

DURGA & KALI PUJA 2017

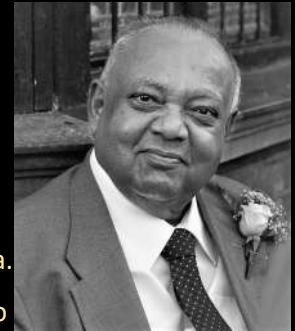


Wales Puja Committee

www.pujainwales.com

Registered Charity No 1050138

Rupendra Kumar Majumdar
27.07.1933 to 15.02.2017



A husband, a father, a friend and, above all a good doctor.

Rupendra Kumar Majumdar whom we fondly called Rupenda made a home in the society he lived in as he did, in all our hearts. His personality oozed magnanimity and he remained true to his code of morality as was befitting of a gentleman of his era.

Born in India in the summer of 1933 Rupenda, the youngest in his family was doted to bits. Having had the luxury of an affluent family he went through the rigours of formal education and in the late 50s qualified as a medic from National Medical College in Kolkata. As life sped on an insatiable urge to explore new worlds led him to the shores of England in the early 60s. After the preliminary years of adjustments, his nomadic life took refuge in beautiful Wales.

In 1966 Rupenda tied the knot of a long lasting matrimonial liaison with the most beautiful Jharnadi. He was later blessed with two bright boys who today hold their own in personality and loyalty.

Rupenda's home was not just going to be fettered to his immediate family, as his contagious and cheeky smile endeared him to all, stretching his social boundaries and tearing down walls of doubt. He marched up the social ladder holding hands of approval and finally in the early to mid 70s he became the pioneer lead in the inception of Wales Puja Committee. His contributions to WPC have been phenomenal. He had a major contribution in making WPC a charity. Over decades of Puja one could always see him in the front seat and with an infectious smile. Indeed, he was our most senior Trustee.

There are multiple facets to a man's personality and Rupenda was no exception. He loved company and you could hear him a pitch over the others in his own lovable way.

He loved his food and never said no to a tipple. He treated life well and in return, life treated him well. His house remained the hub of many social activities and a place for countless 'Addas' (informal chit-chat & banter).

Who was to know, that one day, his bellowing laughter would cease and you'd never get to see his indomitable smile again. After a protracted period of ill health the giant gave in. But, he lives on, 'Proud' in death as he was in life.

Rupenda you live within us and will remain there till our last days. We love you dearly and pay our homage to your magical life.

Ashok Mukherjee

PROGRAMME

SASHTHI & BODHAN

Tuesday 26TH. September

PUJA 6- 8PM;

