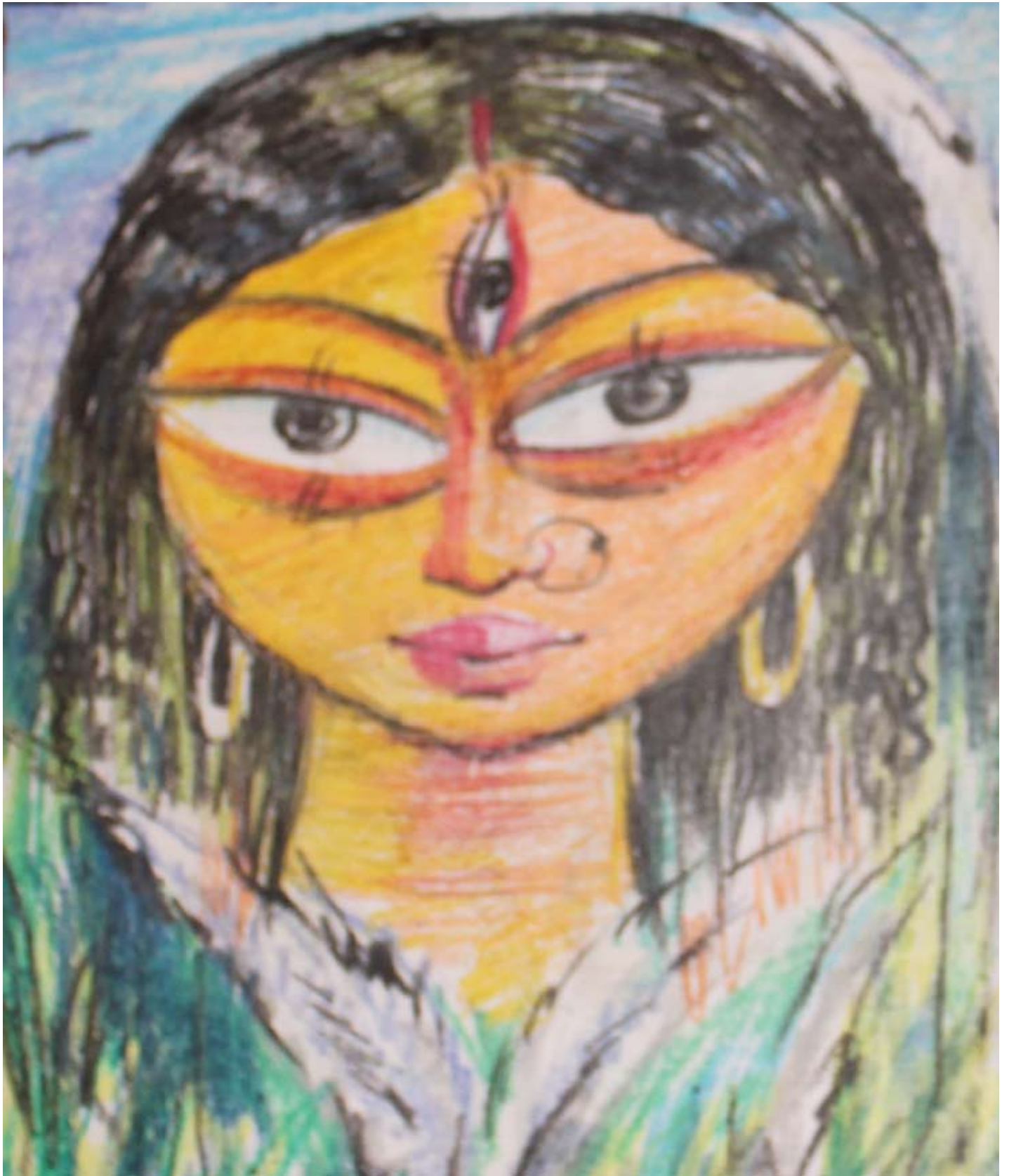




SHAROD SUBHECCHA



DURGA PUJA & Kali Puja 2011

**Organised by Wales Puja Committee
Registered Charity No 1050138**

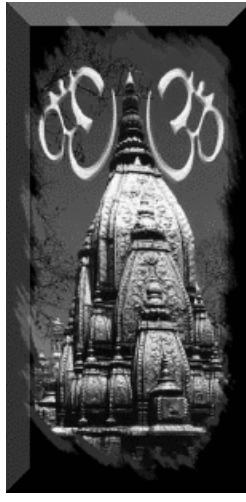
আনন্দ উৎসবের অঙ্গীকার

অন্তরের সখ্যে সমৃদ্ধ হোক, মঙ্গল হোক সবার
গ্রহণ করুন প্রীতি ও শুভেচ্ছা শারদীয়ার !



udra 1015

ওয়েলশ পূজা কমিটির শুভেচ্ছা



WALES PUJA COMMITTEE WELCOMES YOU

To our Sharadotshav

DURGA PUJA

(Sunday 2nd October to Thursday 6th October 2011)

KALI PUJA

(Wednesday 26th Oct 2011)

AT

PENYRHEOL COMMUNITY CENTRE, PENYRHEOL

CAERPHILLY, SOUTH WALES CF83 2PE

(For Further Information / Directions visit: www.pujainwales.com)

