

DURGA & KALI PUJA 2015



Wales Puja Committee

www.pujainwales.com

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The Wales Puja Committee would like to extend our warm welcome to all those attending our Durga Puja festivities.

We would also like to invite you to our Kali and Saraswati Puja festivities. We also hold various events through the year and these can be followed on our website or Facebook page.

We would be grateful for your feedback, suggestion and involvement in future events.





DURGA PUJA 2015



PROGRAMME

SASHTHI & BODHAN: SUNDAY 18TH. OCTOBER

PUJA 7- 9PM;
PRASAD 9 -10PM

SAPTAMI: MONDAY 19TH. OCTOBER

PUJA, PUSHPANJALI & BHOG 11AM – 2PM;
EVENING ARATI, CULTURAL PROGRAMME & FOOD: 7-10PM

ASHTAMI: TUESDAY 20TH. OCTOBER

PUJA, PUSHPANJALI & BHOG 11AM – 2PM
EVENING ARATI 7–8PM;

SANDHI PUJA 8-9PM; FOOD 9-10PM

NAVAMI: WEDNESDAY 21ST. OCTOBER

PUJA, PUSHPANJALI & BHOG 11AM – 2PM
HAVAN 2-3PM;
EVENING ARATI, CULTURAL PROGRAMME & FOOD: 7-10PM

DASHAMI: THURSDAY 22ND OCT:

PUJA, VISHARJAN & SINDUR KHELA 10-1PM
SHANTIJAAL & DRAMA 7-9PM;
BHOJAN 9-10PM

KALI PUJA

7-11PM on TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2015

ALL OUR EVENTS ARE AT

**PENYRHEOL COMMUNITY CENTRE
HEOL ANEURIN, CAERPHILLY CF83 2PA**

Visit our *FACEBOOK PAGE* or website www.pujainwales.com for further details

Or contact

Dr Sakti Guha Niyogi 07891604247
Dr Sandip Raha 07957251448
Dr Madhuparna Mitra 07931317691

Dr Kausik Mukherjee 07931317935
Mr Neeleem Saha 07886808034
Dr Shiladitya Sinha 07889522530

CULTURAL PROGRAMME DURGA PUJA 2015



Maha Saptami Monday, 19.10.2015

Songs - Mrs Sunita Menon

Bharatnatyam dance - Anchita Kishore

Song - Dr Ranjit SinhaRoy

Kathak dance - Mrs Sinjini Chakraborty, accompanied by Liza Mukhopadhyay (vocal), Mr Anirban Mukhopadhyay (tabla)

Song - Aaruni Bhattacharjee, Diya Chakraborty, Shivangi Das, Ayush Mukhopadhyay, Onkon Roy

Song - Ashmit Saha

Maha Nabami Wednesday, 21/10/2015

Song - Dr Raman Sakuja

Dance - Anika Kamath, Aashi Lodhi, Ayesha Negi, Suhaani Prasad

Song - Dr Liza Mukhopadhyay

Dance (Bollywood medley) - Kavya Balan, Siya Goyal, Sanjana Kamath, Karan Mohanty,

Sid Mohanty, Neil Mehta, Akash Nannapaneni, Ellora Mukherjee

Song - Ayona Dey, Dr Indranil Dey

Dance - Shivangi Das, Diya Chakraborty, Ayush Mukhopadhyay, Onkon Roy, Ashmit Saha

Dance - Mrs Raktima Bhadra Sarkar

Bijoya Dashami

Thursday, 22/10/2015

Bengali Natok - Ek Je Chilo Raja

Story, Script and direction by
Anirban Mukherjee

Cast

Mrs Padma Das, Dr Sankar Das,

Mr Sayantan Das,

Dr Madhuparna Mitra,

Mr Anirban Mukhopadhyay,

Mr Ashok Mukherjee,

Ellora Mukherjee,

Dr Kausik Mukherjee,

Dr Liza Mukhopadhyay,

Neil Mukherjee,

Mr Sudiptamohan Mukhopadhyay,

Mrs Raktima Bhadra Sarkar,

Dr Shiladitya Sinha,

Dr Ranjit Sinha Roy

For information please contact

Dr Sandip Raha 07957251448

Dr Madhuparna Mitra 07931317691

ওয়েলস পূজা কমিটির শারদীয় নিবেদন ২০

বাংলা নাটক

এক যে ছিল রাজা

কাহিনী, সংলাপ ও নির্দেশনা - অনির্বাক্ষ মুখোপাধ্যায়

অভিনয়ে

রাজেন্দ্র - ড: রঞ্জিত সিন্ধা রায়	সারদা - শ্রীমতি মৈত্রেয়ী দাস
সাত্যকি - ড: শিলাদিত্য সিন্ধা	আদিত্য - শ্রী সায়ন্তন দাস
মাধুরী - ড: লিজা মুখোপাধ্যায়	রাজলক্ষী - ইলোরা মুখার্জি
বিষ্ণু - কৌ শিক মুখার্জী	রামচন্দ্র - অনির্বাক্ষ মুখোপাধ্যায়
সুলেখা - শ্রীমতি রঞ্জিতা ভদ্র সরকার	বিবেক - নিল মুখার্জি
প্রশান্ত - ড: সুদীপ্তমোহন মুখোপাধ্যায়	দীপিকা - ড: মধুপর্ণা মিত্র মুখার্জী
সলিসিটর ধূর্জটি - ড: অশোক মুখার্জি	ইন্সপেক্টর সরকার - ড: সংকর দাস

Wales Puja Committee Presents

Bengali Play

Ek Je Chilo Raja

Story, Script & Direction - Anirban Mukhopadhyay

Actors

Rajendra - Dr. Ranjit Sinha-Ray II Saroda - Mrs Maitreyi Das II Satyoki - Dr. Shiladitya Sinha
Aditya - Mr. Sayantan Das II Madhuri - Dr. Liza Mukhopadhyay II Rajlakkhi - Ellora Mukherjee
Binnu - Dr Kausik Mukherjee II Ram - Anirban Mukhopadhyay
Sulekha - Mrs. Raktima Bhadra Sarkar II Bibek - Neil Mukherji
Proshanta - Dr. Sudiptamohan Mukhopadhyay II Dipika - Dr. Madhuparna Mitra Mukherjee
Solicitor Dhurjoti - Dr. Ashok Mukherjee II Inspector Sarkhel - Dr. Sankar Das

Date & Time - Thursday, 22 October 2015, 7PM - 9PM

Venue - Penryntheol Community Centre, Heol Aneurin, Caerphilly, CF83 2PA

**From the Chairperson's Desk,
Wales Puja Committee, September 2015**

Dear Devotees

May I, on behalf of Welsh Puja committee invite you and your family and friends to join us during the five days of joyous and happy occasion of Sharadia Durga Puja and followed by Kalipuja and Diwali festival in the month of October- November 2015. Your presence in the festivities will be most welcome and appreciated by all.



The members of the executive committee always work tirelessly to make these festivals a success. I offer my sincere thanks to each member for their contribution throughout the year .

Our Indian Mela representing diversity and harmony was inaugurated in May 2015 by the First Minister of Wales, Rt Hon Mr Carwyn Jones. It was an outstanding success. Our cultural secretary and her team of young performers with their parental support provided a feast of colourful dances representing various states of the subcontinent and filled everyone's heart with joy. Great strives were made in using social media and multimedia for this event. Our executive members worked relentlessly to make the Mela a memorable occasion. St David's Centre was a brilliant venue and a generous grant from the Arts Council of Wales and our many sponsors helped make it a success.

I would like to thank the administration of Penryrheol Community Centre for their continued support for Welsh puja committee and providing the venue for our festivals.

I offer my sincere thanks to our team of priests Mr Kanai Chatterjee, Mr Anirban Mukherjee, Dr Kaushik Mukherjee and Mr Ananda Misra for conducting our various puja ceremonies.

WPC continues to provide charitable service for disaster stricken people in the world and this year we raised funds with your help for the earthquake stricken people of Nepal. In order to help the growing many suffering from dementia we also contributed funds to the Alzheimer's society, a dementia support organisation in UK and the Dignity foundation in Kolkata. More recently we have also donated to the Gandhi Statue project being executed by the Hindu Council Wales.

We depend on your support for puja festival and charitable work. Please do donate to our charitable fund so we can support the unfortunate victims of natural disaster and life events.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable Puja festival and Shubho Bhijoya.

Dr Sakti Guha-Miyogi

Chairperson



Dr Biswas hands over
our donation to Dignity
Foundation



Mr Saha hands over our donation
to Alzheimer's Society

**From the Secretary's Desk,
Wales Puja Committee, September 2014**

Dear Friends,

First of all let me welcome you all to Wales Puja Committee's Durga Puja 2015. 'Sarat' is here and we can feel the rhythm of 'Dhak', heralding the five most awaited days of the year - the five days of 'Sarodotsav'. The whole of Bengal gears up to welcome home, daughter Parvati and her four children. The pandals, lights, decoration, music, food - whether 'Barowari' or 'Gharoa' - help to celebrate this auspicious event in style and grandeur. Here in Cardiff, we too are getting ready to join in the celebration with utmost dedication and enthusiasm.

