

WELCOME!!!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Mayor of Haringey Cllr Herbie Brown opened the Goan Community Centre on the 10th December 2000.

Fr Moraes gave us 4 sections of the Building and a Builder friend of mine donated the rest of the 3 sections to make a large Community Centre. We will be having a Shrine Built to carry out the devotions to Our Lady and Religious Services. The Aim of having the Shrine here in the Goan Centre as part of our faith is to invite devotees from all over to come and pray together as one family regardless of their nationality.

The aim of the Goan Community Association has been to create a sense of belonging, promote the Goan Culture, and increase participation within the Goan Community and the wider Community. This Organisation is the first attempt to overcome a long and very difficult task of achieving a Centre. The research was done as carefully as I was able to. This required persistence and hard work. The success to date has made it all worthwhile. A report has been compiled which will be available when it is produced in a booklet form. The events that we have planned help us to recognise and preserve our cultural roots. I will always remember what Dr. Alexander once said, “While we are proud citizens of England, we are also the proud heritage of India’s Legacy.” But I would like to maintain and live by adding that while we are the proud Heritage of India’s Legacy, we are the proud Grassroots of Goa’s beauty. Thus giving us a chance to enrich the Goan Community and keep the spirit of our ancestors alive by passing on the treasures they left.

At this point I might add that my heartfelt thanks go to Fr Moraes and my Committee without them I would not have been able to complete this challenging task.

I would like to thank you for visiting our Website and downloading our newsletter. It shows an element of interest. I thank Sarita Yadav for her invaluable time for the setting up and constant update of the Website.

UPDATE ON THE CENTRE & FUTURE PLANS

The Centre is looking very attractive. Robert has done a wonderful job on the maintenance mainly the lighting, plumbing *and* the kitchen. He has repaired the floor among other things. It looks really good. We still need to have the following done: -

Security Grills on Windows; Security Lights leading to the Centre; Electricity in the Centre, Murals on the outside wall and ongoing repairs such as the Floor.

If anyone is skilled in anyway in these areas please do not wait for us to ask, we do not know your skills, talent, profession. We would appreciate it if you came forward. While our main aim is to enhance employment among the Community, time and economy is of importance. So do contact **Robert** a.s.a.p. For further details.

SATURDAY OPENING

Grace Coutinho has offered to open the Centre for the Senior Citizens so that they can carry out their activities as a Drop - in, starting with Lunch. The Centre is now open on the **last Saturday** and hopefully every Saturday as soon as we get volunteers. We can stay open to run regular activities as long as there is someone in the building at all times.

REGULAR MEETINGS

In order to involve all the Members there will be a ten-minute meeting aiming on the last Saturday in order to raise short questions and to have short answers to avoid ignorance of the Centre's Aims, Objectives and current Activities. If there is anything you wish to discuss in great depth please put it in writing, it will be discussed with the Committee and a reply sent to you. If you wish to discuss any confidential matters please do not hesitate to call any of the Committee members to make an appointment.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES TO BEGIN SOON subject to Volunteers

Free Konkanim Classes :

Fri.: 6-7pm

Parent & Toddler group:

Sat - morning

Youth Club for 13-19yrs :

Fri. 8pm

Cookery Classes: due to public demand will commence soon. Contact **Lucy**

Thurs. 8.00 pm **Lancers** Classes. Minimum of 8 people required. Contact **Grace**. Children and teenagers welcome.

Music: Classes to begin soon. These include Keyboard, Guitar & Drums. Contact **Jacques**

Youth Band: Anyone willing to play any instrument for Mass at the Centre is welcome.

Health Advice: **Dr Domingo**, a Psychiatrist will run counselling sessions, Blood Pressure will be taken by the **Sr Gill** and minor ailments will be examined (Children & Adults)

Dr Shukla will advise on health issues, how to prevent illness. Send us an email to book an appointment for the last Saturday of the month.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Konkanim Play ‘Fruit Salaad’ next year. Performance by children of all ages. Anyone who wish to participate in the Play please let **Candy** know as soon as possible, auditions will not take place as I believe everyone is talented in some way. Adults welcome to sing. Deadline 31/08/06. Rehearsals to begin in October.