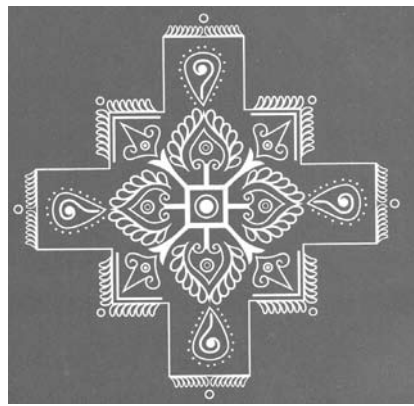
আসুন আমরা সকলে মিলে এবারের

পুজোতে অনেক আনন্দ কুড়োই



TIME TABLE FOR DURGA PUJA 2011

SASHTHI & BODHAN	Sunday 2nd October 2011 Puja, Bodhan & Prasad	7.00pm – 9.30 pm
MAHA SAPTAMI	Monday 3rd. October 2011 Puja & Anjali Prasad & Bhog Arati Entertainment Refreshments	11.00am – 1.30 pm 1.30pm – 2.30pm 7.00pm – 7.30pm 7.30pm - 8.00pm 8.30pm – 9.30pm
MAHA ASHTAMI	Tuesday 4th Oct. 2011 Puja & Anjali Prasad & Bhog Arati SANDHI PUJO Refreshments	11.00am – 1.00pm 1.30pm – 2.30pm 7.00pm – 7.30pm 8.00pm– 9.00pm 9.15pm – 10.15pm
MAHA NAVAMI	Wednesday 5th Oct 2011 Puja & Anjali Prasad & Bhog Arati Entertainment (Children) Refreshments	11.00am – 1.30pm 1.30pm – 2.30 pm 7.00pm – 7.30pm 7.30pm – 8.00pm 8.30pm – 10.00pm
VIJOYA DASHAMI	Thursday 6th Oct 2011 Puja, Anjali, Prasad Sindur Khela & Visharjan Shanti Jaal	11.00am – 1.00pm 1.00 – 2.00pm 2.00 – 2.30pm
VIJOYA SAMMELANI	Thursday 6th Oct 2011	7.00pm – 10pm
A melodious evening by our Atreyee and dance by Raktima & recitations by Madhuparna		7.00pm– 8.15pm
	Dinner	8.30pm – 10.00pm



KALI PUJA

WEDNESDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2011

PROGRAMME

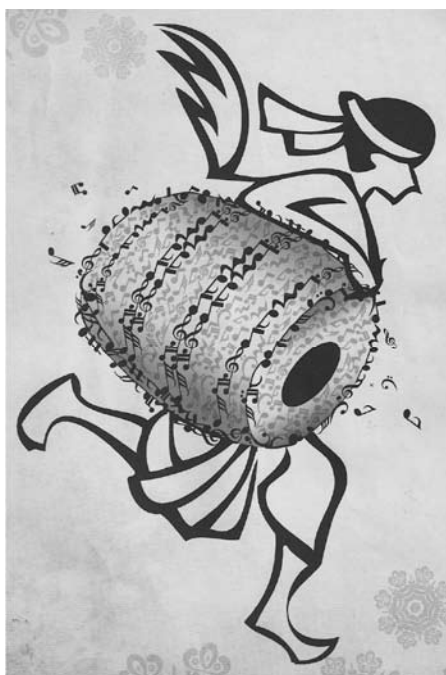
Puja & Pushpanjali

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Bhog & Refreshments

9.00pm – 10.00pm

There will be small Fireworks only for Children; please bring your Sparklers





EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2011-12

OFFICE BEARERS

CHAIRPERSON	Dr Sankar Das
VICECHAIRPERSON	Dr Subhas Das
SECRETARY	Mr Neeleem Saha
TREASURER	Mr Dipak Kundu
CATERING	Mrs Utsha (Shikha) Das Mrs Sikha Nath
ENTERTAINMENT & PUBLICITY	Mrs Raktima Bhadra-Sarkar Dr Kausik Mukherjee
EVENTS OFFICER	Dr Sandip Raha
PUJA CO-ORDINATOR	Mrs Padma (Maitreyi) Das

MEMBERS

Mrs	Mrs S Basak	Dr C Banerjee	Mrs M Bhowmick
Dr	Dr Raja Biswas	Dr Ranjit Sinha Ray	Dr Ashok Mukherjee
Mr	Mr T K Kar	Mrs J Majumdar (Hon)	Mrs Mahua Mukherjee
Mr	Anirban Mukhopadhyay	Mrs Tamasree Mukhopadhyay	Dr R Majumdar (Hon)
Dr	Dr Kanti Nath	Dr M L Nath	Mrs S Sharma
Dr	Dr R D Narayan	Mrs A Narayan	Dr Sakti Guha Niyogi
Dr	Dr S K Sharma (Hon)	Dr H V Shah	Dr Madhuparna Mitra
Mrs	Mrs Banani Sinha Ray	Mrs Christina (Krishna) Roy	Mr Kingshuk Nath
Mr	Pankaj Sarcar		



Chairperson's message

In behalf of Wales Puja Committee, it is a great pleasure to extend a cordial and warm welcome to you all on this auspicious occasion of Durga Puja and Kali Puja. We have been celebrating Durga Puja since 1973; during these five days of festival & goodwill we forget our differences and join together as friends across the globe. We have waited with great enthusiasm throughout the year for these few days when we welcome Goddess Durga. It provides a splendid opportunity to strengthen our bonds with friends and families. Over the years we have developed a very mature community by extending our participation in various social, cultural and charitable works.

At this point I would like to mention that Wales Puja committee has a big financial commitment to continue with our activities and keep us sustainable. As the committee is going through an acute financial crisis due to recent economic depression, we would appreciate your continued support and enhanced generous donation.

I would personally like to thank all our members, particularly our younger generation, who are coming forward every year to participate and help us organising events. This is immensely encouraging for us. My sincere thanks to our priests - Mr Kanai Chatterjee and Mr Ananda Misra together with their better halves for taking over the responsibility of the Pujas and making the events successful. My heartfelt thanks to Mr and Mrs Kar for keeping our Protima safe & secure with a touch of devotion.

Lastly I would like to say a few words regarding Dr. Acharya - our beloved Dada who was always at the heart of the Puja, left us for an eternal peace earlier this year. We cannot think of such a big event like Durga Puja without him. We have lost one of the most respected and a pillar of the community. I hope and pray that he is finally at peace and has been reunited with boudi - his wife. He will always be very special in our hearts and remembered forever.

Warmest wishes for the Puja and a Happy Vijoya!

Ankar Das

Did you Know?

The Information Technology Pantheon:

Narada	:	Data Transfer
Brihaspati	:	Chief Information Officer
Chitragupta	:	Personnel Records
Yama	:	Reorganization Consultant
Brahma	:	Systems installation
Vishnu	:	Tech support
Shiva	:	Power surge



From the Secretary

As the gloomy dark weather begins to descend on us, Wales Puja Committee prepares to celebrate our autumn festivities of Durga Puja and Kali Puja.

Our celebrations in the past have always meant a mix of different things for different people - devotion and worship, bonding with friends and family, cultural activities and not to forget excellent food. This year promises to be no different. The echo of the mantras and dhak, the fragrance of incense mixing with the aromas of khichuri from the kitchen and everyone dressed in their new clothes transform the Penyrheol Community Centre into a Puja pandal perhaps conjuring up images of Durga Puja in Bengal. The Wales Puja Committee will as always work relentlessly to ensure that we do our best to recreate that magic.