REFRESHMENTS/PRASAD/ BHOG 8:30 -10PM

SAPTAMI

Wednesday 27TH. September

PUJA, PUSHPANJALI & BHOG 11AM – 2PM

EVENING ARATI, ANJALI 6:30 - 7PM

CULTURAL PROGRAMME 7:30 - 8PM

REFRESHMENTS/PRASAD/ BHOG 8:30 -10PM

ASHTAMI

Thursday 28TH. September

PUJA, PUSHPANJALI & BHOG 11AM – 1:30PM

CHANDI PATH 2 - 2:25PM

SANDHI PUJA 2:35 - 3:30PM

EVENING ARATI, ANJALI 7:15 –8:30PM

DHUNUCHI NAACH 8:30PM

REFRESHMENTS/PRASAD/ BHOG 9-10PM

NAVAMI

Friday 29TH. September

PUJA, PUSHPANJALI & BHOG 11AM – 2PM

YAGNA/HAVAN 2-3PM

EVENING ARATI,, ANJALI 6:30 - 7:30PM

CULTURAL PROGRAMME 7:45 - 8:45PM

REFRESHMENTS/PRASAD/ BHOG 9-10PM

DASHAMI

Saturday 30th September

PUJA, VISHARJAN 10-1:30PM

SINDOOR KHELA 1:30 - 2:15PM

KROSSWINDZ 7-9:30PM

BHOJAN 9:30PM

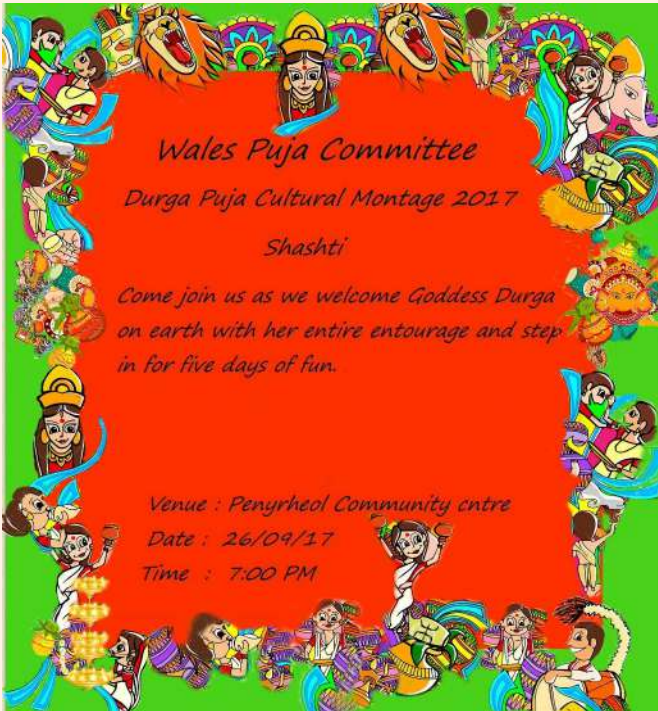


KALI PUJA Wednesday 18th October from 7:30PM.

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



Wales Puja Committee
Durga Puja Cultural Montage 2017
Shashti

Come join us as we welcome Goddess Durga on earth with her entire entourage and step in for five days of fun.

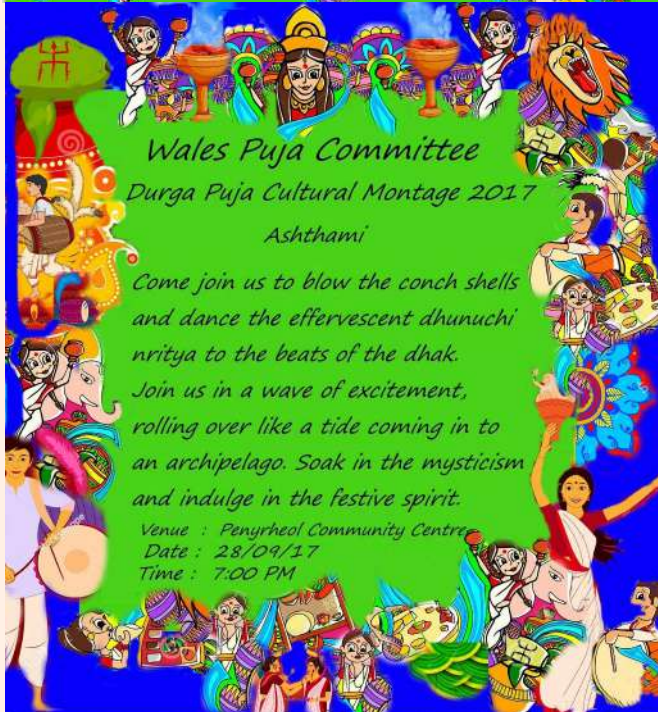
Venue : Penyrheol Community Centre
 Date : 26/09/17
 Time : 7:00 PM



Wales Puja Committee
Durga Puja Cultural Montage 2017
Saptami

A cultural medley awaits you this evening. The religious fervour, optimism, warmth and cultural profoundness of the evening promises to transcend all imagination.

