



Asian Association Chesterfield & NE Derbyshire

Engaging with Community and raising awareness through Asian Art & Culture

Charity Registration No: 1183943

July 2024– May 2025 Issue

NEWSLETTER

OUR GROWING TEAM

A sneak peak at our growing team and getting to know them

EVENTS & PROJECTS

Celebrations, Art, Culture, Food , coming together as a community and more

AGM & OTHER OPERATIONAL UPDATES

A gist of our AGM minutes and other operational updates such as funding

Welcome to our Spring 2025 newsletter. It's been a busy and exciting few months at the Asian Association, with a wide range of activities, events, and community initiatives taking place.

In this issue, we introduce Dr Sonalee Joshi and Dr. Ipsita Roy, our new trustees, and share updates from our Annual General Meeting, including operational developments and funding news. We highlight our successful Diwali Mega Show held at Chesterfield's Winding Wheel, which featured classical Indian dance performances and raised £400 for local charities. We also recap our Diwali dance workshops in schools and colleges, our Women's Health discussion group, and our Christmas and Holi celebrations.

Other features include our ongoing Warm Space sessions supported by Public Health Derbyshire, community cooking classes, the children's half-term craft workshop, and recent activities by the Saffron Kitchen team providing affordable meals and food education. We also share news from the Camera Club, our visit to Ashgate Hospice, and local events like the Derbyshire BME Forum celebration.

Thank you to all our members, volunteers, and partners who continue to support our work. We look forward to continuing to grow and serve our community through culture, connection, and care.

Introducing our new trustees -Dr Sonalee Joshi & Dr Ipsita Roy



Dr. Sonalee Joshi

We are delighted to recently welcome Dr. Sonalee Joshi & Dr. Ipsita Roy to our Board of Trustees and to take this opportunity to introduce them to you.

“ My Journey with the Asian Association started over 3 years ago, when I saw photos of the Diwali celebration on social media. I couldn't believe that in my town there was an Indian community, and I knew nothing about it, and furthermore I wasn't involved! I picked up the phone and spoke to Sushri Aunty and the rest is history!

I'm a GP at Inspire Health, working across our Hasland and Saltergate sites. I've been practising since 2012 after completing my training here in Chesterfield, a town I've grown to love. I see a wide range of patients and truly enjoy what I do. My husband, Silas, is a businessman— we met during Covid and are celebrating five years of marriage this year. He shares my love for the Asian Association and joins when he can. I visit India once or twice a year to stay connected to my roots— the food, the culture, and most importantly, family.

The Asian Association feels like my home away from home. The warmth and community spirit at the Centre always lifts me— I usually pop in on Wednesdays for a catch-up. Whether it's cricket, cooking classes, or community events, there's always something happening. I've come to know the staff and board well, and we truly feel like a family. As a new board member, I feel welcomed and heard. I try to be involved as much as possible because this place means a lot to me. I'm hopeful for a new, bigger premises soon so we can grow and support even more people in our community”.



Dr. Ipsita Roy

Professor Ipsita Roy is a Professor in Biomaterials at the University of Sheffield's School of Chemical, Materials and Biological Engineering. Previously, she was a Professor at the University of Westminster, London. She has published over 100 scientific papers and secured research funding exceeding £13 million.

Originally from Delhi, India, she earned a B.Sc. (Hons) in Chemistry from St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, and an MSc in Biotechnology from Jawaharlal Nehru University—graduating first in both. She received the prestigious Inlaks Scholarship to pursue a PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Cambridge and completed postdoctoral research at the University of Minnesota, USA.

Beyond academia, Professor Roy is a trained Odissi dancer and Rabindra Sangeet vocalist. She founded Robimoy, an organisation dedicated to the works of Rabindranath Tagore.

She recently joined the Asian Association of Chesterfield as a trustee and is committed to supporting community wellbeing, cultural engagement, and social impact.