The one issue that many will be faced with this year is the fact that four of the five days of Durga Puja are weekdays. This will perhaps mean issues with finding time off work, education or business to be able to partake in the festivities, but then Durga Puja only happens once in a year. We appreciate many members will have difficulties and everyone will do their best to make time to attend.

During this time of festivities, I would like to remember Dr Acharjya who sadly passed away on the 22nd of February 2011. He was one of the first few people who started Durga Puja in South Wales and our priest for many many years. My earliest remembrance of the Puja from 2002 is the reverberation of his deep voice in the hall when reading out the mantras. His devotion, commitment and religious knowledge were unparalleled.

I would like to thank all the executive committee members for all their hard work over the past year. We have three new executive committee members since last year's Durga Puja – Mrs Christina (Krishna) Roy, Dr Madhuparna (Moon) Mitra and Mr Pankaj Sarkar. I would like to thank Mr Chatterjee and Mr Misra for conducting our Pujas. I would also like to thank Mrs and Mr Kar for lovingly caring for the Pratima in their house.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who visits all our events and makes them successful.

সবাইকে জানাই শারদীয়ার গভীর শুভেচ্ছা ও ভালবাসা

(Love and best wishes for all during the autumn festivities)

Neeleem Saha
Secretary.
neeleem@pujainwales.com





A few Myths about NRI's

Raja Biswas

Like it or not I am an NRI- some people call us Non Reliable Indians or Non Returning Indians -both of which are perhaps a sweeping generalization and popular misconception about anyone who lives outside India, be it Nepal Kenya or United Kingdom. However over the years I have encountered a few misconceptions re NRI's some funny and some not. I have tried listing a few here.

1. All NRI's who are from UK are from London. If someone in Kolkata realizes I live in the UK I am invariably asked "Oh so you live in London...." When I tell them I live in Cardiff /Wales I am met with a blank expression till realisation dawns and there is a follow up question " Ok so where in London is Cardiff?" That is mostly followed by " Do you know Banerjee da -he also lives in London" In the initial years I used to say a polite NO but nowadays I have taken a different tack. I ask the person where s/he lives. When they say something like Rajarhat or Behala I usually ask " Do you know Majumdarda from Behala?" Usually the message gets through.
2. All NRI'S are very rich and lead a very fast life – I wish it was true. I wish I drove a Ferari, wore an Armani / Pateke Phillipe however alas NO. Like people from any country NRI's also come with varying bank balances. I have often felt that my friends in India perhaps lead a much faster life than we do living outside. Obviously a reason for that is that when you are outside UK , you need to be really good at multi tasking – even if you are male. You need to be a good cook , gardener , handyman , financial guru and a host of other things which in India , you will find individuals to take care of. After doing all these things it hardly leaves you much time to lead a very exciting or fast life. NRI Life is not exactly like its shown in Karan Johar movies.
3. NRI'S forget their native tongue and usually speak the language with an English accent. I am sometimes told " Oh you speak good Bangali after being in UK for so many year" Duh. I still have not lost the part of brain which learnt Bengali –no one does. And the way the NRI's speak in Hindi movies is not how people actually speak in real life.
4. Life in UK is very easy. That's a misconception which gets quickly broken once one comes to UK. Life in UK , is a lot of things but easy its not. We all don't cook with sauces from bottles, or have a genie who does our housework or have Mary Poppins to look after our kids.

I am sure there are quite a few other myths which we NRI's sometimes help to nourish. But what would life be without some stereotypes?

Absinthe abuse, madness, jaundice – to what extent these diseases influence the maturation in style of the Post-impressionists?

By Dr Ricky Sinha-Ray B Sc MBBS

The term post-impressionism was a term first used by the British lecturer Fry in 1911, when trying to come up with a name for an exhibition where he had put together a selection of recent French art containing the works of Cezanne, Van Gogh and Gauguin. They went on to become some of the most widely recognised artists of today but how far did the diseases of alcoholism, mental illness and jaundice impact on the maturation in style of these artists?

Absinthe causes ethanol intoxication as well as euphoria, sense of well being, mild visual hallucinations. Absinthe drinking resulted in a cheerful mood and sharpened sense of perception, accounting for both its attraction and the psychological dependence to its effects remarkable among chronic users. So did this chronic alcoholism, a dependence on a drink later blamed for social degeneration, inspire the work of the post-impressionists? This could explain the gradual change in styles of Van Gogh once he arrived in Paris and Gauguin's shift from landscape to symbolist painting.

In the case of Van Gogh many of his most famous work was during the period of 1887-1890, where he was said to have been drinking absinthe heavily. His use of colours coincide with his development in colours in his work, and there is a huge difference in his paintings

during his time in Paris and his work when he was in Holland, where he painted *The potato eaters*, 1885. In the case of Gauguin, the influence of absinthe may be a bit more muddled but, in his symbolist work such as *The vision after the sermon* in 1888, it can be seen that he uses colour to represent moods and his desire, 'to successfully cast himself in the role of martyr, fallen angel or Christ himself'.

The concept of absinthe being an integral part of the Paris artistic community at this time is an important one. Toulouse Lautrec was (who is said to have introduced Van Gogh to absinthe) heavily drinking it at the time while being at the fore front of this community. His hallucinations may have affected his choice of subject, and frantic painting style. Lautrec would have agreed with the quote made by his friend Oscar Wilde who said absinthe was 'as poetical as anything in the world. What difference is there between a glass of absinthe and a sunset?'

It seems quite clear that Van Gogh was in a delicate state of mental health and his attempt at attacking Gauguin in Arles, (but resorted instead to self mutilation) seems to prove this. However, the cause of his mental destabilisation is unclear. One reason could certainly be due to absinthe abuse. It is a dose response drug where more is required to cause the desired effect each time. It affects the nervous system via its direct and rapid effects on the neurons causing clonic/tonic seizures. 'Absinthe epilepsy', with states of delirium between seizure attacks, are due to absinthe's specific excitatory effects on the medulla and/or cortex. Van Gogh's painting *Portrait of a patient*, 1889, is of suffering from mental illness. Lines appear radiating out into space from his fore head suggesting the patient's mental involvement.

The case of madness with Gauguin can be made with the similarity of his work with those which have been done by patients with mental disorders with the psychiatrist Tardieu describing in a case the work of a patient where 'they reveal the wildest associations of colour... yellow skies... all expressing through unique forms, dreams of the most indescribable nature'.