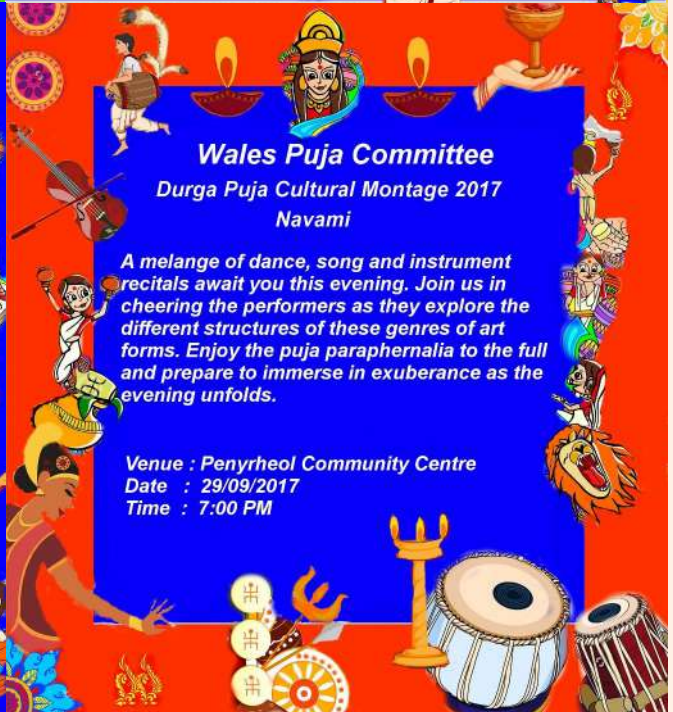
Venue : Penyrheol Community Centre
 Date : 27/09/2017
 Time : 7:00 PM



Wales Puja Committee
Durga Puja Cultural Montage 2017
Ashthami

Come join us to blow the conch shells and dance the effervescent dhunuchi nritya to the beats of the dhak. Join us in a wave of excitement, rolling over like a tide coming in to an archipelago. Soak in the mysticism and indulge in the festive spirit.

Venue : Penyrheol Community Centre
 Date : 28/09/17
 Time : 7:00 PM



Wales Puja Committee
Durga Puja Cultural Montage 2017
Navami

A melange of dance, song and instrument recitals await you this evening. Join us in cheering the performers as they explore the different structures of these genres of art forms. Enjoy the puja paraphernalia to the full and prepare to immerse in exuberance as the evening unfolds.

Venue : Penyrheol Community Centre
 Date : 29/09/2017
 Time : 7:00 PM



Krosswindz is primarily a contemporary folk-fusion band, focusing on world music with soulful songs that are lyric oriented. Krosswindz have been enthralling audiences all over the world for the last 27 years. Krosswindz's sound is synonymous with the music of Bengal and India with a blend of folk music traditions from around the world. The result- a potpourri of sounds deeply rooted in the soil that touches the heart and speaks the common language of humankind.

This concert has been organised jointly with Kallol, Puja of Amsterdam, Durga Puja organisers from Southampton and with funding support from Night Out. Dinner will be provided by Haveli.

Wales Puja Committee
Grand Bijoya Sammelani

Krosswindz

SOULFUL CONTEMPORARY FOLK-FUSION WORLD-MUSIC

SEPT 30th 2017 7:00PM

Penyrheol Community Centre
 Heol Aneurin Caerphilly CF83 2PC

Adults: £10 Children (6-16)/ Conc.: £5 Under 6s: Free
 For tickets call
 Sandip 07957251448
 Neeleem 07886808034
 Kausik 07931317935
 Miku 07889522530

Supported by
www.pujainwales.com



Message from Chair Person

Dear all,

Welcome to our autumn festival and another year of celebrations, goodwill and friendship.

Last year (2016-17) has been very eventful for Wales Puja Committee and also the wider community in and around Cardiff & south Wales.

With your support and active participation we successfully completed our biggest project ever, "*Heritage of Durga Puja & Clay Image making in Wales*". Many hours of dedication and hard work culminated in our new five piece image. In addition to the booklet for the schools, a larger souvenir to be kept, a very illustrative and colourful book was created to preserve this project and our history for years to come. A successful launch of a film on this subject was held on 13th August in Chapter House and was very well received by all including our invited guests and our project partners.

We also participated in various community events around Cardiff including Indian Independence Day celebrations, cultural programmes for Hindu Mela and the Indian High Commissioner's visit to Cardiff to name a few. This has only been possible due to ongoing dedication of our talented performers and organisation.