Diwali Mega Show Celebrates Indian Temple Dancers and was funded by Arts Council England

On 7th October, we hosted the Diwali Mega Show at Chesterfield Winding Wheel, welcoming over 200 guests to celebrate the rich heritage of Indian temple dancers. The evening featured Kathak performances by Kumar Sharma and the Kathak Rockers from India, alongside Odissi, Bharatnatyam, and Mohiniyattam performances by the Aradhana Dance Foundation, Dr Sumana and her daughters from Nottingham, and Swetha from Cambridge.

A special guest performance by the Hoverla Ukrainian Dance Foundation added to the vibrant atmosphere.

Diwali Celebration 2024



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Guests enjoyed an authentic Indian banquet provided by Saffron Kitchen while experiencing a memorable night of cultural celebration. We were thrilled to raise £400 for two local charities, Ashgate Hospice and Known Valued Loved, thanks to generous raffle prize donations from members and local businesses. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended, volunteered, and supported the event, including our main sponsor Arts Council England, Chesterfield Charitable Trust, and local partners. Your contributions helped make the Diwali Mega Show a great success and a wonderful celebration of community and culture.



Engaging with the community during Diwali



We were able to visit over 6 performing arts schools including Leicester college , Connect Studios, Chesterfield High School and more! We worked with Derbyshire Community Transport to travel around Chesterfield

As part of our Diwali celebrations, we partnered with Holme Hall Primary, Youlgreave All Saints C of E Primary, Chesterfield College, Highfield Hall, Walton Holymoorside Primary, and Beeston Rise Care Home to deliver Indian dance workshops and performances. International artists Kumar Sharma and the Kathak Rockers, along with Aradhana Dance Foundation, performed for hundreds of pupils and staff, who also took part in Bollywood dance sessions.

At Beeston Rise Care Home, the event included a special performance to mark a resident's 90th birthday. Holme Hall Primary pupils also visited our centre for a Diwali craft session, where they made tealight holders and mandalas, and sampled Indian chai and a light lunch. We welcome interest from schools and community groups keen to host similar cultural activities.

PROMOTING FIRE SAFETY DURING DIWALI



We were invited by Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service to join them in October at Chesterfield Fire Station to assist them in creating a promotional video regarding fire safety during the Festival of Diwali, which the Fire Service shared across the county. Our team also had the opportunity to tour the Fire Station and meet a few of the firefighters.

Members, non-members, and our team come together each week to enjoy a freshly prepared meal from Saffron Kitchen and the opportunity to catch up with friends or meet new people.

Join us every Wednesday between 12:00 – 2:00 pm for a sit-down hot lunch at the Centre. We offer both meat and vegetarian options, with tea or coffee included. Advance booking is essential, so please let us know if you're coming and place your meal order ahead of time.

From time to time, we're also joined by special guests or organisations. Recent visitors have included Ashgate Hospice, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, and Hearing Help UK.

Everyone is welcome, so feel free to bring along friends and family—we'd love to see you there!

WEDNESDAY DINE-IN

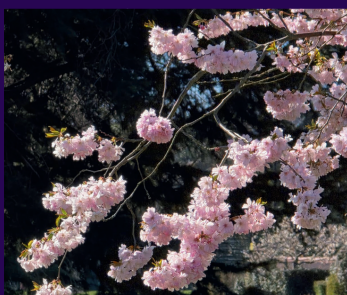
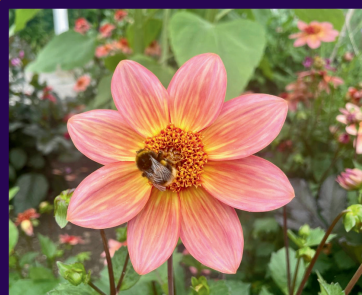


CAMERA CLUB



Join our Camera Club every 2nd and 4th week (running from Autumn to Spring) for a space to share your favorite photos, cherish your precious memories, and connect with others who love photography as much as you do!

The Club will be exclusive to Asian Association Chesterfield & N Derbyshire members, but you are free to try for a few weeks before you commit to our membership



MEMBERS COOKING CLASS

We conducted two cooking classes for the members of the Asian Association of Chesterfield and North Derbyshire. Both sessions offered valuable hands-on learning opportunities and were well-received by the participants. It was a rewarding experience to see members actively engaging in traditional culinary techniques under expert guidance.