This is WPC's 42nd Durga Puja celebration and though some of the faces have changed over the years, new people have joined with new ideas and new flavours. Durga Puja is still celebrated with the same ethos, dedication and respect as was done by the founders of this esteemed organisation. Our Durga Puja celebration brings together people from all over Wales and also from beyond the borders. The 'Bongs' and the 'non-Bongs' enjoy and celebrate together.

Along with the Puja, the two attractions of this festival are the cultural programme and the sumptuous meals provided daily.

The dedicated Cultural Committee had been working tirelessly for the last few months to stage the much awaited shows for the evenings of Saptami, Navami and Dashami. Rehearsals had been in full swing and going by the presentation over last few years, we can expect superb entertainment to follow this year too.

The Catering Team is already busy thrashing out various menu ideas and rest assured mouth-watering food will be served in the true spirit of WPC and in the style of Puja in Bengal. Since the last Durga Puja, Wales Puja Committee have celebrated Kali Puja, Diwali Party and Saraswati Puja with the usual festivity. The highlight of the year however remains the Indian Mela hosted by WPC in the St David's Hall in May.

The Indian Mela was a resounding success with over 1400 people attending the event. Several dignitaries, including the First Minister of Wales, attended the programme. The sheer scale of the event with five hours of non-stop musical extravaganza and mouth-watering food stalls attracted the huge crowd, making the event one of the most successful fusion fare in recent years.

The earthquake in Nepal sent tremors throughout the world and WPC in Cardiff, in its small way, have tried to help and support the victims of Nepal tragedy by raising money during the Indian Mela.

Wales Puja Committee, in association with Hindu Council in Wales, have also raised funds for the making of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, which will be inaugurated in Cardiff Bay.

This is my first year as the secretary of Wales Puja Committee. I thank my seniors and the previous secretaries for all the support and advice which have made my task a lot easier.

I extend our warm welcome to you all once again to join us in celebration, to welcome Parvati to Cardiff and enjoy these five days. We strive to make this event better every year and this will be possible only with your support and generosity. Please do come forward with any new ideas, constructive criticism or just your enthusiasm.

With the customary Autumnal greetings of *Sharadiyar preeti o subheccha!*

Dr Kausik Mukherjee



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of WALES PUJA COMMITTEE 2015-16

OFFICE BEARERS

CHAIRPERSON	<i>Dr Sakti Guha Niyogi</i>
VICECHAIRPERSON (acting)	<i>Dr Chandana Banerjee</i>
SECRETARY	<i>Dr Kausik Mukherjee</i>
TREASURER	<i>Dr Shiladitya Sinha</i>
CATERING	<i>Mrs Tamashree Mukherjee</i>
ENTERTAINMENT & PUBLICITY	<i>Dr Madhuparna (Moon) Mitra</i> <i>Dr Sandip Raha</i>
EVENTS OFFICER	<i>Mr Neeleem Saha</i>
PUJA CO-ORDINATOR	<i>Mrs Padma (Maitreyi) Das</i>

MEMBERS

<i>Mrs S Basak</i>	<i>Mr Niladri Chakraborty</i>	<i>Mrs Sinjini Chakraborty</i>
<i>Dr Anirban Choudhury</i>	<i>Dr Sankar Das</i>	<i>Mrs Sikha (Utsa) Das</i>
<i>Dr Subash Das</i>	<i>Mr DK Kundu</i>	<i>Mr Anirban Mukherjee</i>
<i>Dr Ashok Mukherjee</i>	<i>Mrs Mahua Mukherjee</i>	<i>Mrs A Narayan</i>
<i>Dr Kanti Nath</i>	<i>Mrs Sikha Nath</i>	<i>Dr Anjan Ray</i>
<i>Mrs Christina Roy</i>	<i>Mrs Raktima Bhadra Sarcar</i>	<i>Mr Pankaj Sarcar</i>
<i>Dr H V Shah</i>	<i>Mrs Sharada Sharma</i>	<i>Mrs Banani Sinha Ray</i>
	<i>Dr Ranjit Sinha Ray</i>	

TRUSTEES of WALES PUJA COMMITTEE

<i>Dr. Sankar Das</i>	<i>Dr. Ashok Mukherjee</i>
<i>Mr. Dipak Kundu</i>	<i>Dr. Rupen Majumdar</i>
<i>Dr. Ravi Narayan</i>	<i>Dr. Kanti Nath</i>
<i>Dr. Sandip Raha</i>	<i>Dr. Satya Kishore Sharma</i>
<i>Dr Sakti Guha Niyogi</i>	<i>(In his role as Chairperson)</i>

HONORARY MEMBERS

<i>Mr Trilochan Kar</i>	<i>Mrs Jharna Majumdar</i>	<i>Dr Rupen Majumdar</i>
<i>Dr Ravi Narayan</i>	<i>Dr Mohan Nath</i>	<i>Dr Satya Kishore Sharma</i>

List of Donors of Wales Puja Committee for the year from Durga Puja 2014 onwards

Dr	Abhijit Guha	Mr	Iqroop Chopra	Dr	Ravi Narayan
Mr	Abhijit Roy	Mr	K Mukherjee	Mr	Ravi Sharma
Mr	Abhijnan Roy Choudhury	Dr	K Sharma	Mrs	Rekha Girish
Mr	Ajoy Sharma	Dr	Kadaba Raj Kumar	Dr	Ritobrata Mitra
Mrs	Aloka Mukherjee	Dr	Kalyan Dhar	Dr	Rupen Majumdar
Dr	Amar Shetty	Mr	Kanai Chatterjee	Mrs	Sagarika Saha
Mr	Amit Ghoshal	Dr	Kanti Nath	Dr	Sakti Guha Niyogi
Dr	Amit Gaur	Dr	Kausik Mukherjee	Mr	Samrat Choudhury
Dr	Amitabha Basak	Mr	Kausik Bose	Dr	Sandip Raha
Mr	Ananda Misra	Dr	Kausik Khan	Dr	Sanjiv Banerjee
Dr	Angshu Mukherjee	Dr	Kaustav Das	Dr	Sankar Das
Dr	Anirban Choudhury	Dr	Khitish Mohanty	Mr	Santosh Guha Roy
Dr	Anjan Roy	Mr	Kingshuk Nath	Dr	Sarbari Gupta
Mr	Anupam Patra	Dr	Kinsuk Mukherjee	Mr	Sayantan Das
Mr	Anupam Dutta Roy	Mr	Krishnendu Majumdar	Dr	Shiladitya Sinha
Dr	Anurag Negi	Dr	Mallinath Chakraborty	Mr	Siddhartha Mondal
Dr	Aparajit Paul	Dr	Maya Roy	Mr	Sidhartha Chatterjee
Mr	Arunabha Duari	Mrs	Mitra Bhowmick	Mr	Simon Repam
Mr	Ashish Kumar	Mrs	Monika Sengupta	Mr	SK Majumdar
Dr	Ashok Mukherjee	Ms	Mousumi Roy	Dr	Sridhar Kamath
Mr	Ashwin Katthok Selvaran	Dr	Moyukhmoy Maiti	Mr	Steve Bwnbow
Dr	Balan Palaniappa	DR	Manish Chebbi	Dr	Subhas Das
Dr	Baldev Kumar	Dr	MP Sreevastava	Mrs	Subhra Sinha Roy
Dr	Bibek Gupta	Mr	Mudit Kumar	Dr	Subrata Sinha
Dr	Bikash Lodi	Mr	Neeleem Saha	Mr	Sudeep Banerjee
Mr	Biswajit Roy Choudhury	Mr	Niladri Chakraborty	Dr	Sudhir Saigol
Mr	Chandan Bhattacharjee	Mr	Nilanjan Chatterjee	Dr	Sudipta M Mukhopadhyay
Dr	Debashis Sanyal	Mr	NP Naran	Mr	Sudipta M Sikdar
Mr	Debasis Majumdar	Mr	Nupur Datta	Dr	Sujoy Banerjee
Mr	Debobrata Saha	Mrs	Pamela Sarkar	Dr	Sumanta Kundu
Mr	Debojit Acharya	Mr	Pankaj Sarkar	Mr	Sumanta Das
Mr	Deparpan Dhar	Ms	Paramo Bhattacharjee	Dr	Sumit Goyal
Dr	Dilip Bhowal	Ms	Paromita Bose	Mr	Sumit Pratihar
Mr	Dipak kundu	Mr	Partha Dutta	Dr	Sumohan Motilal
Dr	Diptarka Roy Choudhury	Mr	Philly Dey	Mr	Sushobhan Sengupta
Dr	Dwijen Baruah	Dr	PK Pathak	Dr	Swadhin Majumdar
Mrs	G Manari	Mrs	Priyanka Jha	Mr	Swagata Ganguly
Dr	Gautam Das	Dr	Priyanka Kakar	Mrs	Tamoghna Dasgupta
Mr	Guru Prasad Patra	Dr	Probal Banerjee	Mr	Trilochan Kar
Dr	HP Das	Mr	Pronay Kumar	DR	V Subbu
Dr	HP Misra	Mr	Rahul	Mrs	Vasu Appanna
Dr	HV Shah	Dr	Raj Bakshi	Dr	Vikash Lodhi
Dr	Inderpal Singh	Dr	Raja Biswas	Mr	Virinder Dutt
Dr	Indraneel Dey	Dr	Ranjit Sinha Ray		