Our Durga Puja was a great success last year and Jeet & Ranjana treated us with Bollywood extravaganza on Dashami night. Our cultural officers and in-house performers showed their superb talents during Durga Puja evening including Sashthi for the first time. Our Puja last year was also graced with Julie Morgan, Ifor Aap Glyn (Welsh poet laureate), local AM / Councillors and our partner organisations from Heritage project. We have thus managed to reach out to a wider community of local people and this is the prime example of our effort towards preservation cultural diversity in South Wales.

Our Kali Puja and Saraswati Pujas were well attended and children programme showed the quality particularly during Saraswati Puja.

I offer my sincere thanks to our Priests Mr Kanai Chatterjee and Mr Anirban Mukhopadhyay and their other halves namely Anamika Chatterjee & Tamasree Mukhopadhyaya. Their tireless work, devotion and support during Pujas have been our great asset.

As ever Penyrheol management has been very supportive and Mr Ken Harris who deserves special mention. Our Heritage film was edited and produced by Valley & arts, Ms Tracy Pallant and we are thankful for her superb work.

Finally my heartfelt thanks to all committee members, our partners in project as well as wider community including three schools (Especially Radyr Comprehensive) who made our heritage project so successful.

May Goddess Durga bless us all for peace, success, happiness and health.

Sandip Raha



Message from Secretary

Hello friends!

It's that time of the year again. A sudden crispness in the air heralds a clear autumn sky and a gentle breeze. As nature turns the world into a big orange canvas, the stage is set for Ma Durga to visit us with her entourage.



We are in the 44th year of WPC's Durga puja celebrations and what an year it has been so far! The highlight has been the completion of our clay image making and heritage project, which ended with its film and book launch. A special mention to all the coordinators, members and non members, as well as kids, who worked tirelessly to make this a roaring success. Last year's Puja saw the unveiling of our new Pratima and a special programme was organised on Shashti, to mark the occasion. The other highlights of the year were Kali Puja, Diwali Party and Saraswati Puja, all celebrated with much pomp and grandeur.

There are several traditions and rituals associated with Durga Puja and Wales Puja Committee tries to maintain every single one of them. During these five days, the Puja fever here in Cardiff is no less than that in Bengal. Our Puja has a very homely feel to it, with all taking time out of their busy schedule to take part in the Puja paraphernalia. Our priests along with the puja management team conduct every ritual with utmost devotion, dedication and sincerity.

It is said that a festival is a tool to usher in enthusiasm and exuberance in mundane daily life. And this year's festival will be no different with the Puja complemented by great food and a superb cultural programme.

WPC as a community has gained a rich tradition of inclusiveness and camaraderie that is well displayed in its cultural programmes. With each passing year, our performers grow in numbers and the quality of our programmes keep getting better and better. Last year's programme was a huge success and this year promises to be even better. With the cultural officer and her team rehearsing day in day out since June you can expect nothing less than sheer poetry in motion. And how can we forget the delicious food served up during Pujas! Every year we showcase some of the best culinary delights from Bengal. And this year as well, the catering officer along with her team are all geared to stir up a gastronomic storm. A lot of hard work and dedication goes into each preparation, and trust you me, it becomes a lot harder when the number of devotee turn outs is unpredictable. Like every year, delicious meals would be served twice a day. For our second Bijoya Sammiloni in succession, we will have Krosswindz, a leading Bengali Folk/Rock band. They will make the crowd dance to their tunes whilst like last year, Haveli, the restaurant chain, would be serving a lavish dinner for the occasion.

It is an honour to serve you all and to join hands with my seniors and predecessors, to take WPC forwards in a climate of cultural pluralism and promote understanding and unity of our rich cultural differences. I welcome you to join us in our Puja celebrations and take the festive fervour a few notches higher. Our celebrations would be incomplete without you! I promise you the warmth and festive profoundness would transcend all imagination.

