keep up with your efforts."

More Events...

- ♦ **"Devangana" – Sunday 30th November 2008 At NCN Clarendon Academy for Performing Arts & Music (Clarendon College) - 4.00pm to 7.00pm.**

Brought to you by NAAC in association with Bharitya Vidya Bhavan, Devangana (Divine Soul) is 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. King Bhimdev was in love with her and wanted to marry her; on the other hand in 1025AD Mahmud of Ghazni and many other neighbouring kings wanted to kill King Bhimdev and destroy the Somnath temple. The theme of the ballet is how Chauladevi inspires the King to protect the kingdom and the temple. Tickets priced at £10.00 (non-members), £7.00 (NAAC members) and £5.00 (children & students). For tickets call NAAC (9158608 / 9158613); Mrs Mohindra (9131426); Nutan Jewellers (9785634) and Chandri Vora (07779 185644).

- ♦ **NAAC Elections & AGM—Sunday 7th December 2008 At The Pakistan Centre, 163 Woodborough Road, St Anns, Nottingham from 2.00pm to 6.00pm.**

The executive committee are pleased to invite you to participate at the forthcoming AGM/Elections to elect/nominate a committee for the next two years. Notices have been sent out to all eligible members so please come along and vote...



NAAC Workshops

- ♦ Music workshops (Vocal & Harmonium) are held at Radford Unity Complex, Radford Road on Wednesday from 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. for children and adults. Dance workshops are held at Radford Unity complex on Wednesday evening from 7.00 to 9.00pm for children. **For more information, please call Mrs Chandri Vora at 0115-9750275 / 07779158644.**

- ♦ Dhol Classes for Beginners are held at Indian Community Centre, 99 Hucknall Road, Carrington, Nottingham NG5 1QZ, every Tuesday 6.00 to 8.00 p.m. and Dhol for Advanced every Wednesday from 6.00 to 8.00 p.m. 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 07714003854.**



- ♦ 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 8.00pm 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 or Jaswinder Biant on 07812544949.**

Other 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.

Bollywood Dance Classes

Watch this space for more details as we are currently holding talks with our Leicester partners to hold these classes in Nottingham...

Thank You / Volunteers Celebration Evening

The 19th September 2008 was a very special day for the NAAC. 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, Offlincence 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).



Once again, we want to thank our partner organisations, volunteers and workshop leaders for supporting and working with us throughout the year. It is impossible to list all the volunteers and participants (over 250 people!), but we are sure you each know who we mean. Our partner organisations include: Dhol Rajas, Ellis Guilford School, Gujarat Samaj, GS Youth Club, GS - NAAC Workshops, ICCA Giddha, Kala Niketan Hindi School -Bhajan Workshops, KNHS – Dance Workshops, KNHS – Manushi Class, NAAC Youth Forum, RSN Punjabi School, Nottingham Asian School Of Arts, NAAC Workshops, NICHE, and Sur Sangeet – a heart felt thank you to each of you for your support in running workshops and contributing to the Diwali Gala and other public performances (Nottingham Mela, Riverside Festival, etc).

We also want to let you know of the movers and shakers, the doers, who make things happen behind the scenes! **Our roll of honour for the NAAC workshops** includes:

Mrs Jaswinder Biant, Miss Nishy Biant, Mrs Ravinder Bilkhu, Mrs Kanta Gupta, Mr Surjit Singh Dhadiyallah, Mrs Rupal Jani, Mrs Harminderjeet Johal, Mrs Vina Ladwa, Miss Kirandip Sandhu, Miss Mumta Sharma, Mrs Asha Sohal, Miss Babita Sohal, Mrs Parminder Suri, Mrs Waldron, Miss Anika Thakrar, Mrs Gita Thakrar and Mrs Chandri Vora.

We look forward to working with all of you and to your continued support. We encourage and welcome more young people to join in the workshops (contact details give on page 4) and welcome volunteer support to assist in the organisation and running of events throughout the year. If you can spare a few hours, and want to do some rewarding community volunteering work with the NAAC, then please contact Bhavesh or Nina at the NAAC office.