Light of Life

It's time, time to collect the shimmering sunshine
Birds sweetly sing
they raise a cup
they place it on a bed of flowers
Sunlight dances, twirls its way into the cup Loves
to shine onto the smiling sunflowers

The lid unravels
A waterfall of light
falls onto the palms of my hands
swirls of happiness flow around my body
A breeze of joy swims through my golden hair
Wafts of tropical fruit lift into the morning air

Darkness engulfs the town
Her empty streets, flowers with no colour
one drop of light, all it takes
explodes a spark of colour
A spark of light
Memories created of hope, joy, laughter.

It's time, time to return the luminous light
Lower my glistening hands
to the fresh river
emerald forest, waving trees
Golden flowers bloom, wishes cheer the river bend
Spreading its gift of infectious joy.

Anoushka Sinha (aged 12)



From the Editor's weary laptop

Mahalaya was yesterday and as I desperately try to tidy up the many loose ends of this souvenir I feel I do need a rest. This year has been a challenge and constant help from various WPC members, contributors and encouragement at home have helped me juggle work, natok rehearsals, treasurers duties and this magazine that you now hold. I hope you enjoy the read and do forgive me for the many errors that are bound to crop up in such a hurried production. We are striving to improve all the time and will be back and better next year having learnt from the trials of this one. As ever I wish to thank **KK Solutions of Bridgend** for their continual support. Yet again they have uncomplainingly printed our Souvenir's (submitted at the very last moment) at very reasonable rates and with great production quality. With all the best wishes for the festive season.

Dr Shiladitya Sinha

kksolutions, 6 York Park, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend CF31 3TB



From the Treasurer's Desk

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present the WPC Accounts for 2014–2015.

This has been a very busy year for us and in addition to the Pujas we have also held a very successful Indian Mela. We have also donated generously to charitable causes. Over the year we have also made capital investments in Puja equipment, sound systems and stationary which is bound to help us in the future.

A surplus in a busy year amidst a bleak overall financial climate has only been made possible by the hard work put in by our members. I thank you for all your help. I would also like to thank Mr Neeleem Saha, Dr Sandip Raha and Mr Dipak Kundu for their invaluable help. The accounts will look rosier soon due to their invaluable work in Gift Aid collection.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Shiladitya Sinha

Wales Puja Committee Accounts 2013-14

	Income		Expense
Durga Puja 2014			
Donations	6604.32	Hall Hire (inc. gas and electricity)	507.12
Advert	400.00	Catering	2263.61
Puja Barshiki	295.00	Puja	416.50
Miscellaneous	47.00	Cultural & Equipment	376.93
		Souvenir	399.00
		Puja Barshiki	260.80
		General Expenses	271.00
Total	7346.32		4494.96
Kali Puja 2013			
Donations	783.06	Hall	60.00
Individual Donation	600.00	Puja Samagri	51.49
		Catering Expenses	662.48
		Miscellaneous	142.33
Total	1383.06		916.30
Diwali 2013			
Ticket Sales/RAFFLE	3162.00	Venue and Food	2766.00
		Entertainment	275.00
Total	3162.00		3041.00
Saraswati Puja 2015			
Donations	828.60	Hall Booking	70.00
		Catering	311.88
		Entertainment	50.00
		Puja Provision	90.65
		Miscellaneous	150.00
Total	828.60		672.53
Indian Mela 2015			
ACW Grant	4850.00	Hall Hire & associated costs	1750.00
Stalls & Adverts	1775.00	Advertisement & Marketing	321.98
		Entertainment & Production	3818.61
		Printing	875.57
		Miscellaneous	530.74
		Capital	494.95
Total	6625.00		7791.85
Other Income/ Expenses			
Additional Donations (Nepal Charity)	1213.19	Nepal Donation	1200.00
Regular Donations	900.00	Alzheimers Society UK	200.00
Other Donations	226.83	Dignity Foundation	250.00
		Capital	125.57
		Miscellaneous (including website etc)	659.21
Grand Total	21975.00	Total Outgoing	19351.42
Surplus for the year	2333.58		
Brought forward from			
31/08/2014	£13075.65		
Total in Bank on 31/08/2014		£15,409.23	

The Terrible Tragedy of the Nepal Earthquake

On 25th April 2015, the Nepal earthquake killed more than 9,000 people and injured more than 23,000. Striking with a magnitude of 7.8 on a Richter's Scale, its epicenter was east of the district of Lamjung it triggered an avalanche on Mount Everest, killing 19 climbers (the deadliest day on the slopes of Mount Everest in history). The earthquake triggered another huge avalanche in the Langtang valley leaving 250 people missing.

Hundreds of thousands of people were left homeless with entire villages flattened. Kathmandu saw the destruction of priceless ancient monuments including UNESCO World Heritage sites at the Kathmandu Durbar Square, the Patan Durbar Square, the Bhaktapur Durbar Square, the Changu Narayan Temple and the Swayambhunath Stupa.

Geophysicists had warned for decades that Nepal was vulnerable to deadly earthquakes. Unfortunately, this area remains very much at risk of further deadly quakes as the Indian subcontinent continues to drive into the Asian landmass. The combination of its geology with urbanisation, deforestation and standards of architecture make this a very worrying situation.

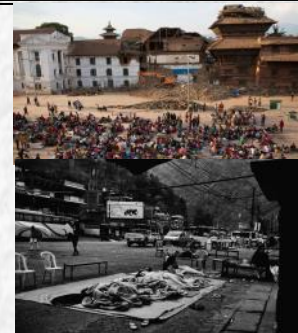
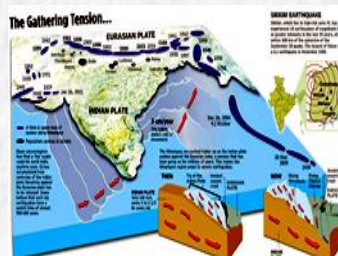
On 12 May 2015, a major aftershock with a magnitude of 7.3 and centred near the Chinese border shook the mountain kingdom killing more than 200 people and injuring more than 2,500. Tremors were also felt in northern parts of India including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and other North-Indian States. At least 153 died in Nepal as a result of the aftershock and about 2,500 were injured. 62 others died in India, two in Bangladesh, and one in China.

The after effects of such major natural disasters are myriad influencing mental health, human trafficking, a struggling health care system, labour cost and availability, property costs, financial inequities, tourism, and local politics. The monsoon also has devastating effects, a landslide on 11 June claimed 53 lives whilst a glacial lake burst its destabilised banks flooding the hard hit Solukhumbu district.

A huge international aid and rescue mission has been mounted and this continues with its valuable work today.

At the WPC, we felt that we could use the Indian Mela to launch a fund raiser - we raised £1200 during the Mela and the St David's Hall staff kindly continued the collections in a musical programme later that evening. We have contributed £600 to Global Action Nepal who focus on the social, educational and psychological aspects of disaster relief and £600 to Bharat Shevashram who have an impressive track record of mounting relief efforts after major disasters. We are grateful to all those who contributed to our effort.

Dr Shiladitya Sinha



From: Global Action Nepal <globalactionnepal@googlemail.com>
Date: 13 June 2015 11:03:24 BST
To: Shiladitya Sinha
Subject: From Global Action Nepal



Dear Dr. Sinha,

I just wanted to confirm receipt of the very generous cheque for £600 from the Wales Puja Committee. We are very grateful for your support, and will keep you updated about our work in Nepal.



With very best wishes and gratitude,

Chris Sutton
Global Action Nepal

From: Bharat Sevashram Sangha <bharatsevashram@gmail.com>
Date: 19 July 2015 15:10:17 BST
To: Sankar Das
Subject: Re: Donation



Dear Sir,

Please find herewith attached file of official receipt.