Join us as Member and enjoy a free cooking class with our experts



LACHHA PARATHA

Members Enjoy Free Cooking Class with Chef Azad

As part of their membership benefits, which include one free cooking class, members recently learned to make Lachha Paratha with Chef Azad.

The hands-on session taught the traditional layering technique of this crisp, flaky North Indian flatbread. It was a fun and engaging way to experience authentic cooking and connect with the community.



DAHI VADA

Members Enjoy Interactive Dahi Vada Cooking Class with Vice Chairperson Sushri Wells

In a memorable session led by Vice Chairperson and Director Sushri Wells alongside Chef Azad and Masuda, members learned the art of making Dahi Vada.

Sushri generously shared her expertise, guiding participants through the process—from frying pre-prepared batter to assembling the dish with yoghurt, chutneys, and spices.

Dahi Vada is a popular Indian snack featuring soft lentil fritters soaked in spiced yoghurt and topped with flavorful chutneys, often enjoyed during festivals and special occasions.

MEMBERS CHRISTMAS LUNCH



The Centre marked the holiday season with a joyful Christmas celebration on 18 December 2024, bringing together members and guests in a warm, family-like atmosphere.

The venue was beautifully decorated, and a festive lunch buffet, prepared by Chef Azad and the Saffron Kitchen team, was enjoyed by all. Lively music and cheerful conversation filled the air, creating a true sense of community.

The well-attended event was a heartwarming way to close the year—celebrating togetherness, joy, and the spirit of the season.



ICC 2025 CHAMPIONS TROPHY FINAL – A CELEBRATION OF CRICKET AT THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION!



Cricket is more than just a sport in India—it's a way of life! On the 9th March we had a fantastic time at the Asian Association as members, friends, and families came together to watch India take on New Zealand in the final of the ICC 2025 Champions Trophy.

It was a thrilling match, and we were overjoyed to see **India lift the trophy** with a well-deserved win! The atmosphere was electric as we cheered every moment, shared a delicious potluck lunch, and enjoyed fun games together. It was a wonderful way to connect, celebrate, and enjoy the magic of cricket as a community.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us—and congratulations to the Indian Men's Cricket Team on their magnificent victory!



KID'S TERM BREAK CRAFT SESSIONS

Recognising the challenge of keeping children entertained on a budget during school holidays, the Asian Association organises free craft activities with lunch for local families every half term. These popular sessions have been led by professional artist Steph Coley, providing creative fun and support to the community.

CLAY MODELLING

During February half-term, Steph led a clay modelling session where children and parents crafted imaginative designs using wire frames and coloured clay. The Saffron Kitchen Team then provided a healthy picnic lunch, including homemade cupcakes.



PORTRAIT COLLAGE

During the Easter holidays, children created a vibrant paper collage of India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, guided by Steph. Using scrap paper, the group's creativity and teamwork produced a stunning artwork now proudly displayed at the Centre.



QUILLING

During the Spring Term Break, the Asian Association hosted a quilling workshop for local families. Guided by expert artist Steph Coley, participants learned the art of rolling and shaping paper strips to create intricate designs. The hands-on session sparked creativity and provided a fun, engaging activity for children and parents alike.

LINO PRINT WORKSHOP

On 4 Dec 2024, members and guests, took part in a fun and creative lino print workshop led by Megan and Sue. Participants enjoyed learning the basics of lino cutting and printing, producing unique designs to take home.



COMMUNITY, COLLABORATION & CELEBRATION AT THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION

A heartfelt thank you to Shruti from Links CVS for joining our recent discussion at the Asian Association. We explored support for three new projects on drug and alcohol awareness, smoking cessation, and overall wellbeing for BME communities.

The session was full of meaningful conversations and great collaboration—and we even got to celebrate our Vice Chair Sushri's birthday!

Here's to progress, partnership, and a slice of cake!