Niladri Chakraborty

Wales Puja Committee Accounts 2016-17

| | Income | | Expense |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--|---------------------|
| Durga Puja 2016 | | | |
| Donations | 6083.28 | Hall Hire (inc. gas and electricity) | 650.00 |
| Advert | 745.00 | Puja Samagree and Expenses | 3679.33 |
| Puja Barshiki | 270.00 | | |
| Total | 7179.00 | Total | 4329.33 |
| | | Net | Gain 2849.67 |
| Bijoya Sammelani 2016 | | | |
| | 810.00 | Expenses (Hall, artists, food) | 1325.00 |
| | | Net | Loss 510 |
| Kali Puja 2016 | | | |
| Donations | 750.00 | Hall | 80.00 |
| | | Puja Samagree and Expenses | 840.00 |
| Total | 750.00 | Net | Loss 180.00 |
| Diwali 2016 | | | |
| Ticket Sales | 2319.00 | Expenditure (Venue and Food) | 2415.00 |
| RAFFLE | 515.00 | | |
| Total | 2834.00 | Net | Gain 419.00 |
| Saraswati Puja 2017 | | | |
| Donations | 868.00 | Expenditure (Hall Booking, Puja Samagree, Cultural, Food, Misc) | 1069.75 |
| Total | 868.00 | Net | Loss 201.75 |
| Making of Durga 2016-2017 | | | |
| HLF Payment | 8160.00 | Expenditure | 5496.46 |
| | | Net | Gain 2664.46 |
| Regular Donations | 310.00 | Other Expenses on website, survey tools, tablets, insurance, transport costs, HCW membership etc | 3720.64 |
| | | Charity Donations | |
| | | Banchbo | 100.00 |
| | | Y Bwthyn Palliative Care Unit | 100.00 |
| Grand Total | 20911.00 | Total Outgoing | 19476.18 |
| Surplus for the year | 1434.82 | Auction money collected and donated to CRY - £315.00 | |
| Brought forward from 31/08/2016 | £16842.79 | | |

Addendum to Wales Puja Committee Accounts of 2015- 16 after review of HLF expenses

| Income | | Expenses | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Accounts from 2016 souvenir, 30/08/16 | 16559 | Shown in Souvenir | 12207.00 |
| Monthly donation correction | 120 | HLF Project till 30/08/16 | 14789.66 |
| Unpaid advert | 250 | | |
| Corrected Income | 16189 | Total | 26997.00 |
| Charity Fund raising (non income) | 1750 | | |
| Adjusted Income | 14439 | | |
| Grant from HLF | 10200 | | |
| Grand Total | 24639 | Deficit | 2358.00 |



As the curtain falls, some final reflections on the Heritage Project

Not every project finds a heraldic conclusion, classy and befitting. This was one such occasion.

Where effort hard work and conviction meet, a spark generates.
This spark illuminates the entire project giving it the status of 'super success'.

Any public undertaking is fraught with an inherent danger of failure. Having watched the entire project grow over the past one year, my sincere tribute to the team goes without question. A great job executed with finesse and professional expertise.

The venue selection for the final act was as appropriate as the project itself. Though small, the 'Chapter Arts Centre' suited the menu to perfection. It was a throbbing epicentre of activity agog with expectations and excitement.

On 12th. August 2017 in the presence of a full house the final episode unfolded. A delightful audio-visual extravaganza.

Rightfully so the event started off with the 'Book Launch'. Two of the senior most members of Wales Puja Committee, Mrs. J Mazumdar and Dr. K Sharma did the honours by signing and giving out the books.

This was followed by the long awaited 'Film Launch'. The film was an exciting and beautifully crafted work of art.

The spectators were held in a state of muted silence. It took a while for the awe to settle, and it was then, the crescendo of rapturous applause. An amazing conclusion to a job well begun.

My heart felt congratulations to all that were involved in the epic project. Well done all.

Ashok Mukherjee





Analysis of Feedback on Heritage Project

Book Release/Film Launch to the left and Clay Image Making to the right



National Poet of Wales
Ifor ap Glyn
reciting his work Namrata
on the Penyrheol stage



My Impressions of the Heritage Project and Clay Image Making

Last summer I got the opportunity to help coordinate some visits by local schools such as Radyr Comprehensive to see the heritage project in action. Having recently left school, I acted as a bridge between the artists and WPC volunteers and the students.