The mental disorders, however, can be linked with many of the major artists in the twentieth century. It is made more relevant when it is known that Gauguin had suffered from syphilis which if left untreated as it was in his case can lead to mental disorders. The fact that it was treated by arsenic powder may have made it worse. Adding this to the fact that following the completion of his painting *Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?*, he tried to commit suicide with an overdose of arsenic powder, but regurgitated it, 'condemned to live' as he put it.

The abuse of absinthe may have resulted in acute intermittent porphyria. In this syndrome, a group of rare inherited metabolic disorders that result from a disturbance in porphyrin metabolism, causing increased formation and excretion of porphyrin or its precursors. It is caused by hepatic overproduction of d-aminolevulinic acid, which causes increased urinary excretion of porphobilinogen, and some increase of uroporphyrin, due to a deficiency of porphobilinogen deaminase. Clinical features include intermittent acute attacks of hypertension, abdominal colic, psychosis, and polyneuropathy. It is exacerbated by the ingestion of certain drugs such as barbiturates.

It seems that Gauguin was apparently being prescribed digitalis by one Dr Gachet in order to calm him down. The digitalis-induced xanthopsia (yellow vision) may have caused him to view the world with a yellow tint, leading on to the next factor which is the influence of jaundice which also can cause xanthopsia. It is a disturbance in yellow-blue vision, similar to viewing the world through a yellow filter. Glare and coloured haloes may also be experienced as visual side effects of digitalis.

Many of Van Gogh's works have a definite yellow cast. *The Starry Night*, *The Night Cafe*, *Sunflower*, and later self-portraits all have a distinctive yellow hue. The yellow tone in his painting is especially noticeable in the stars in *The Starry Night*. The jaundice may have been a result of the liver damage caused by long term absinthe abuse and may have in turn been treated by the digitalis, ensuring that he would have stayed in that condition. Gauguin similarly has a yellow jaundiced hue when painting flesh. He certainly had been abusing alcohol which would have caused liver damage. However, this is harder to prove with Gauguin as his colour range varied too much to be conclusive.

Of course, these uses of colour and technique may just be a maturation of style, rather than a result of the diseases mentioned. Although Van Gogh did use strong yellow in his work, he also used strong blues which would not be possible if he suffered from xanthopsia. Certainly, what may explain the change of style of Van Gogh when he arrived in Paris, could be the growing influence at the time of the Impressionists' ideal of experimentation with colour. What can also be seen with the artists under the term of post-impressionism is the fact that under that umbrella title there were many groups working to build on the artistic principles of the time and not all of them shared the Bohemian life-style of Gauguin, Van Gogh and Toulouse Lautrec.





Contemporary Gujarati Restaurant | Take-Away and Sweet Mart | Specialists in Event Catering

વેજેટારિયન ફોડે સ્ટુડિયો

Award Winning Vegetarian & Vegan Restaurant.

"Best Vegetarian Restaurant in Wales" - The Observer & Guardian Newspaper



Opening Times:

Monday (Closed)

Tuesday to Thursday 10.00am - 9.30pm

Friday to Sunday 10.00am - 10.00pm

Home Delivery & Student Tiffins available.

Pure vegetarian and vegan food

109 Penarth Road, Grangetown, Cardiff, CF11 6JT

Tel: 02920 238222 | Fax: 02920 223172

www.vegetarianfoodstudio.co.uk





Dr Harendra Kumar Acharjya

1st. August 1927 – 22nd February 2011

I called him Kakababu, most of us called him Dada. He was involved and instrumental in starting Durga Puja in Cardiff in 1973. I knew him since 1981, in fact one of the few people I met when I came to UK that year. He came to UK in late 1960's from Shantiniketan and after short spells in hospitals in England and South Wales as junior doctor, established his general practice in Pontypridd, living within the area he served. His wife and daughter joined him few years after he came to UK. He was loved, respected and adored by all his patients even many years after retirement.

Over the years he showed his devotion and knowledge in performing our Puja's and was a pillar of Wales Puja committee. He was also consulted by many of us for various religious and ceremonial events (Satya Narayan Puja, Annaprashan, Wedding, Funerals etc). His contribution to local Asian and particularly Bengali community was immense over last 30 years.

His voice and Chandi Path in our Puja was well known to all. A few of us persuaded him to do our Puja's again in 1994 after a break of 10 years a few of us persuaded him to do our Puja's again in 1994 after a break of 10 years for various reasons. His way of doing Puja was unique and had many personal touches, commitment and devotion. All devotees marvelled in his Puja and Pushpanjali & Shantijaal. When we started Kali Puja in 1998, it was Dr Acharjya who assured us about religious context and took full responsibility for first few years.

For the last 20 years I remember going to his house every year in Rhydyfelin to discuss Durga Puja days and timings. He was always very accommodating about timings of Puja and I used to clarify with him about difference between London and Kolkata times as per our Panjika (years before London times of Durga Puja were published). It was his influence that Wales Puja committee always carry out Puja's on the day and thithi as per Hindu Almanac. Our many musical events and Melas have seen his contribution in form of Vocal Music, and talking about Hinduism. During our Creating Durga projects in 2002 and 2009, he was our religious flag bearer during Eye painting Ceremony (Chakkhu Daan).

My personal fond memories of him are talking about music and listening to many Rabindra sangeet Cassettes and later CD's we shared over many years. We both enjoyed listening to music together and discussing various artists and their voices & techniques. He told me many stories about Rabindra Nath Tagore and his family as he was one of their family doctors for the period of his service at Santiniketan. His roots were from Santiniketan and I had tremendous respect for his authority on Rabindranath Tagore. In recent years, I shared with him Thakur Sri Ramakrishna TV serials on DVD from Kolkata and we watched it together for many hours in his house. We both thought and appreciated the teachings of Ramakrishna in a very similar way.

We all miss him immensely and a large void is created in Wales Puja committee as well as in the Bengali community in South Wales by his sudden demise. It is difficult to contemplate our Puja's without him. A very familiar face in all our events (WPC and Personal), will be missed for ever. Personally I very much miss him as an elder friend, guardian and confidant. He was looked after by his daughter Arundhati very ably in last few years of his life & illness. Let us all pray together for his soul to rest in heavenly peace. Our deepest sympathy goes to Arundhati, his daughter, and his family in India.