Links CVS

DERBYSHIRE BME FORUM CELEBRATION EVENT PARTICIPATION

Featured: Award ceremony of new Sitters

We celebrated all those who qualified as sitters and translators as part of the Links CVS BME Forum event at Hasland Village Hall, including one of our own team members; Sarbjit who qualified as a BME Sitter to support our unpaid carers.



DONATING TO CHARITY PARTY



We were thrilled to present cheques for £200 to both Known Valued Loved and Ashgate Hospice – vital funds raised for two worthy local organisations.

CHESTERFIELD TOWN WI-A PRESENTATION ON THE HISTORY OF SAREES

On April 2nd, Vice-Chair Sushri Wells presented on the history and culture of sarees from various Indian states to members of Chesterfield Town Women's Institute at Chesterfield College. Attendees enjoyed trying on sarees and sampling homemade Holi sweets. The event fostered cultural exchange and was warmly received by all.



WOMEN'S HEALTH HUB



The Asian Association secured funding to host community workshops contributing to the national Women's Health Strategy. Led by Trustee Dr Sonalee Joshi, three sessions held in December and January focused on key health concerns and service improvements for BME women, with feedback informing local NHS planning.



The Centre also welcomed the North Derbyshire Refugee Group for a parallel session, followed by a traditional Afghan meal prepared by Chef Assistant Masooda.

There was another session at Arkwright Centre attended by our staff - Emma & Dipali



FIRE SAFETY WORKSHOPS

During April and May the Asian Association hosted two community workshops in collaboration with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Services. Their team presented information about their services across the county, and we had fun doing some quizzes together, and share feedback.



ARKWRIGHT SCHOOL VISIT

We conducted a Cultural Awareness workshop where we presented about the various religions in India and the students were detailed on the various customs and traditions



CARERS PAMPER DAY

Carers Event hosted by the Asian Association in collaboration with Links CVS. It was a day filled with valuable insights, shared experiences, and heartfelt conversations.

The event started with a warm welcome and introduction by our Vice Chair, Sushri Wells. We were inspired by Lorna Walker as she shared her personal journey, followed by an informative talk from Pamela Williams (DCA). Shruti Vispute also provided valuable information about the BME Sitting Service.

A special thanks to Sonia Rajput for offering holistic therapy to our carers.





Public Health
England

WARM SPACE

With funding from Public Health Derbyshire via Derbyshire Voluntary Action, the Asian Association operated as a registered Warm Space from December to February—extending into March due to continued cold weather.

The Centre opened its doors three days a week, offering a welcoming space for conversation, games, crafts, and a special guitar performance by local musician Bart Pickford. Visitors enjoyed warm chai and handmade samosas, thanks to Chef Azad and the Saffron Kitchen team.

We're grateful for the funding that made this vital winter support possible.



BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY CENTRE: OUR JOURNEY WITH B&Q FOUNDATION SUPPORT

The Asian Association of Chesterfield and North Derbyshire extends sincere thanks to the B&Q Foundation for its generous grant, received in February 2024. Over the past year, this funding has enabled essential upgrades to our Centre.

Improvements have focused on accessibility, safety, and energy efficiency, creating a more comfortable and inclusive environment for all who visit, work, or volunteer at the Centre.

Support like this is crucial to our mission, allowing us to continue delivering inclusive events, services, and activities for the local community.



B&Q
Foundation

Improving homes
to **change** lives



A BURST OF COLOUR, CULTURE & COMMUNITY! - HOLI 2025



The Asian Association hosted a colourful and joy-filled Holi celebration on Saturday 29th March at Hasland Village Hall, bringing together members, friends, and families for an unforgettable afternoon of culture, community, and celebration.

The stage came alive with vibrant Bhangra performances by dancers from Derby, and the audience was captivated by the elegant classical dance performances by young artists from the Chesterfield Malayali Association. The lively atmosphere was further enhanced by face painting by the talented Debz Designs, which added an extra splash of colour and fun for both children and adults alike.

Another highlight of the event was the delicious Indian food served by our very own Saffron Kitchen, offering a generous spread that was enjoyed by all.