Religious Education in school always left me with a wondering. Despite my own knowledge of Hinduism being somewhat limited, even I could tell that a lot of teaching in RE was rather polarised and old fashioned. Therefore, it was so refreshing for me to see schools directly engaging with the modern Hindu community within Cardiff. If it wasn't for my Bengali background I would have never learned about Durga Puja as larger festivals such as Diwali would remain the centre of focus. I am so happy that the heritage project has shed so much positive exposure on our vibrant and cherished festival. Although during my time at school we had taken school trips to temples, it was usually a case of being led through various rooms and talked at. I'm sure the chance to speak to the artists and make their own clay sculptures must have been very engaging for the students in contrast. Talking to the students confirmed this, with the female students really inspired by the strong and powerful woman depicted in the form of Ma Durga. The clay image making was an amazing experience for these students who weren't aware before the project that such a traditional art form existed. Even for someone like me who has celebrated Durga Puja every year and participated actively whenever possible, this was a huge and inspiring learning experience. Seeing how much time and effort the artists put into making the idols and how everyone was so keen to contribute to the process really reinforced how important and beloved the festival is to people.

As a citizen of Cardiff I also experienced joy in seeing the Butetown History Arts Centre being revived one final time. The centre was facing closure due to lack of funding and when we arrived it was in a sorry state. However, after sprucing it up, draping the walls in Welsh and Indian flag bunting and with the smell of incense wafting through it was easy to appreciate what a great space it was.

Having grown up in Britain all my life, not speaking fluent Bengali and having few Bengali friends my age, I have often found it hard to connect with my background. Through dancing at Durga Puja and WPC events I had managed to feel more grounded but when I stopped doing this as A levels and university took over I was left once more feeling a bit out of place. The heritage project has allowed me to immerse myself in the Bengali community and really helped me reconnect with Hinduism and my roots. I am so glad and grateful to the Wales Puja Committee for having let me have this experience.

Thank you WPC for this.

Ishani Sinha



Executive committee members and office Bearers for 2017-18



| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Chair Person | Dr Sandip Raha |
| Vice Chair | Dr Raja Biswas |
| Treasurer | Mr Dipak Kundu |
| Secretary | Mr Niladri Chakraborty |
| Cultural Officer | Mrs Sinjini Chakraborty |
| Catering officer | Mrs Krishna Roy |
| Events Officer | Mr Neeleem Saha |
| Puja co coordinator | Mrs Tamashree Mukhopadhyay |

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Members: | Dr Chandana Banerjee | Mr Anirban Mukhopadhyay | Mrs Maitreyi Das |
| | Dr Sankar Das | Dr Madhuporna Mitra | Dr Kaushik Mukherjee |
| | Dr Kanti Nath | Mrs Sikha Nath | Mrs Abha Narayan |
| | Dr Sakti Guha Niyogi | Dr Ranjit Sinha Roy | Mrs Banani Sinha Roy |
| | Dr Anjan Roy | Mr Pankaj Sarkar | Mrs Raktima Bhadra Sarkar |
| | Mrs Aditi Basu | Mr Sayantan Das | Dr Ashok Mukherjee |
| | Mrs Mahua Mukherjee | Mrs Sharada Sharma | Dr Hasmukh Shah |

Dr Shiladitya Sinha

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Honorary Members: | Mrs Jharna Majumdar | Dr Satya Kishore Sharma | Mr T K Kar |
| | Dr Ravi Narayan | Dr Mohan Nath | |

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Trustees: | Mr Dipak Kundu | Dr Kanti Nath | Dr Ravi Narayan |
| | Dr Satya Kishore Sharma | Dr Sandip Raha | Dr Sankar Das |
| | Dr Ashok Mukherjee | Dr Sakti Guha Niyogi | |

(Chair of Exec committee is ex officio Trustee during the tenure)



Happy Gathering wishes Wales Puja Committee the very best for the Ruby Anniversary Durga Puja festivities.



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Compiled by Dr. Shiladitya Sinha