We are very glad to acknowledge the receipt of your kind donation of Rs 58,000.00. The Bharat Sevashram Sangha immediately after the disastrous earthquake in Nepal started Relief work from its Kathmandu Ashram - Sri Sri Pranavananda Ashram, Kumarigal, Kathmandu from 26th April Last. Our Nepalese Monks started rescue and shelter arrangement immediately and later food distribution in and around Kathmandu.

On 29th April, our Monks reached Sindhupal Chak , the most affected area in Bagmati Zone, some 40 Kms. off Kathmandu at 3000 meters high from Kathmandu level. Monks and volunteers are distributing Rice, Dal, Baby Food, Biscuit, Musterd Oil. Dry foodstuff, Blankets, Tarpaulins at Kalimol, Raili, Dara, Katari, Jhula, Sakhu of Shankarpur Pipal Chowr, Dhakhal Thok Area. Later it distributed in Pattak, Lapsibhedi - II in Sindhupal area. Mr. Dipak Prasad Kuikel, M. P. Mr. Maitra Tahel, an eminent social worker and President of Maitree Parisad Nepal Kedar Bisto Shyam, Sunder Kaicee, Pricipal - Raja Ram Yadav were always with our relief team which is assisted by 10 Monks and 20 volunteers from India also.

Military vehicles are assisting us in transportation of Relief Articles. So far, the monks and volunteers have distributed Rice - 40 M. Tons, Pulse (Dal) - 8 M. Tons, Tarpaulins - 2500 Pcs., Saree - 400 Pcs., Blankets - 2500 Pcs.

Nepalese embassy in Kolkata headed by Mr. Chandra Ghimiree has expressed his gratitude for undertaking Relief work in remote areas of Nepal.

Hope your kind support and sympathy will continue in the future also. May God Bless you,
Yours sincerely,

SWAMI BISWATMANANDA
Gen Secretary,
BSS



Mystery of Subhash Chandra Bose (Netaji)

"Give me blood and I will give you freedom" was the mantra Subhash Chandra Bose gave to his army in 1942 -43 in East Asia. The Indian National Army (INA) was to fight against the British rule in India and secure independence.

During our childhood all we learnt from our history books was that India's independence was exclusively due to the nonviolent efforts Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru sacrifice, this narrative was also spread by the media and supported by our ruling class. We were taught and indoctrinated into thinking that British left India due to non co-operation and non-violent movement of Congress and Gandhi and this resulted in 3 decades of the Nehru family holding centre stage and power in independent India.

During 1950's, 70's and 90's two commissions and a committee (Shah Nawaz committee in 1956, Khosla commission in 1970 and Mukherjee Commission in 1999-2005) were set up by the Government in the face of persistent demand by freedom fighters, journalists and Netaji's family to explore the mystery of Netaji's disappearance in 1945. The most recent and detailed of these by the Mukherjee Commission highlighted that there was a secret plan for safe passage of Bose to Russia with knowledge of Japan. It concluded that the so called ashes kept at Renkoji Temple in Japan are not of Netaji. Unfortunately the Indian Parliament in 2006 refused to accept this. It has never explained why it did so!

In recent times there has been steady stream of articles by historians that have generated a wide public interest. All sectors of the media have also delved into this emotive matter and have also investigated the role of the Congress Party and that of Nehru / Indira Gandhi in keeping Netaji's fate a mystery and white washing Netaji's immense contribution to our Freedom Struggle. Anuj Dhar, a well-known journalist and writer has written three books on this issue ("India's Biggest Cover Up", "No Secrets" and the very recently published "What happened to Netaji?"). The Chief Minister of Bengal Mamata Banerjee declassified 64 files related to Subash Bose recently and this has put additional pressure on PM Narendra Modi to declassify the very many more classified files held in New Delhi related to Netaji.

There has been surge of activity in social media (Face Book, What's App & Twitter) about this issue. More than 12000 signatures were collected on Change.org to persuade the Indian Prime Minister's Office to declassify the secret files as promised by Mr Modi whilst campaigning for the last Elections. Netaji's family members, friends, interested historians and journalists are going to meet Mr Narendra Modi in mid-October to put apply further pressure.

As we know previous Governments and especially, the Congress & UPA have stated that declassifying these files and unlocking the secrets behind Netaji's disappearance and fate could risk significant damage to India's relationship with various foreign powers.

However, surely the true history of India's struggle for independence is of immense importance as is the need to stop misinforming and properly education our future generations about our history. No country in the world would like to give distorted history of its own independence to its own people. And most certainly not if at the centre of this intrigue and mystery lies one of its major players, a man as important and influential as Subhas Chandra Bose.

I will urge all of you to spread this word and demand truth from the Indian Government. Our courageous and selfless freedom fighters should get their rightful place in the history of our independence.

I have selected but a few of very many news items and have shared them in the next. Most of the protagonists are long dead but history does needs to be rightfully corrected and taught honestly. Even if it takes 70 years or more to do so, the struggle to unmask the truth remains a matter of great validity and importance.



Dr Sandip Raha

Netaji may've been alive after 1945 plane crash, says Didi

Declassifies 64 Files, Pressures Centre To Follow

By Anuj Dhar
There is enough evidence to suggest that Subhas Chandra Bose was not killed in the 1945 plane crash. The Indian government should declassify the files related to his disappearance and fate. The Indian government should also investigate the role of the Congress Party and that of Nehru / Indira Gandhi in keeping Netaji's fate a mystery and white washing Netaji's immense contribution to our Freedom Struggle.



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Some News Paper Clippings highlighting the great Netaji Mystery

Real truth in IB, RAW files: Scholar

Anuj Dhar And Netaji Kin To Meet PM Modi On Oct 14 To Seek Declassification Of Documents Held Abroad

Subhas.Niyogi@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: The contents of the files on Netaji were declassified by the West Bengal government as 'chicken feed' in intelligence terminology when compared to the highly classified documents on the revolutionary that are with the Centre and other foreign governments, said Netaji researcher Anuj Dhar.

"The real files are the ones with central intelligence agencies. Their content can lead to history being rewritten," Dhar told TOI a day after chief minister Mamata Banerjee put all the 'secret' files on Netaji in the public domain.

Dhar, who spearheaded the declassification movement since 2012, said the files in Delhi and other foreign capitals, especially Moscow, can resolve the Netaji mystery. "We have been demanding that the process of declassification of Netaji files must begin from his home state. Now that the West Bengal CM has declassified all 61 files, the onus is on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declassify each and every page on Subhas Chandra Bose held by the Indian government, particularly those that are with the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Research & Analysis Wing (RAW)," he said.

His emphasis on the IB and RAW files is based on the analysis that their contents will be more authentic than those in possession of bureaucrats in the Prime Minister's Office and ministry of Home and ex-

ternal affairs.

"To my understanding, the reluctance to declassify the central government files is because most of them are influenced by the Congress party. In 1946, then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru first proclaimed that Bose had died in a plane crash in Taiwan. Though there was no evidence, this was accepted as the gospel truth by government officials and state historians. No stone was left unturned in the government and those who served it, including bureaucrats, to propagate the so-called truth. Government files were created in the Nehruvian line. The official files, therefore, contain the biased views of those who wrote them. Most of them con-

Government files were created in the Nehruvian line. The official files, therefore, contain the biased views of those who wrote them. Most of them contain the world view of Congress persons and bureaucrats. The truth lies in the intelligence agency files in India and abroad.

Anuj Dhar
NETAJI RESEARCHER



He is of the view that foreign nations will declassify files on Bose if India presses for it. "India has friendly relations with the countries that possess files on Netaji. We see no problem in getting the files declassified if the Indian government makes a proper request at the highest level. During my visit to the UK, former mayor of Harrow Mrinal Chowdhury and I met British parliamentarian Gareth Thomas to seek help to declassify the files. He said there should be no problem in making the files public as the contents were in the realm of history and would have no bearing on present day relations," the researcher explained.

That is significant given that the Indian government has time and again cited the adverse effect it may have on India's foreign relations to stymie the declassification demand.

Dhar pointed out that countries like Russia, UK, US and Germany would readily cooperate to resolve a historical dispute if India used its diplomatic clout. "We have heard the voice of Modi on yoga and several other issues reverberate internationally. India is a very powerful country today, much more powerful than it was 10 years ago. No country will deny its legitimate demand to know what they knew about a leader whom India considers a patriot," Dhar reasoned.

While what happened 70 years ago may not affect India's bilateral relations with foreign nations, there is anxiety among circles about how Indians may react. In several documents, it is believed, the revolutionary is portrayed negatively.

Dhar counters this argument, pointing out that citizens were more mature than the politicians thought. "Why were the Netaji files kept classified in Bengal for so long? I don't see how they could have created a problem were they released a decade ago. I think people know that ministers and bureaucrats had biased views against Subhas Bose. The key question that interests everyone is whether Netaji was alive after 1945 and if the government at the Centre was aware of it," Dhar sums up.

NETAJI MYSTERY

tain the world view of Congress persons and bureaucrats. The truth lies in the intelligence agency files in India and abroad," he said.