Sandip Raha

Rabindra Jayanti 22nd May 2011



Children's dance on Tagore song



Romadi and Diya in full flow



Atreyee's Rabindra sangeet and Puneet on tabla



Puneet Sitar with Anjan Ghose on Tabla



Ekti Sadharon Meye by Shrabani Ghose

Durga Puja 2010



Karna Kunti Sambad from London on Saptami



Some of our seniors and youngsters



Vijoya Dashami programme with Arundhati And Shibajee from Kolkata



Navami night, members enjoying food



Dr Jim Robinson during Saraswati Puja 2011

অভিব্যক্তি
শঙ্কতা কুম্ভাৰ সৰকাৰ

তোমাৰ যতবাৰ দেখি তত বাৰ ভাবি-
এ কেমন মেয়ে তুমি?

কেমন যেন কথা বলাৰ চঙ; একটু যেন ব্যতিক্ৰম;
কখনও বা মনে হয়, তুমি চৰিত্ৰহীনা, ন্যায় নীতি বোধ
বিশ্বৰ্জন দিয়ে সৰ্ব্ব বিকিয়ে দিতে গাৰো কিনা, তাই।
কখনও বা মনে হয়, কোনো পতিতালয়ে শালিতা তুমি-
তাইতো তোমাৰ চলনে-বলনে এতটা পৰিবৰ্তন;
কখনও ভাবি মেয়ে জাতিৰ কলঙ্ক তুমি, নেই কোন লজা;
গায়ে চলে পড়া ভাব-ভাবি তুমি অতন্ত্ৰ কামুক!
এক কথায় তুমি মেয়ে জাতিৰ কাছে লজা-অফ্যাত তোমাৰ ব্যবহাৰ।।

তোমাৰ এভাবে মূল্যায়ন কৰবে যাৰা-তাৰাই
মিথ্যা; তাৰা কোন দিন বুঝবেনা তোমাৰ
অন্তৰেৰ কথা; জানতেও চাইবে না
তোমাৰ পবিত্ৰ মনেৰ কথা।
এ সমাজ এমনিই অৱগ্ৰস্ত; ভালো মনেৰ
মানুষ পায় কষ্ট; মনেৰ হয় জয়জয়কাৰা
তোমাৰ সহজ সৱল মন ও মিশ্ৰকে
ভাবকে তাৰা ব্যাখ্যা কৰবে কামুক হিসাবো
যে তোমাৰ সান্নিধ্যে উন্নতিৰ চূড়ায় পৌঁছাবে-
তাৰাই উপহাৰ দেবে-তুমি নিচু তলাৰ লোকা।

তবে আমাৰ ভয় হয় তোমাৰ দুৰ্ব নতাৰ সুযোগে
কেউ যদি তোমাৰ সৰ্ব্ব ছিনিয়ে নেয়; তোমাৰ
চলাৰ পথ যদি কন্টকাকীৰ্ণ কৰে দেয়; মৱন্তুমিৰ
ধুসৰ পথে একাকী ফেলে দেয়-

তবে তুমি সোনে ৰাখা অদৃশ্যেৰ মতো অলৌকিক
শক্তি নিয়ে আমি তোমাৰ পালে আছি, থাকবো-
সূৰ্যেৰ মত নয়, সোম বাতিৰ কিঞ্চিৎ আলোয়
তোমাৰ অন্ধকাৰ সপতকে সীমাহীন দিশা দেখাৰা

তুমি প্ৰশ্ন কৰবে কেন?
আমি বলব, আমি ছাড়া তোমাকে কেই বা চেনে বলা?

BARGAIN BOOZE

WINES, SPIRITS, CONVENIENCE

**Specialist in
Home Made Currys
Catering Orders taken**

**187 Fidlas Road
Llanishen
Cardiff CF14 5LZ
Tele 02920 753027**

Treasurer's report

I am pleased to submit the accounts to 9th September 2011. During the last financial period, we organised 4 events: Durga Puja, Kali Puja, Saraswati Puja and Rabindra Jayanti (Rabindranath's 150th birth anniversary). The meticulous book-keeping was done by our Anirban in my absence, without which I could have been in big trouble.

Unfortunately, our last financial period ended with an overall deficit of £1322 compared to a **SURPLUS** of £1422 a year before. But I am quite happy to say that our efforts on reducing our spending wherever possible were pretty fruitful since 2009. That has resulted in almost flat expenses (like for like) over the last 3 years. The main credit goes to all members, specially to our catering officers who were very proactive to make sure all shopping lists were done as precisely as possible, minimising any waste. On behalf of WPC, I only can urge people to donate more generously for our survival and financial stability. For any query on the accounts please send me an email to dkk@nthworld.com.

Dipak Kundu

WALES PUJA COMMITTEE			
Income & Expenditure for 2010/11			
	<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>
<u>Durga Puja</u>			
Advert	610	Entertainment	1455
Donations	4386	Fruit/Flower/Veg	455
Dashami Function	536	Groceries	606
Puja Barshiki	411	Hall/Car Park	510
		Kitchen / Food / Provision	1176
		Misc	47
		Orange Bag/Gas	102
		Printing/Posting/Invites	317
		Protima Transport	240
		Puja Samagri	174
		Puja Sankhyas	324
		Souvenir	475
Total	5943		5881
<u>Kali Puja 2010</u>			
Donations	618	Food / Transport	67
		Fruit & Veg	55
		Grocery	107
		hall hire+deposit	160
		Orange Bag & Bond	62
Total	618		451
<u>Saraswati Puja 2011</u>			
Donation	427	flowers/ fruits/ provisions	170
		Hall hire	30
		kitchen help	85
		printing/posting/papers	234
		Puja Samagri	39
Total	427		557
<u>Rabindra Jayanti 2011</u>			
Total	1492		1685
<u>Administration</u>			
		Banner/lights-Calcutta	135
		Charitable Donation	200
		Election cost	36
		Insurance	170
		Meeting Provisions	20
		Miscellaneous	131
		PCC-demerage	96
		Printers-donation books	125
		Website	316
			1228
Total			9802
Total for 2010-11	8480		
Surplus/Deficit	-1323		
<u>Our finances as on 09/09/11</u>			
balance b/f from 2010	8301		
Surplus/Deficit for 2010/11	-1323		
In bank	6978		

Durga Puja in many forms around India – Sandip Raha

Durga Puja is celebrated in many different ways all over India and over hundreds of year, these rituals and customs have developed. I would like to give the readers a glimpse of Durga Puja celebrations around parts of India.