7 A-Side Football Training for the youngsters. Hoping to form a GCA Team to play for a Tournament in the Summer. Contact **Cos**

Football Coaching for Adults. Contact **Cajie**

EVENTS ORGANISED AND HELD AT THE GOAN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Teddy Bear’s Picnic!

In lieu of no proper heating and other Christmas Parties, last year we organised a trip for the children to see the lights - this year we will have a **Teddy Bear’s Picnic** in the Summer. Contact **Irene**.

22nd July 11.00am. - Health festival. Stalls welcome. Help needed. Please let us know how you can help by attending a meeting on 27th May at 7pm at the Centre.

Trips to be organised e.g. Lego land, to see Lion King. (Suggestions welcome) Please let the Committee know if interested. Places will be reserved on a ‘first Come first served’ basis

July - Trook Tournament. Anyone interested to play for the GCA Team contact **Eulogio**.

Kenya Night/ Aug. Date to be fixed. Traditional Bands and Dancers most welcome!

30th July Football Tournament Contact **Cos**

Birthday of our Lady of Health Novenas for 9 days begin on **30th** & the Feast on the **8th** Sept. Bring a dish to share. See **Link**

4th Nov Guy Fawkes Night: Treasure Hunt

25th Nov. 6pm - Mass for Deceased.

Dec. Over 50’s Christmas Lunch

Date to be fixed Contact **Lucy**

17th Dec. Christmas Tree Party. 2pm

If anyone wishes to organise any function or event in the Community Centre for the Community, you are most welcome.

Organising any event brings great joy to the soul - **“Participation is Belonging”** See Website (**Volunteers’ Support**)

RELIGIOUS: REGULAR NOVENAS

On last Saturday of every month Novena to Our Lady of Vailankanni at 7pm followed by fellowship

On the last Saturday of every month Mass followed by Novena for the beatification of Fr.Agnelo and then fellowship.

If anyone wishes to offer a Mass on this particular day please let us know in advance. Our Main Celebrant is **Fr Oliver.**

SHRINE DONATIONS

Progress for the Shrine has begun. We have started plans, but we are still waiting for people to come forward to plan and help build the Grotto for Our Lady. We are still receiving Donations. All names will be engraved @ £50 when Shrine is completed. Donations are still welcome, received in thanksgiving for your favours received. You may borrow the Statue for 9 days (available at the Centre)

Healing Service to be held on 12th May. Celebrant Fr Lawrence from Goa.

INSURANCE

Although the Building is insured anyone leading a group voluntarily is not responsible for any injuries incurred during activities. Also, activities cannot take place in the Centre without the presence of a member of the Executive Committee as we have not got a paid Caretaker to be present

Although the Centre is **free** for anyone to enter we still need to **pay the insurance and Electricity**, for which we are not funded. Any donation towards this cost is very much appreciated. Please do not be offended if we ask you

to contribute towards refreshments or if we decide to sell raffle tickets, hold a Bingo or have a fundraising event and ask you to support it. Occasionally we pay a cleaner or Caretaker volunteer expenses. **Any Volunteers welcome.**

SECRETARY'S REQUEST

The AGM is due to take place soon. If anyone is interested in taking up any position as a volunteer please feel free to phone me for a job description. Please bear in mind that Police checks and Child Protection Policy have to be adhered to.

TREASURER'S REMINDER

Please remember that each member of the family has to renew their Membership in order to avail of the services provided. Renewal of Membership will take place at the AGM.

Contact Facilitator, Irene.

BOOKING THE CENTRE

If you wish to book the Hall for Small parties or a social events the Centre offers 100 people comfortably or 150 people including helpers. For availability and details see Website. Members will need to contact Cos. Non Members contact Candy. If you would like to organise a fundraising event for the benefit of the Shrine or the Centre the Hall is 'free of charge' as the proceeds will go towards the building!