Dhar, along with Netaji's kin, is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on October 14. At the last meeting between Bose family and Modi in Kolkata this year, the PM had promised to look into the declassification issue and

KOLKATA Xtra!

IT'S ONE OF THE GREATEST MYSTERIES OF MODERN INDIA: WAS GUNMAN BABA, ALSO KNOWN AS THE ASCETIC OF FAIZABAD, ACTUALLY NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE? SUBHRO NIYOGI, SAHAKI RAY AND A TEAM OF REPORTERS TRACK DOWN SOME PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY INTERACTED WITH HIM AND ARE CONVINCED THAT IT WAS NONE OTHER THAN THE CHARMATIC LEADER HIMSELF, LIVING UNDER AN ASSUMED IDENTITY. READ ON TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY



ENDING ENIGMA

Subhro Niyogi, Sahaki Ray, and a team of reporters track down some people who actually interacted with him and are convinced that it was none other than the charismatic leader himself, living under an assumed identity. Read on to find out what they have to say.

Netaji, The Saint?

A... The partial declassification of Netaji files by the Mamata Banerjee government has added another dimension to the seven-decade mystery: what are the political parties up to? Madhuparna Das finds out

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Missing in action since 1945 !!

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

Now is the time to know the truth!

Excessive state secrecy has kept the Netaji mystery alive for decades. Let's take a pledge to end it. Let's ask our Government to release all secret Bose files.

Support us by joining the movement... Jai Hind !!
Email: Netajimiss@red.com, Ph: 943-909-3455, 903-250-0939

The Netaji Files: The Truth is Out There

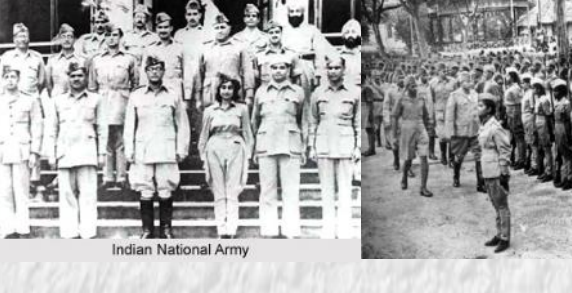
The partial declassification of Netaji files by the Mamata Banerjee government has added another dimension to the seven-decade mystery: what are the political parties up to? Madhuparna Das finds out

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Scribe who read between the lines

Aravind Subhas... The scribe who read between the lines... Aravind Subhas... The scribe who read between the lines...



Indian National Army

**DEADVLEI,
A DESERT PARADISE OF MYSTIC DUNES AND GHOST TREES**
DR SUPRATIK CHAKRABORTY



"I've seen things.... you people wouldn't believe.
Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion.....
I watched C-beams glitter in the dark near the Tannhäuser Gate.
All those moments will be lost in time, like tears in rain. Time to die."

The last few lines from the epic sci-fi Blade Runner came into my mind. I was standing in the middle of the vast clay pan of Deadvlei, surrounded by thousand year old petrified dead trees. I watched the African sun turn the massive sand dunes of the oldest desert in the world into unreal shades of colour ranging from red to orange to yellow.

A photo published in National Geographic can totally change the course of a country and its tourism. The peaceful Quaker community in rainforest of Costa Rica found that, when one photo of a Resplendent Quetzal bird on the cover of Nat Geo magazine in 1983 led to hundreds of photo enthusiasts braving the torrential rain and invading the tranquil community with their lenses and tripods. Costa Rica grabbed the opportunity with both hands. Quetzals became less visible, roads were built, Quakers moved away but the national GDP increased.

About twelve years back Frans Lanting, possibly the most revered nature photographer, published an article on Namibia in Nat Geo. The centrepiece of that article was the Dead Vlei (Dead Marsh) in Namib Desert.

Thousands of years back Tsauchab River ran through this pan. Water was abundant and giant Camel Thorn trees grew along the river bank. Climate changed, river dried up, sand dunes moved in from all sides. These were the largest dunes in the world. The area got cut off and the intense heat sucked the last drop of moisture. The extreme dry weather and heat killed all the trees very quickly but at the same time that also prevented them from rotting and Deadvlei became the graveyard.

Now those dead trees stand as sentinels in the middle of the Deadvlei, getting sand blasted by the fierce wind and gradually getting thinner. They will be gone in next ten thousand years. Only sand will remain forever.

Since Lanting's mind-blowing photos these dead trees have become a Holy Grail for any photo enthusiasts and I had been dreaming for the last five years of watching the sun rise and set over the Deadvlei from the top of the biggest of all the sand dunes in the world: "Big daddy."

I huffed and puffed to the top behind couple of fit Germans, not once but twice. Sunrise and sunset! African sun rising or setting over the endless horizon is something which cannot be replicated anywhere else. A giant ball of fiery orange. I muttered "Om Jabakusum Sankasham" and my daughter said, "Dad, the sun looks exactly like the sun on the cover of the Lion King DVD." Generation gap!!

I stood on the top of the huge sand dunes with their voluptuous curves turning from yellow to orange to red while the sky showed colours comparable to Aurora Borealis. I felt I was transported to the world of Arrakkis, created by Frank Herbert in his Dune novels and I was the Muaddib, The Messiah of the Dunes. The silence was only pierced from time to time



And then came the fun part. It had taken me an hour to climb to the top of Big Daddy but took two minutes to come running down the slope straight into Deadvlei.

I asked my wife how she felt. She told me it was no big deal as she had already seen this in Amir Khan's movie Ghajini and the song sequence of Guzaris. I was gobsmacked. Bollywood had reached here also. The pristine beauty of Pangong Tso at Ladkha had been ruined by idiots invading the shores and posing like "Three Idiots".

Thankfully those idiots have not managed to reach Deadvlei yet.

I now need to find a pristine place before Bollywood does. Any suggestions?



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ROSE AYLNER, ONE OF MANY REMARKABLE SOULS OF A KOLKATA PAST

Dr Ranjit Sinha Ray



'Why have you brought me here?' asked Lata.
'Do you know Landor?'
'Landor? No.'
'You've never heard of Walter Savage Landor?'
asked Amit, disappointed.
'Oh yes. Walter Savage Landor. Of course. "Rose
Aylmer, whom these watchful eyes."
'Wakeful. Well, she lies buried here. As does
Thackeray, father and one of Dickens' sons, and
the original for Byron's Don Juan,' said Amit, with
a proper Calcuttan pride.
'Really' said Lata. 'Here? Here in Calcutta?' It was
as if she had suddenly heard that Hamlet was the
Prince of Delhi. 'Ah, what avails the scepted race?'
'Ah, what the form devine!' continued Amit.
'What every virtue, ever grace!' cried Lata with
sudden enthusiasm.
'Rose Aylmer, whom these watchful eyes ----
'continued Lata.
'Wakeful.'
'Sorry, wakeful. Rose Aylmer, whom these wakeful
eyes----'
'May weep, but never see,' said Amit, brandishing
his umbrella.
'A night of memories and sighs,'
'I consecrate to thee.'

The above passage has been picked up from Vikram Seth's bestseller 'The Suitable Boy'. In the novel this conversation takes place within the aging walls of the South Park Street Cemetery in Kolkata, Lata, very much at the centre of the novel was looking at the tomb of Rose Aylmer with Amit, one of her suitors. Earlier this year, I was engulfed by overwhelming emotions when I visited this heritage site. Even though British colonial rule in India ended in 1947, every cornucopia of our lives today remain littered with their influence. their language and culture. However much we hate those colonised times, and the British did leave us with a permanent scar in our psyche, we have remained imbibed in their language and cultural heritage.

The South Park Street cemetery was opened in 1767 and closed in 1790. In those few years it had grown overcrowded and the last tomb erected was in 1830. The harsh weather, marshy conditions and the heat and dust of the then Calcutta, along with an army of diseases (often undiagnosed and often

untreated) such as Cholera, Malaria, Smallpox, 'Arracan fever' resulted in a great many deaths amongst the British settlers. Numerous infants and the young succumbed to the wrath of the mother nature. The larger North Park Street Cemetery was thus opened, and it remains the active burial ground for Christians in today's Kolkata.

Many of the dead were pioneers in the building and propagation of the British Empire in India. When they died rather prematurely they were entombed inside the South Park Street cemetery with great funerary pageantry. Many famous historical names appear in a booklet published by the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia, in collaboration with Christian Burial Board (christianburialboardkolkata.com) and the Association for the Preservation of Historical Cemeteries in India (APHCI). In it I was amazed to find many of the architects of the British Empire in India, and also many influential in the structuring and restructuring of modern India. As I read and reflected on these names, I had to reluctantly accept their positive impact on our own lives.