In West Bengal (now Poshchim Bongo) festivities of Durga Puja (Pujo) have both religious and great social meaning. Celebration starts from *Mahalaya* day, which is first day of *Debipakhho* (first day on new moon). Legend goes that **Lord Rama** wanted to have blessings of Goddess of strength **Durga** before he went to Lanka to rescue **Sita** and fought the Great War. He performed this Puja in autumn although real Durga Puja in spring and so name of *Akalbodhan* (untimely invocation) came to. Durga along with four of her family (Ganesha, Lakshmi, Saraswati & Kartik) are worshipped for five days and victory of good over evil (Mahishasura) is celebrated on last day (Dashami). This is the biggest festival in Poshchim Bongo and brings out artistry, colour, music, tradition, exemplary food and brotherhood amongst all in addition to religious feelings.

Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam celebrates Durga Puja in very similar way as Poshchim Bongo. Ravan Badh (Burning of Ravan's effigy) is the concluding event on Vijayadashami.

Gujarat, Punjab & Maharashtra celebrates this festival as *Navratri*, nine days of worship, dance & music. Devotees perform the "*devi-sthaapna*" (welcoming goddess) in their homes and do Puja Path for nine days & night. Gujratis perform their traditional dance *Garba & Dandiya Raas* during *Navaratri*.

In Punjab devotees fast for eight days and only have milk. They break their fast on Ashtami (Eighth) or Navami (Ninth) day with fruits and feed beggars on Navami day. They worship little girls who spell the power of Mother Durga.

Maharashtra celebrates feast of *Dasara*, According to ancient times, kings used to cross-frontiers and fight neighbouring kings, border crossings is known as "*Simollanghan*". Thus Dasara also is the beginning of war season! They also worship weapons. According to *Mahabharata* legend, *Pandavas*, when they went to dwell in forest they hid their weapons in the hole of a "Shami tree". When they returned from forest dwelling they took their weapons and worshipped the Shami tree for keeping their weapons. Hence the custom of worshipping weapons on this feast.

Mysore & Karnataka: Dassehra is most popular festival in Mysore. Elephants are decked up with colourful decks and jewellery and taken in procession through the streets of the city. Floating festival in the temple lake at the foot of *Chamundi hill* and procession of Chariots around the temple at the top is main visitors attraction. Whole celebration lasts ten days and there are scores of cultural performances in the great Durbar Hall of Maharaja palace.

Tamil Nadu, Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh: Tamilians celebrate *Bomma Kolu*, traditionally a women's festival during Dassehra. A series of steps made and dolls are displayed, these depict gods or village scenes and weddings. Women of the house invite other neighbouring women and share gossip, snacks and Sundal (a delicious confection made from bean sprouts and coconut). Dolls and clay figures are worshipped during *Navaratri*. *Ayudha puja* is celebrated on ninth day. After slaying *Mahishasura* and other demons, *Chamundeswari* (Durga) had no more use of her weapons, so weapons were kept aside and worshipped. On Vijayadashami (tenth day) Arjuna took back his weapons hidden in tree. It is believed that anyone who begins or renovates his learning on this day will secure success like Arjuna in *Kurukshetra War*.

Kerala celebrates ten-day Saraswati festival, during this time. Goddess Saraswati, goddess of learning, the deity of *Gayatri*, is the fountain of fine arts, music, and symbol of science & supreme vedantic knowledge. On Durga Ashtami (eighth) day, ceremony called *Poojavaipu* is performed in Kerala. This is similar to Saraswati Puja in Eastern India. Just before this all studies and work that require skill are suspended. Following day, *Mahanavami* is totally devoted to worship of Saraswati. Tenth day, *Vijayadashami* is day of *Vidyaramba* or beginning of study when children begin to learn alphabet. Children are given instructions to write first few alphabets on rice or sand. Their initiation is called *Ezhuthinu Iruthu*.

Kullu Valley & Himachal Pradesh: Annual Mela with Lord Rama's triumph over evil and Ratha Jatra of the idol *Lord Raghunath* is led by Kullu Raja and other village deities. Dussehra in Kullu starts on tenth day (Dashami) and continues for seven days. This is celebrated with fun, frolics and international folk festival.





Acharjyada – a personal perspective

I met him first at The Parade on the Saptami evening in 1978, the 6th year of Durga Puja in Wales. He and Mrs Tara Acharya, his wife, were called ‘Dada’ and ‘Baudi’ very affectionately by almost all of us in our age-group.

Acharyada and a few friends started this Puja in 1972 at Dr Santosh Sen’s house in Nelson. He was the priest, perhaps first time in his life. The following year they did it as *Baroyari* at 28 The Parade, as far as I can recollect. His dedication led him to create his own *Puja Book* by extracting *Mantras* he found suitable, for a few Pujas. He continued that until recently, except only a few occasions for some reason or other. After the demise of *Baudi*, we did not want him to take any stress, which this event may demand. Instead, Kanai Chatterjee, another veteran in our Puja, took over the responsibility of doing the Durga Puja.

Acharyada was short, soft spoken and a composed person. He rarely raised his voice. He did not have to. It was usually a voice which could be heard from a distance very clearly. He did not need a microphone. When he said things we just heard because he had the command, compassion and tremendous love & affection for everyone around him, especially all of us who were close to him for years.

He was always good natured, amicable, good listener, very helpful, had thorough knowledge in Puja matters and would put forward soft arguments on a matter of dispute. He rarely said ‘no’ to a request in an event; was agreeable to most requests made by any of us in any occasion. So, we did the same; because he never asked for something, which we could not provide or do. If one or two came late for *Anjali*, in a Puja, he did not mind to go to the stage and do it again for them, sometime changing clothes. He was an understanding person all my life I knew him.

He had a special knack in Bengali literature too. He read a lot in his spare times, besides his medical practice. He had written a lot of poems. Some of them he sent to *Shantiniketan*, the place which was close to his heart, for putting voice in them. Someone like *Sagar Sen* or *Mohardi (Kanika Bannerjee)* would convert some of them to songs, put voice on them and send them back to him on cassettes. I have heard quite a few of them myself. I felt they were very well written with a devotional overtone.