We were honoured to welcome the Worshipful Mayor of Chesterfield Jenny Flood, and her husband, who graciously joined us and added to the warmth and significance of the occasion.

It was a day of laughter, music, dance, and unity—truly a celebration of community and tradition. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made this Holi celebration a cherished memory.











ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Asian Association's AGM took place on Sunday 19th January, with strong attendance from members and guests. Vice-Chair Sushri Wells shared updates on the charity's 2024 activities, funding, and upcoming projects, including those of Saffron Kitchen CIC. Treasurer Maitreyi Bose presented the annual accounts, with additional reports from Abbas Rehamnji (Wednesday Group) and Shabbir Shad (Camera Club).

Following the meeting, attendees enjoyed a lunch prepared by Saffron Kitchen. AGM minutes are available in both paper and digital formats.



FUNDING RECEIVED

	National Lottery 2024-25	£88,473.38
	Asda Foundation	£1000
	Foundation Derbyshire	£10,300
	B&Q Foundation	£10000
	Warm Space	£2889
	NHS Vaccination	£1450
	Postcode Lottery	£20000
	Chesterfield Charitable Trust	£5000
	Arts Council England	£28517

SAFFRON KITCHEN

Services



OUR CHEF & HIS TEAM



AZAD KHAN
Head Chef- Indian Cuisine



MASUDA HAMEEDI
Kitchen Assistant-
Specialist in Afghani
Cuisine



SARBJIT KANDOLAI
Kitchen Assistant/
Administrator



JAHEDA BEGUM
Kitchen Assistant



DIKSHA SINGH
Indian Traditional
Dessert Specialist



NASIR HAMEEDI
Cleaner /Kitchen
Assistant



MAY DAY

On 5th May, Saffron Kitchen Chesterfield CIC took part in the May Day Gala hosted by Chesterfield Borough Council in the Town Centre. We were delighted to be part of the event and to serve some delicious Indian street food as part of our fundraising efforts, which received a lot of appreciation from the crowd. The demand was overwhelming, and we sold out completely!

COOKERY DEMO with McIntyre AT MONKEY PARK



On 20th May, the Tuesday Takeover Team at Monkey Park enjoyed a special cooking session with Saffron Kitchen, hosted by the Asian Association of Chesterfield.

We had a fantastic time sharing the secrets behind two all-time favourites — onion bhajis and vegetable kadai — while passing on some tasty new skills!

A big thank you to Gussie's Kitchen for the leftover veggies that helped bring it all together. The food was absolutely delicious, and the community loved every bite!

JOIN US - BE A MEMBER OR VOLUNTEER WITH US

OUR TEAM - GET IN TOUCH



AATHIRA MAJNU
Centre Manager



EMMA HORNETT
Accounts &
Charity Support



MAMTA YADAV
Social Media &
Admin Support



DIPALI DESHPANDE
Accounts & Admin
Support

Asian Association Chesterfield & N Derbyshire

<https://www.asianassociationchesterfield.org>
info@asianassociationchesterfield.org
01246 297452

Saffron Kitchen Chesterfield CIC

<https://www.saffron-kitchen.org.uk/>
saffronkitchen@asianassociationchesterfield.org
01246 297452

Unit 3, Penmore Business Centre, Hasland, Chesterfield - S410SJ

UPCOMING EVENTS

DIWALI CELEBRATION 2025

BOOK NOW

Winding Wheel Theatre, Chesterfield

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 2025

6.30 pm

Echoes of the Soul

A BLEND OF RHYTHMIC TRADITIONS OF INDIAN AND IRISH DANCES

Every Wednesday	Wednesday Dine-In (12pm to 2pm)
Every Mon, Wed, Fri	Community Meal Order (12pm to 2pm)
Sun 8 th Jun	Party in the Park Hasland Village Hall (11am to 4pm)
Fri 13 th Jun	Fish Friday - Amritsari Fish & Chips (12pm - 2pm)
Sat 14 th Jun	Wingerworth Fun Day Allendale Park (1pm to 5pm)
Sat 5 th Jul	Grassmoor Funday Bernes Park