Some succumbed to accidents, such as Captain Thomas Prinsep, a close relative of James Prinsep of the 'Prinsep Ghat' fame. James Prinsep was renowned for his efforts to decipher the Brahmi script, which subsequently helped decipher the edicts of the great Emperor Ashoka.

As I entered the hallowed site, a uniquely serene and a tranquil place amidst the hoopla of Kolkata's busy and boisterously cacophonous life, I was filled with a sense of trepidation, of seeing the unexpected. Under its arboreal canopy, in the shade lay scattered numerous cupolas, obelisks, pyramids and classical mausolea sheltering within, the mortal remains of the fallen Empire builders. The architecture recalled the grandeur of Europe, those were the times of Beethoven and Nash as waves of classicism swept their homeland, Britain. Rather than reverence, I reacted with a sense of awe at this time capsule of a life so different from that of our Kolkata, today. Not that I wanted to reach out for this unknown past but I couldn't but help wonder at this most unknown past of my city. I wondered how many 'Kolkatans' ever venture into this magical place with the buried remains men, women, children from an alien Nation who lived, built and died in our city centuries ago and enchained us in their bitter colonial shackles? dwelt in the same city long before us?

I will tell you the stories of some interred here, some famous and historical and some, infamous. I hope that I can jerk your tender soul into bowing down in front of their crumbling tombs, and enrapture you with that 'Golden Past', a past we like to dislike.



Kolkata, a young city, does not have a past of much significance before the British Era, even its creation by Job Charnock is now being questioned as a historical untruth. Charnock was buried in the St John's Churchyard, near BBD Bagh and I am sure very few 'Kolkataans' visit his beautiful mausoleum or remember him. In that graveyard one can also find tombs of Lady Brabourne and Lady Canning (famed for the sweet, Ledikeni). Lady Brabourne, the wife of the then Governor of Bengal, established the Brabourne College following complaints from Muslim girls about discrimination by the Hindu establishment at the elite Bethune College (established in 1879 by John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune, who is, incidentally, buried at the North Park Street Cemetery). The College began in 1939 with 35 Muslim women students and 9 faculty members. Lady Canning, wife of the Governor General of India and famous also for the Ledikeni sweet, was a prolific artist. She arrived in 1856 and died of Malaria in 1861, originally buried in Barrackpore, her remains were shifted to the St John's Churchyard in 2005. There is also a memorial to the victims of the infamous 'Black Hole' erected in the early 20th century by Lord Curzon (the original memorial obelisk was established in 1901 in a corner of what was then the Dalhousie Square, which was removed after protestation by Netaji Subhash Bose and many others during the time). I wonder why this monument still survives today in the heart of the city, whilst most statues of the British dignitaries were removed in the patriotic fervor that swept Independent India. The classic British 'Black Hole' propaganda began against Bengal's last Muslim ruler Nawab Siraj-Ud-Daulah, who had to face all sorts of historical negativism after his loss in the Battle of Plassey in 1757 to Robert Clive's army of the East India Company. The land on which the St John's Church stands today was donated by Maharaja Nabo Kishen Bahadur of Sovabazar Raj family in 1763 as a gesture of his servitude towards the British colonial powers. History will not forget his sycophancy and his treachery, along with that of Mir Jafar, Jagat Seth, Raj Durlabh and Omichand, which brought about the end of Siraj-Ud-Daulah's reign and with it the 'Sunrise' era of the British colonial rule.

Let me not digress away from the story of Rose Aylmer. Reading the 'The Suitable Boy'. a second time around roused my own enthusiasm about the British past in the city. Lord Aylmer's sister Rose Whitworth Aylmer was a carefree girl of seventeen. Deeply in love, she was roamed the mountains and shores of South Wales, near Swansea with the poet Walter Savage Landor on . In 1798 she was sent to India to join her aunt, Lady Russel, whose husband Sir Henry Russel (of Russel Street fame) was a judge in the High court of Calcutta. Within two years in 1800, Rose died from Cholera and was buried in the South Park Street cemetery. It took a while for this heart breaking news to reach Landor in Swansea. Devastated, he immortalized his lost Rose in his famous poem, "Rose Aylmer":

Ah, what avails the sceptred race, What every virtue, every grace! Rose Aylmer, whom these wakeful eyes A night of memories and of sighs	Ah, what the form divine! Rose Aylmer, all were thine. May weep, but never see, I consecrate to thee.
---	--

Standing before the lovely spiral tomb of Rose Aylmer, this poem was being remembered by the romantics, Lata and Amit. Walter Savage Landor (1775 - 1864) produced a considerable amount of work in various genres in his 89 long and productive years. His poetry was especially sensitive and beautiful, mostly inspired by a succession of romances, such as Rose Aylmer and Rose Paynter. Equally sensitive are his "domestic" poems about his sister and his children. He died in Florence. Landor's famous ode to his beloved Rose was inscribed in 1910 on a plaque on one side of her tomb in Calcutta beneath her name and age and a few lines of pedestrian pentameter:

What was her fate? Death called her tender soul by break of bliss Those few our noxious fate unblasted leaves	long, long before her hour, from the first blossoms, from the buds of joy; in this inclement clime of human life.
---	---

One tomb that attracted me tremendously was that of Henry Louis Vivian Derozio, the famous Anglo-Indian poet and reformer. He was born on the 18th April 1809 in Calcutta, where he died from Cholera on the 26th December 1831 at the age of twenty-two years. As a poet he was influenced by the conventions of his day and his style was an echo of Byron and Moore. He was an assistant headmaster of Hindu College, Calcutta, a radical thinker and one of the first Indian educators to disseminate Western learning and science among the young men of Bengal. Derozio was dissed by the College Directors after having upset orthodox Hindu feelings of the time. Long after Derozio's death (of cholera), his influence lived on among his former students, who came to be known as 'Young Bengal' and many of whom became prominent in social reform, law, and journalism.



One of the tombs in the South Park Street cemetery most intrigued me was that of the 'Hindu Stuart'. Major-General Charles Stuart was an officer in the East India Company Army and is well known for being one of the few British officers to embrace Hindu culture while stationed there, earning the nickname 'Hindu Stuart'. Though Stuart often spoke of his conversion to Hinduism he had not entirely rejected Christian doctrines as he held the Hindu deity Krishna to be the Spirit, God who descends upon earth for the benefit of mankind which he believed was not very inconsistent with Christianity and he was content to be buried in an Anglican cemetery. Stuart died on 31 March 1828 and was buried with his idols at the South Park Street Cemetery in Calcutta, in a tomb which took the form of a Hindu temple. His remarkable collection of antiquities forms the basis of the British



Museum's ancient Hindu and Buddhist sculpture collection from the Indian Subcontinent, now known as the 'Bridge Collection'.

One of the tallest monuments is that of Sir William Jones, the founder of Royal Society of Bengal, an Anglo-Welsh philologist and a puisne judge on the Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, he was scholar of ancient India and a polyglot versant in Several European and oriental languages , particularly known for his proposition of the existence of a relationship among Indo-European languages. He died in Calcutta in 1794 aged 47 and was buried in South Park Street Cemetery. Before his death he translated Poet Jaidev's greatest Sanskrit work 'Gita Govinda' into English.

Other luminaries include Major W. Baillie (died in 1799), to whom we owe so much for his prints on old Calcutta and Sir John Royds (died in 1817), a judge of the Supreme Court after whom Royd Street was named. Indeed many in the list integrated well and appreciated and contributed to the Indian Community even in the turbulent times of the Raj. I wonder what you dear reader would think after stood in that distant shady cemetery, would it be thoughts of awe or anger, of wonderment or dismay? I leave you with these lines on an infants tomb:

*This lovely bud so young and fair,
Called hence by early doom,
Just came to show, how sweet a flower,
In paradise will bloom.*

Why I took up Painting

Anamika Chatterjee



The Idea of Painting of something was always kept in one corner of my mind but it had to wait until a right time and a frame of mind to emerge .

After my retirement from the school I joined an organisation called U3A (The University of the 3rd age). U3A branches are all over UK. I enrolled myself in a painting class in Porthcawl .

Nature's vivid vibrant colours always attracted and made me think about bringing colours and shades together in a painting, hence my love of creating objects captured my mind .

I look at something and sketch it first, I try to keep original colours but I also add a bit of my own vision. I observe an item or an animal or while I am on my regular walking routes I look at things carefully and closely and interpret it in my own paintings. It's not easy, I am still at developing stage, however I am eager to learn from my experienced class mates and specially from a retired art teacher who occasionally visit us and I become her obedient student.

Painting takes a person away from daily boring chores, blocks your mind from unwanted thoughts, concentrating to create something and when that captured picture become your own work, appreciated by family and friends, specially by the achiever, it's a wonderful feelings.

The class is also a social meeting place. We chat, laugh and drink coffee together and during that break we ask for suggestions and advice to improve our work. Above all I enjoy being a creator. I hope over the time I grow into much better artist it takes me into a different level .