He never attended any of WPC’s meetings except one at *Ravi’s* place in Porth in the 80’s. But nevertheless, he was always considered as a pivotal part of our organisation. We could not even think about our Pujas without his involvement in some way. Anything to do with the Puja ceremonies, we would seek his advice. And usually his advice will be taken on board, sometime with minor changes, but with his valued consent. We, along with all the people who were attending Durga Puja in Cardiff or nearby over the years, are going to miss his presence tremendously. His absence will be felt within us, even if we do not express it. He will be in our minds, for sure, in all the events we organise.

When we organised a musical event in Cardiff or somewhere in the area, he and Baudi would be the first to appear so that they did not miss a thing there. He would sing one or two devotional songs or Rabindra Sangeet for us or just would be there to enjoy the musical event.

He always had a soft corner for Indian sweets, which Baudi would like to monitor, either in the Pujas or at someone’s house. But then he would do it secretly behind her back. Don’t you ever think that Baudi would not know about that. You would be a fool, if you did. She had another eye for putting him on the right track. We all helped him to relish those occasions. We knew that we would be told off by Baudi, but we still did it, only for Dada. Of course we made sure that he did not eat them too much. We are going to miss those little things in our lives from now on.

We lost Dada forever and nothing can replace him. But he would be in our hearts all our life, for sure, particularly for the ones who have been close to him for a long time. His contribution to WPC’s cause was just unforgettable. His devotion to Pujas and the sincerity with which he served all the devotees during the Pujas were just immeasurable. He would be missed in all the events we normally organise. The make-up of our team has lost a layer of shine now. But we have to bear with it. We will try to follow his wishes, as much as we can, within the practicality of life, for the future Puja matters.

Hope, Dada and Baudi both find their ultimate peace up above the sky, in a heavenly abode.

Dipak Kundu
March 2011

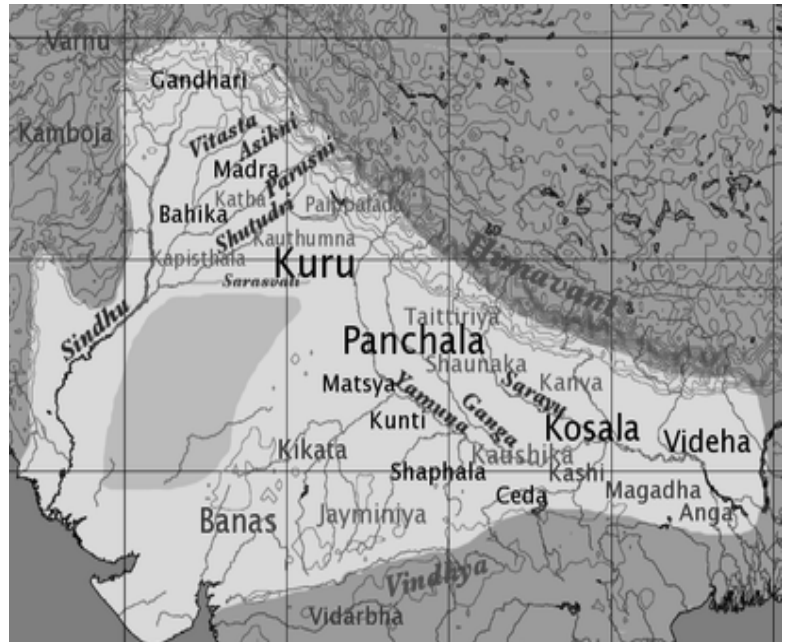
HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA & INDIA

Stone Age	70000 – 3300 BC
Mehrgarh Culture	7000 – 3300 BC
Indus Valley Civilization	3300 – 1700 BC
Late Harappan Culture	1700 – 1300 BC
Vedic Period	1500 – 500 BC
Iron Age	1200 – 500 BC
Maha Janapadas	700 – 300 BC
Magadha empire	684 – 320 BC
Mauurya Empire	321 – 184 BC
Middle Kingdoms	230 BC – 1279 CE
Satavahna Empire	230 BC - 199 CE
Kushan Empire	60 CE – 240 CE
Gupta Empire	40 – 550 CE
Pala Empire	750 – 1174 CE
Chola Empire	250 BC – 1279 CE
Islamic Sultanates	1206 – 1596
Delhi Sultanates	1206 – 1526
Deccan Sultanates	1490 – 1596
Hoysala Empire	1040 – 1346
Kakatiya Empire	1083 – 1323
Vijayanagara Empire	1336 – 1565
Mughal Empire	1526 – 1707
Sikh Empire	1801 – 1849
Maratha Empire	1674 – 1818
Colonial Period (British)	1858 – 1947
Independent India Republic	1947 – to date

The **Vedic period** (or **Vedic age**) was a period in history during which the Vedas, the oldest scriptures of Hinduism, were composed. The time span of the period is uncertain. Philological and linguistic evidence indicates that the Rigveda, the oldest of the Vedas, was composed roughly between 1700–1100 BCE, also referred to as the early Vedic period.^[1] The end of the period is commonly estimated to have occurred about 500 BCE and 150 BCE has been suggested as a terminus ante quem for all Vedic Sanskrit literature.^[2]

Transmission of texts in the Vedic period was by oral tradition alone, and a literary tradition set in only in post-Vedic times. Despite the difficulties in dating the period, the Vedas can safely be assumed to be several thousands of years old. The associated culture, sometimes referred to as **Vedic civilization**, was probably centered early on in the northern and northwestern parts of the Indian subcontinent, but has now spread and constitutes the basis of contemporary Indian culture.

After the end of the Vedic period, the Mahajanapadas period in turn gave way to the Maurya Empire (from ca. 320 BC), the golden age of classical Sanskrit literature.



From Wikipedia

LIGHTER MOMENTS

...and remember... we have to defend the prestige of the nation as well as the multimillion dollar contract with the advertisement companies



This is not the game plan for the football world cup...it is the route of a file between 2 offices.

No...We have not forgotten the promises made last year...you just have to remind me if this foundation stone was laid for a factory or a bus station...



That minister is going to place orders worth 70 Million Dollars. I am afraid very soon you are going to be overburdened...



Driving Quality.

Whatever your lifestyle, whatever your budget,
Sinclair Group can find the right car for you.



www.sinclairgroup.co.uk

Info.smassociates@yahoo.co.uk

www.smassociatesandco.org.uk

SM TRAVELS

Cardiff

Cheapest Air Tickets, Money Transfer, Holidays, IT & Marketing

S
M
A
S
S
O
C
I
A
T
E
S
&
C
O.