Diwali Celebrations

Please note that there are various activities / events planned for Diwali so please contact your respective organisations for more information on firework displays, annakuts, etc... Some useful numbers:

Brahma Kumaris — 0115 981 7331

Gurdwara Baba Budha Ji — 0115 942 0453

Gurdwara Guru Teg Bahadur Ji — 0115 970 0750

Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurdwara — 0115 978 5687

Nottingham Road Gurdwara (Sikh Temple) — 0115 962 2132

Ramgharia Sabha Nottingham (Percy Street Gurdwara) — 0115 979 1595

Sai Dham — 0115 912 8088

Swaminarayan Hindu Temple — 0115 978 8029

The Indian Community Centre Association—0115 969 3402

*We don't forget to have fun because we get old-
We get old because we forget to have fun...*



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C/O Nottingham City Council,
Community & Culture
Isabella Street, Nottingham NG1
6AT

Telephone: 0115 915 8608 /
0115 915 8613
Fax: 0115 915 8619

E-mail:

bhavesh.jani@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
nina.virdi@nottinghamcity.gov.uk



NAAC Website is
under construction

Mama Ngina Children's Home in Nairobi, Kenya

Over the next few months Daksha Chouhan will be participating in 15 half-marathons plus a couple of short runs to cover 200 miles in an effort to raise £2000 for Mama Ngina Children's Home in Nairobi, Kenya. The hyperlink www.giftshare.com/dakshachouhan will take you to Daksha's fund raising page that also gives details about the runs and how to sponsor Daksha. If anybody wishes to make a direct

payment to Daksha, they can send it to 18 Boxley Drive, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7GP.

Founded in 1969 the home cares for children and young adults between 0-20 years of age. At present there are 79 children based at the home and outreach care is being given to 250 children. Mama Ngina's Home offers shelter and care for children in especially difficult circumstances: victims of cruelty; neglect and those abused physically, psychologically and sexually; orphans (mostly HIV/Aids orphans) and abandoned children. Please support this worthy cause



Other News...

Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service are currently running a Firefighter recruitment campaign and one of their biggest challenges is making themselves an employer of choice to people from BME backgrounds - particularly those from Asian backgrounds - and women. They have made a really good start by setting up a new recruitment website

www.stepuptonottinghamfire.com - where people can book themselves onto a Recruitment Awareness Event. So please log on and book...



Carrom & Pool Tournament: If you are willing to be involved in organising any of these

events please contact Ravi Sharma at r4visharma@hotmail.com or Manoj Mishra manoj2477@yahoo.com
Location: Sai Dham, 75-79 Egypt Road, Basford Nottingham.



Faith & Culture — A toolkit for faith groups developing cultural projects. Just to inform

you that the film is now accessible on You-Tube at <http://uk.youtube.com/user/emcf1>.

Do you think you have what it takes to make the next Planet Earth?

BBC One is looking for nine people to take part in the experience of a lifetime. Encountering extraordinary animals in amazing locations and testing yourself to the limit, this series will culminate with one exceptional individual securing a year's placement at the BBC's award winning, world famous Natural History Unit.

Would your holiday of a lifetime involve seeing one of the big five in their natural habitat? Maybe you long to get off that beaten tourist track? Do you get up at dawn to capture the perfect sunrise?

If you are over 18 years old and can illustrate your passion for the natural world we want to hear from you.

To apply, please email your name to endsoft.heearth@bbc.co.uk and an application form will be



NAAC FUNDING UPDATE from our Policy & Strategy Chair — Davinder Singh Virdi

As our membership and partner organisations may be aware our on-going sustainability and funding capacity to support events, festivals and partners is very much dependent upon the commitment of our funders. Recently our principal funders have been reviewing and considering the viability of supporting NAAC and therefore our own ability to support our programmes has been under immense pressure, the result of which we have had to use limited reserves to fund our existing commitments such as Navratri, various poetry events etc. NAAC are in dialogue at the moment to determine if we can continue to structure similar festival programmes to the current one and indeed whether we will have the capacity in future years. It is fundamental to the continued growth of NAAC and its partners that our funding is maintained and the executive members of the committee will continue to negotiate the reinstatement of the required funding. Further updates will be provided in future issues of our newsletter so please watch out for these.

Finally...renew your membership and...
Enjoy the festival season...tricking or treating!!!