Ellora Mukherjee

Age 10 years



Ashmit Saha

Age 7 years

Durga Puja
By Ritija (Rysha) Biswas Age 10 years

*For me Durga Puja is the best time of the year,
A time of festivity, I enjoy with my near and dear,
In a fierce fight she slays Mahisasura the demon,
Thus Maa Shakti bestows peace, love and goodness to every hu-
man,
Temples and idols are adorned in a variety of ways,
The shining lamp spreads a warm glow with its divine rays,
The four days of Durga Puja are full of fun and masti,
And we all sit down to have food so tasty,
Alas she has to return to her beloved Lord Mahdev,
With the promise to return if there is humankind to save.*

RECIPES FROM MY DIDIMONI'S KITCHEN

Didimoni's Trout Macher Jhol

This recipe was verbally given to me by my maternal grandmother. She had lived in the US and UK since the early fifties and had adapted many dishes from Bengal to local ingredients. Even when she was nearly ninety, we could be sure that we would have a feast when we visited my grandparents in Surrey. This is the first fish dish I cooked as a newly married junior doctor.



Ingredients

2 trout fish cut into pieces
Garlic - 1 clove minced or sliced.
Yoghurt - 2 tablespoons
Turmeric powder - 1/4 teaspoon
Cumin powder - 2 heaped teaspoons
Chilli powder - 1 teaspoon or to taste
Fenugreek seeds (Methi) - tiny pinch
Black peppercorns - 6
Salt to taste
Oil - sunflower or any vegetable oil
Potatoes - 2 cut lengthwise (optional).
1/2 teaspoon turmeric and salt to rub on fish
Coriander leaves - chopped finely to garnish (optional).

Method

Rub turmeric and salt on fish.
Heat oil till it is very hot.
Fry fish lightly and remove.
Fry potatoes lightly.
Remove excess oil, leave 1-2 tablespoons in pan.
Reduce heat. Mix turmeric, chilli powder and cumin powder with 2 tablespoons yoghurt.
Add methi seeds to oil (phoron)
Add yoghurt and spice mixture and fry in low heat till oil separates.
Add hot water.
Put in potatoes, peppercorns and garlic pieces.
Add salt to taste
When potatoes are half cooked, add fish pieces.
Cook for 10 minutes on medium heat.
Garnish with coriander leaves
Serve with rice



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Chaats are mouth-watering, savoury and tangy snacks which has the flavours of sweetness, sour and hot effecting your senses. It comes from various regions or corners of India in different styles. It can be Delhi's gol gappa, Mumbai's bhelpuri or Kolkata's puchkas.

Ingredients	Quantity
flour	1 cup
semolina	1 cup
salt	As needed
water	As needed
oil	2 tbsp
Boiled Kala chana	1 tsp
Chopped boiled potato	1 tsp
Chopped tomatoes	1 tsp
Chopped onion	1 tsp
Chopped chilli	½ tsp
Chopped coriander leaves	1 tsp
Tamarind sauce	As needed
Mint sauce	As needed
Chaat masala	½ tsp
yoghurt	1 tsp
Thin sev	1 tsp



Method:

Make a dough with the flour, semolina, salt and water and divide it into medium balls.

Roll them out and deep fry in hot oil till they are crispy.

Once cooled crack the top and fill it up with all chopped ingredients.

Add yoghurt and sauces and garnish with thin sev.



Christina Roy

Indian Mela 2015

Indian Mela 2015 - Event Officer's Report

Wales Puja Committee organized 'Indian Mela 2015' on Level 3 of St David's Hall in Cardiff City Centre on the 16th of May this year. The aim of the event was to further the cause of social cohesion and to give people a better understanding of the cultural diversity of India by showcasing arts, crafts, music, dances and food from the Indian subcontinent under one roof. People attending were able to move around the hall freely and explore any aspect of the event that interested them. The event had many colourful Welsh and English dance and music performances too. This was the third Indian Mela that Wales Puja Committee organized and the second one in St David's Hall. The event was supported by the Arts Council of Wales. The Mela was opened by the First Minister of Wales Rt Hon Carwyn Jones just after 11am. Several dignitaries including the Deputy High Commissioner from the Indian High Commission in Birmingham Dr Virendar Singh attended. A group of professional Punjabi Dhol drummers started playing their Dhols outside the hall as the First Minister arrived and got a huge crowd following them in as the event was opened by the First Minister. Following Indian tradition, the cultural programme started with the chanting of Sanskrit Slokas. Following that was a four hour non-stop extravaganza of dance and music on the open stage and was finished off with a glittering fashion show by several ladies. Musical performances included songs from some well established local Indian singers, a Bengali song by a group of local children of Bangladeshi origin, a harp recital, a mouth organ recital and a Welsh choir performance. There were many dance performances by children and adults - Baul folk dance and a dance with Rabindra Sangeet from Bengal, Bhangra from Punjab, regional dances from Gujarat, Konkan and Rajasthan, Odissi performance by an eminent dancer from Southampton and classical Kathak Dance from North India. There were several colourful performances by a professional Bollywood dancers group called the Bollywoodettes which left the crowd spellbound. There were several performances of colourful Punjabi Bhangra dance by a local professional group. The Dhol drummers performed several times during the day. There were many food stalls, art & craft stalls and stalls by local businesses. There was also an information stall from the National History Museum of Wales in St Fagan's which has been one of the committee's partners on several projects. Public interest in the event was great before, after and during the event. A ceremoniously dressed town crier brought people in and distributed balloons and flyers to children in the city centre. Over the day more than 1300 people visited. The event was featured on the Made in Cardiff TV channel. The positive feedback from all has encouraged the Wales Puja Committee immensely. Many people requested for this to become a yearly event.

Wales Puja Committee also ran its own stall to raise money for the unfortunate victims of the Nepal earthquake. St David's Hall also ran a collection during its show that evening. In total over £1200 was raised. The money raised was distributed through two charities. Overall it was a superb event. Wales Puja Committee would like to thank all those who attended and participated, stall holders, sponsors, the staff of St David's Hall and the Arts Council for all their support. Finally this event could not have been the success that it was without the tireless efforts of the committee members. So a big hats off to them. Look forward to organising the next Mela.

Festive greetings and best wishes

Neeleem Saha.



INDIAN MELA - SATURDAY 16 MAY 2015 LEVEL 3 - ST. DAVID'S HALL

This was the 3rd time that St. David's Hall has hosted the Indian Mela, and worked with the Wales Puja committee. Once again all arrangements were meticulously made in advance, and in consultation with staff at the hall from different departments, including programme planning, house management and stage management. Staff at St. David's Hall were delighted to have the opportunity to host the Indian Mela once again, and to be able to include this multi-cultural celebration as part of the Hall's wider programme of events.

The Mela was attended by the Indian Deputy High Commissioner, Dr Virander Paul, and the Indian Consul in Cardiff - Raj Kumar Aggarwal, with the event officially opened by Rt. Hon Carwyn Jones, First Minister of the National Assembly for Wales. Due to traffic issues, the First Minister arrived late, which caused a slight delay to the opening of the event - but to the credit of the organisers, they were able to adjust the scheduling of performances to make up for the lost time.

Telephone enquiries received by staff prior to the event enquiring about routes into the city centre and car parking, came from all over South Wales, including Merthyr Tydfil, and Newport, and West Wales. Visitors to the Mela were "clicked in" and by the close of the event 1350 people had visited the event, (in addition to the large number of performers, stall holders and organising committee, and dignitaries.)

We were pleased to see many visitors from the Indian community, who are not generally part of the core audience attending St. David's Hall, as well as the rich and culturally diverse programme of performance presented on the Level 3 Daystage. This gave St. David's Hall a chance to engage with a new audience, and to raise awareness amongst the Hall's regular patrons who were able to visit a free, high quality and culturally exciting, diverse event.

Quite a stir was created outside the building with the Dhol performing outside (a dynamic performance by drummers in traditional dress). The event organisers brought in a town crier who worked tirelessly to publicize the event outside on The Hayes, with fliers, and helium balloons to promote the festival, and this brought in curious people from the city centre, many of whom stayed for some time to watch the performances and visit the stalls and sample the food. There was a good attendance by people who had heard in advance about the event, or who had attended previously, and who had made plans to attend, and to have their lunch at the event at one of the Indian food stalls. We noted one severely disabled young man, who had wanted his support worker to bring him, who stayed for several hours to watch the performances.

The performances showcased Indian cultural diversity brilliantly, with superb musicianship, poetry readings, songs, and dance from several different regions of India, and of course, Bollywood! The event was rounded off with a fashion show. The organisers worked closely with out stage technicians to achieve a highly professional and seamless presentation - this was a great opportunity for many of the young performers to work with high calibre theatre technicians who have worked with major stars and events including BBC Cardiff Singer of the World.