S
M
A
S
S
O
C
I
A
T
E
S
&
C
O.

35 Clare Road, South Glamorgan, Cardiff, CF11 6QP, UK. Tel. / Fax +44(0)2920343213, Mob.- 07727081264
We do sell free ATOL Insurance, Travel & Ethnical Products Imported from India, Western Union & Tour services.

Business Hours: 7 days in a week 09.00 hrs to 18.00hrs

(SM Travels is a part of SM Associates & Co. registered as SM Associates & co.)

The Three Saints HOTEL

The Perfect Venue for Asian Parties

WEDDINGS

ENGAGEMENTS

PRIVATE PARTIES



*For Any Occasion, A 50 to 400 Capacity Venue
Pure Catering Venue, Specialist Indian Cuisine
Weddings, Decorations & Entertainment Packages available*



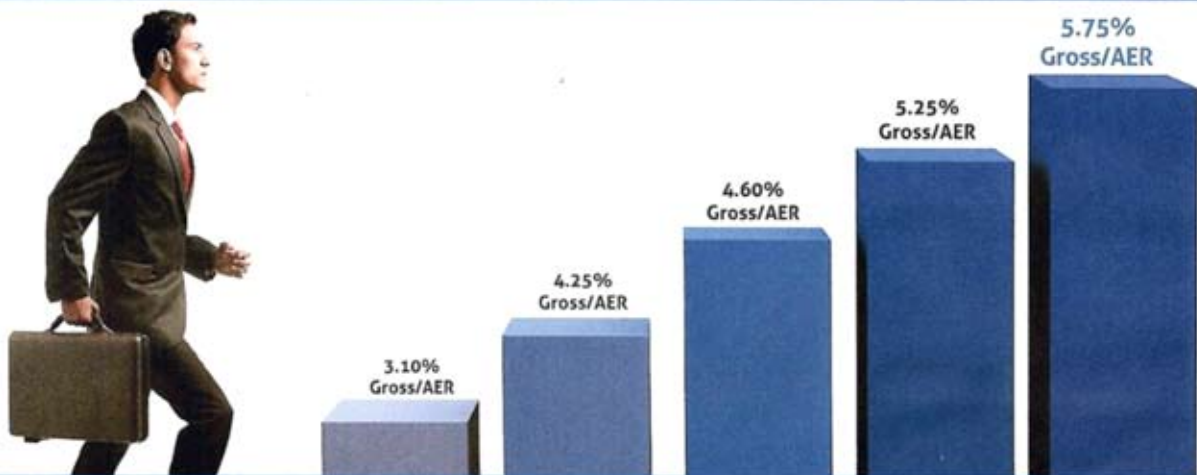
WE NOW HAVE A CIVIL LICENCE

www.threesaintshotel.com

For Further Information Tel - 01443 222386



Step up to a great rate of 5.75% AER*



A flexible fixed deposit designed to give you higher returns, the longer you save. Withdrawals can be made from the second anniversary of the account opening.

16,000 STATE BANK GROUP BRANCHES IN 32 COUNTRIES | 146 MILLION CUSTOMERS | IN UK SINCE 1921

CITY OF LONDON t: 0800 532 532	BIRMINGHAM t: 0121 515 0400	EAST HAM t: 0208 470 2992	GOLDERS GREEN t: 0208 458 3856	HARROW t: 0203 114 1027	LEICESTER t: 0116 242 8830	MANCHESTER t: 0161 817 2530	SOUTHALL t: 0208 574 0111
-----------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------



www.sbiuk.com

*For the fifth year of deposit. Overall average rate of 4.59%. As long as you keep your funds with us, you will get the higher rate the following year.

State Bank of India is regulated by the PSA and register number is 139156. State Bank of India is a member of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme established under the Financial Services and Market Act 2000. The Financial Services Compensation Scheme protects deposits held with our UK branches. Payments under this scheme are limited to £85,000 of your total deposits with us. In practice, this means that each of our customers will be compensated up to a maximum of £85,000 of their total deposits. Where two depositors hold a joint account, each depositor may receive a maximum of £85,000 compensation in respect of their claim, giving a total of £170,000. State Bank of India is a bank incorporated and headquartered in India and is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India. The information provided is based on the current regulations, which are subject to change at any time without notice. For further information or clarification please contact the nearest branch. *AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates the interest rate if it was paid and compounded once each year. GROSS is a contractual rate payable before deduction of income tax at rate specified by law.

Right on your door step...

UP TO 50% OFF IN STORE NOW

BATHROOMSETC

- Biggest bathroom display in Wales
- Hundreds of accessories
- From bespoke design to fully fitted

www.bathsetc.co.uk

STICK2STONE

- Natural stone from all over the world
- Real welsh slate
- Huge selection of indoors/outdoors

www.stick2stone.co.uk

SLIDE2HIDE

- Huge range of styles
- Space creating storage
- Custom fitted for your home

www.slide2hide.co.uk

SPACE2COOK

- Kitchens to suit your lifestyle
- Huge range of styles and colours
- From design to fully fitted

www.space2cook.co.uk

Unit 5-6 Glan-Y-Llyn Industrial
Estate, Cardiff Road, Taffs Well,
Cardiff, CF15 7JD

T: 029 2081 3993



PURE CATERING

Taste of Asia

Wales & the West's Premier Asian Caterers

Specialising in Indian Cuisine

Pure Catering is proud to supply the food for Durga Puja 2010

We take care of every aspect of your event or function. To ensure this, we plan every last detail with you in advance and ensure that every aspect of your plan is implemented step by step to create the event of your dreams

Pure Catering has access to some of the most exclusive venues around South Wales and the West. We are currently the preferential caterers for:

- The Coal Exchange
- The Three Saints Hotel
- Cardiff County Hall
- Cardiff City Hall
- Cardiff City Stadium
- The Vale Hotel



- **WEDDINGS**
- **ENGAGEMENTS**
- **PRIVATE PARTIES**
- **EVENT MANAGEMENT**
- **DECORATIONS**
- **THEMED PARTIES**

Tel - 01443 222386

PURE CATERING . THREE SAINTS HOTEL . LLANTRISANT BUSINESS PARK

www.purecatering.co.uk

PURE