Comments and Criticism about the charges

It has been pointed out that the charges for events in comparison to other halls are “too much for a portakabin - only a certain group can afford these charges!” In response to this we are pleased to mention that the quality of our events are of a very high standard mainly because we can:

- a) Present a variety of food in an organised fashion
- b) Give generous prizes to satisfy almost everyone
- c) Hand out beautifully hand decorated Raffle Prizes
- d) Create the Table and hall decorations to look inviting
- e) Offer Live Band entertainment of high standard
- f) Afford Low price drinks
- g) Offer a huge Car Park.

All the above are at a very minimal cost and economically planned to satisfy the needs of every guest and provide a function of high calibre (regardless of the size of the “Portakabin”). The above has been proved at the very successful fund raising event of our Valentine’s Dance where everyone including the committee felt relaxed in a friendly atmosphere and no complaints. Moreover, as usual we had a surprise for the attendees - this time we targeted the teenagers who were whisked off to the West End in two-surround system Limousines.

A large hall accommodates a large crowd at the same cost and generates a huge income! We have got our very own Centre but does not accommodate too many people. However the Hall requires insurance, maintenance and heating the same as a large hall, but unfortunately NOT FUNDED!!

HIRING THE MINIBUS

The hiring of the Minibus is calculated on the MOT, Road Tax, Servicing twice a year and of course **Insurance, excluding Petrol**. As these costs have to be met, we cannot afford to let the Vehicle go out **free even if you just put the petrol**. See Website to hire.

POSITIVE COMMENTS ABOUT THE CENTRE!

“I feel welcomed” PC Tony

“This is a very cosy place” Cathy

“We have got a lot of space to play in the car park” Children

“I feel secure and safe” Lucy

“It’s a good place for small parties” Ala

“My baby loves the play area” Visiting Parent

“It’s a very pleasant place” Herbie

“There’s something for everyone, it’s great” Teenager

“I look forward to coming to Mass so that I can play with my friends afterwards while my Mummy chats”

“Being a non- Goan, I feel welcome and at home” Visitor

“You have achieved a lot in such a short time. Well done!!” Haringey Council

**“You are very lucky to have your own Centre in the UK. Not many people have achieved what you have”
Overseas Visitor**

“This is a wonderful place for rehearsal. I like the Mirrors for dance practice.” Albanian visitor

“I love the Minibus. It is very comfortable” Passenger

THANKYOU TO ALL THE SUPPORTERS

We have supported various groups to combat high costs that we suffered before we got our own Centre:

Cyclone Live Band

Mauritian Community

Cancer MacMillan support group

The Kidney Research Group

The Philipino Community

Thank you for your trust in us!

VOTE OF THANKS

To **all** those who have helped move the furniture etc. to and fro, in and out and up and down in order to prepare for our functions.

We are still receiving some negative remarks but to compensate for that we have received very positive feedback from most of our members and all-non Members. **Thank you!**

TO BE OR NOT TO BE ASHAMED, THAT IS THE QUESTION!

DO NOT BE ASHAMED TO SAY TO PEOPLE THAT YOU HAVE GOT YOUR VERY OWN CENTRE-THE GOAN COMMUNITY CENTRE... We are pleased to say that our membership is increasing at each event. This is recognised as an achievement!

YES, AN ACHIEVEMENT!!

COMMITTEE

Chair : Candy Fernandes
Secretary : Grace Coutinho
Treasurer : Edward Mascarenhas
Building Maintenance : Robert Fernandes
Senior Citizens co-ordinator : Lucy Dias
Publicity Officer : John Fernandes

For a more detailed list see Website

For Security Purposes some of the Committee do not wish to be revealed & where there are no contact details, please click on Committee. Address as stated..

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Centre soon.

If you wish to know what is going on then just turn up at each one and the next and the next!!!!