Visitors to the event were also able to visit a range of stalls, including several selling a range of authentic Indian cuisine, arts and crafts, to experience hand painting and to learn more about Indian culture, .

In addition and of note - money was collected throughout the day in aid of the Nepal Earthquake, and staff at St. David's Hall were given permission by Christy Moore's management to collect at the end of his show later that evening, which brought the total collected throughout the day to over £1,000.

Jane Bailey
Senior House Manager, St David's Hall



Calcutta to Cardiff - A tale of 2 cities

If a crow from Cardiff, in United Kingdom ever felt like having Arsalan Biryani, It has to fly 10,000 kms to reach Calcutta (or Kolkata). That's how far both cities are geographically. However, having spent a lot of memorable time in both the cities, the cities can be quite similar in more ways than you can imagine. Both cities are warm, welcoming and have a passion for art- and both cities celebrate Durga Puja with gusto. In any part of the world where there are 3 Bengali families you can be sure of 3 things - there will be good food available, there will be debate on the conspiracy of Netaji's disappearance and there will be at least one Durga Puja celebration! Cardiff has more than 4 Bengali families, hence there is an abundance of all the above. Cardiff is also my current and adopted home but Kolkata is where my roots lie.

I have been quite intimately involved in Durga Puja in both the cities - having been the organising Secretary for the Durga puja organised by Wales Puja Committee for the last 2 years. I have also seen Durga Puja from very close quarters in my residential complex (Green View) in Kolkata, having been involved in all aspects of the puja from my early teens. Comparing the puja's in both the cities is like comparing the acting styles of Shahrukh Khan &



Amitabh Bachchan - you have passionate fans for both, as well as critics, but no one will disagree on their uniqueness.

Lets get the not so nice things out of the ways! There is politics, backbiting and (quite a bit of) PNPC in both places. But, any celebration organised by Bengalis will be incomplete without these and any dal will be tasteless without a bit of tadka! However, there is also a lot of camaraderie, support and being there for each other when needed.

The money for organising my local puja in Kolkata, unlike Cardiff, comes a lot from voluntary contributions aka Chanda and advertisements printed in the souvenir. The advertisements are given not for publicity but because you "know" someone. Its not unusual to have advertisements just saying "from a well wisher" - thus avoiding requests to be a "well wisher" for other pujas. The Puja preparations in Green View starts from 15th August, when the first meeting takes place for election of office bearers for the puja. I remember sitting in these meetings, where people are gently coaxed and cajoled and emotionally blackmailed into accepting the post. - not very dissimilar to what happens in Cardiff! The initial agenda revolves around budgeting and one very important topic - selection of the natok to be staged. Rehearsals starts in earnest very soon after that. The rehearsals used to start very late evenings, and could continue till midnight, to rehearse for a 5 min role. However, the fun of these rehearsals can only be experienced and not explained. Having all the characters available is as common as Dhoni throwing a tantrum during a cricket match.

Its amazing how this aspect of staging a natok is so similar in my local puja in Kolkata & WPC. However, Mr Steve Jobs does offer a helping hand in Cardiff, with rehearsals often happening through Skype and face time .

The other activity which excites one and all in both cities is food - which is hardly a surprise being a Bengali celebration. Everyone who comes during puja in Cardiff is served lunch & dinner. As the number of people who will be attending is like guessing which country Modiji will be visiting next, its been known that we have had to cook pots of khichuri/vegetable very late evening to feed hungry mouths. But "pritibhoj" or a banquet is outsourced in Kolkata, with cooks constructing clay ovens to come up with mouth-watering food. Unlike Cardiff , however , it's a sit down meal with extra servings offered - if you are nice to the person serving, and have a winsome smile.

Excitement builds as puja days draw near and who can forget getting up early



morning to listen to Mahalaya? However in Cardiff arrival of puja is indicated by increasing number of phone calls between puja committee members using the Bengali version "Houston - We have a problem!" Going to get the pratima in Kolkata finally meant puja has arrived. This happened middle of night (I never have figured why) and travelling to Kumartuli in a truck and getting Ma Durga back to the decorated mandap to the sound of blowing conches.

The puja days in both places passes in a blur of laughter, fun, adda & good food. Of course in Cardiff its more of everyone have to work together as a team to make the puja an event remember and enjoy for all. It goes without saying organising the puja by WPC ,has made all of us quite good leaders, carpenters, painter, decorator, cook, cleaner, accountant, and general problem solver. It's a challenge to transport puja in Kolkata to these far shores, with limited resources but you will not hear a word of complaint from any of us doing the hard work. And the greatest reward is when someone visits from Kolkata and tells you "I didn't miss my para puja this time"



Dr Raja Biswas



From the Desk of Anuj Dhar Subhash Chandra Bose researcher & "Mission Netaji" activist

India is going through a period of great churning over Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Stories about him are appearing at regular interval across media—print, electronic and digital. All major national channels in their prime time have beamed heated discussions, which invariably centered on the fate of Netaji.

This high point in what is arguably India's longest running political controversy has come about due to the concerted efforts of pressure group "Mission Netaji"—of which this writer is a part. Beginning 2006, we started rebranding the old "conspiracy theory" about Netaji's fate to an issue of transparency. A series of freedom of information (known as Right to Information in India) revelations helped us in flagging the issue before the nation. In 2007, our very first case yielded a startling response from the Home Secretary that disclosing certain Top Secret records about Bose's fate "may lead to a serious law and order problem in the country, especially in West Bengal".

In the last few years there has been a great advancement in our understanding of what happened to Bose. This has helped us to clear the cobwebs to a great extent. To the effect that it pinpoints that whatever happened to Netaji can be boiled down to just 3 options. One, he died in an air crash. Two, he was in Soviet Russia, where he was liquidated at the behest of Jawaharlal Nehru, going by India's No. 1 conspiracy theory. Three, he lived as holy man in north India right up to 1985, when he would have been 88 years old.

Bose's reported death in a plane crash 70 years ago left in its wake a jittery establishment, not sure if colonial India's Enemy No 1 was really dead. "I suspect it very much, it is just what should be given out if he meant to go underground," observed Viceroy Archibald Wavell on the day he heard the Japanese announcement. A few days later, the first spotting of Bose after his death was reported. Not by a gullible native, but by an American journalist embedded with the US army.

Since Bose's body or a picture of it was not produced to substantiate the suspect Japanese account, intelligence sleuths and military officers mounted investigations. They came across intelligence, even from Soviet sources, that Bose might have escaped to the Soviet Union. Post Independence, Bose continued to haunt the powers that be and heaps of classified material on him were generated. The files about Bose are known to exist in other countries as well. But how can India seek access to them as long as she is sitting on a pile of her own? With that aim in mind, Mission Netaji's endeavour right from start has been to make "transparency" and "the Prime Minister of India" the focal of the issue. We have succeeded to a great extent. The West Bengal Government last month declassified a part of its tranche. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee upon the release accepted that there was evidence that Bose was alive after 1945.

The ball now is in the court of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As we go to press, he is scheduled to meet the Bose family members and others, including this writer, to thrash out the matter.

Things have reached this pass with the active participation of the diaspora. Already, the demand is permeating outside India. On the foreign front, the Netaji Subhas Foundation, UK has taken the lead. In June 2015, the foundation's head Suhas Khale invited me give a series of lectures across the UK. Of these, the ones at the YMCA hall in London, Cambridge University and London Business School were sort of high point as even a year ago it was unimaginable to think that the Netaji mystery matter would be discussed at such exalted places. At the invitation of Dr Sandip Raha, I also visited Cardiff for a session.

Thanks to Mrinal Chaudhury, a former Mayor of the London Borough of Harrow and part of the foundation, the current Mayor at a public function feted me. This was the first time I was felicitated by any government authority anywhere. By the time I left the UK for India, Anirban Mukhopadhyay, who had coordinated and worked out the UK programmes on behalf of the foundation, had been thinking of another 'INA', the International Netaji Association. In a good sign, my American tour kicks off in October 2015, thanks to NRI's Abhishek Bose, Sourav Das and Sudip Mukhopadhyay. The time to settle the truth about Netaji has come.

Anuj Dhar will be visiting the UK in November. Please contact Sandip Raha in Cardiff or Anirban Mukhopadhyay in London for further information.

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About me

I trained as a Physiotherapist and worked in the NHS for many years. It was during my time in the NHS that my interest in psychotherapy first came about.

I trained as a counsellor at Re-Vision Centre for Integrative Psychosynthesis in London. This 3-year training enables me to draw on theory and practice from a wide range of orientations so that I can adapt my approach to suit your needs. My background has given me a long established practice of developing one to one therapeutic relationships and a particular interest in a holistic practice incorporating body, mind, spirit and soul.

I currently combine my private practice with my role as a voluntary counsellor at Journeys, a charity for people suffering from depression.

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