

MIDLANDS CULTURAL CLUB

MCC NEWSLETTER

Issue 2, February 2003

Following a successful launch of MCC in October, 2002, the club is coming of age rapidly with very few teething problems. We are about 75 strong on our database and not in debt following the gala inaugural event. Hearty congratulations and thanks to Ragini and Sushma who have put in a considerable amount of effort into the smooth sailing of this event.

We have a small web presence at :
<http://www.oumega.org.uk/mcc.html>.
Giving details of mem-

bership application and latest updates & forthcoming events.

MCC would like to apologise to those members who may have missed out on the trip to Bombay Dreams. This was planned and ratified before MCC took a mortal shape and also due to other logistical factors. It would therefore be very helpful for members to come forward with suggestions and ideas regarding out of town activities and event themes. We can then sound the rest of the membership for a feel of interest and enthusiasm.

This will help the organisers to decide on numbers and plan resources accordingly.

Please feel free to call the organising committee members to discuss plans for future events
— Ed.



What is on the cards for MCC 'out of town' activities?

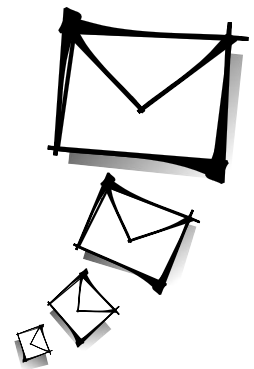
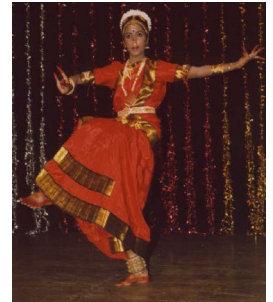
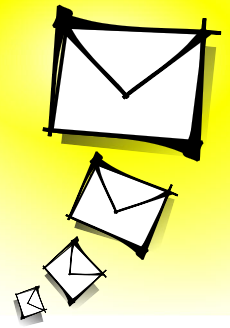
It will not keep you guessing anymore. Yes, the event organising committee has come up with an auspicious event for those who are into religion and pilgrimages. A trip to **Skandavale Temple** in Wales, near Carmarthen is on the cards. Enquiries are in progress with the management of the Skandavale Tem-



ple. Those of you who are Internet savvy can look up their Web site to learn more about the place and make ones own enquiries about accommodation, sight seeing

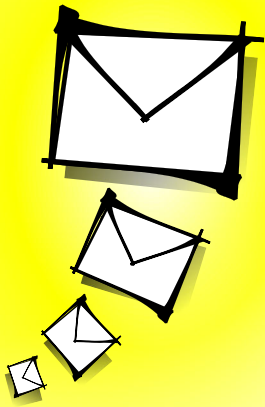


plans etc. If there is a keen response from the membership, the plans are to arrange a big coach to bus folks from Birmingham and back. Alter-

natively, members can make their own travel arrangements. However, automobiles are not allowed beyond a certain point and a bit of walking is involved, for those concerned, to arrive at the temple itself. Also, the overnight accommodation is basic, i.e., bring down your sleeping bags from the attic time. It should be an adventure and can be seen as the next best thing to camping! Please do get in touch for any clarifications or more info. —Ed



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FORTHCOMING MCC EVENTS - Are You Ready?

Based on the feedback from the members at the inaugural meeting of MCC, the organising committee members are beavering away with enquiries to find artistes and professional performers of classical Indian music to stage an evening of entertainment for you.

The organising committee will be grateful for any pointers in the right

direction and information of any artistes or professional performers or groups that can be considered. If not for now, for future events.



The proposed event, 'Indian Classical Music Night' is fixed for the **17th of May this year.**

The other event is a trip to Skandavale Temple in Carmarthen, Wales, on the **12 & 13th of July 2003.**



More details of the above events will be conveyed to you as the plans take shape. Prompt and pukka replies will help organise these resources and make the events successful.

- Ed.

Bharata Natyam is one of the oldest dance

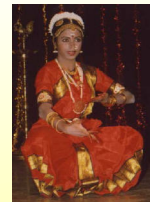
forms of India. It was nurtured in the temples and courts of southern India since ancient times. Later it was codified and documented as a performing art in the 19th century by four brothers known as the Tanjore Quartet whose musical compositions for dance form the bulk of the Bharata Natyam repertoire even today. The art was handed down as a living tradition from generation to generation under the Devadasi system under which women were dedicated to temples to serve the deity



as dancers and musicians forming part of the elaborate rituals. These highly talented artists and the male gurus (nattuvanars) were the sole repository of the art until the early 20th century when a renewal of interest in India's cultural heritage prompted the educated

elite to discover its beauty. By this time the Devadasis had fallen upon evil days due to lack of state patronage and changed social mores. The revival of Bharata Natyam by pioneers such as E Krishna Iyer and Rukmini Devi Arundale brought the dance out of the temple precincts and onto the proscenium stage though it retained its essentially devotional character.

Today Bharata Natyam is one of the most popular and widely performed dance styles and is practiced by male and female dancers all over India. Due to its wide range of movements and postures and the balanced melange of the rhythmic and mimetic aspects lends itself well to experimental and



fusion choreography. Degree and Post Graduate courses covering the practice and theory of

Bharata Natyam as well as the languages associated with its development are available at major universities of India.

:Courtesy: <http://artindia.net/bharata.html>

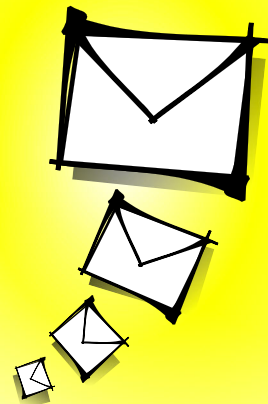
About MCC:

MCC stands for Midlands Cultural Club. The club has been established to bring together like minded people from various walks of life in the



Midlands and further afield. The inaugural event of the club just after Diwali last year was the club's first get-together and the second one is planned for the 17th May 2003. This meeting will please those members who are into classical music & dance as

Sitar & Tabla performances and Bharata Natyam are on offer. An excellent venue for the occasion and suitable catering are arranged. Born in November 2002, MCC has a membership of about 135, including children. - Ed



MCC Delegation approves - *Bombay Dreams* Musical

A thirty strong delegation from MCC were in London at the Apollo theatre to check out the now famous shakalaka musical with all Indian cast.

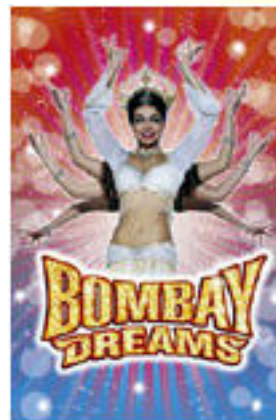
Ticket bookings were arranged by Sushma and transport was arranged by Rakesh. Both did a wonderful job and the trip was very successful one.

Everyone enjoyed the

show. All laughed heartily and wept bitterly at different times during the amazing performances of both the musicians and the dancers and all the other lead roles. The second generation Indians enjoyed the show as much as their parents did!

The delegation unanimously rated the show as first class and confidently recommend it to their colleagues and friends every where. The bottom line is, do not miss it! - Ed

MCC Rating: *****



SPONSORED FEATURES

SUMA

Independent Health Information Services sends warm greetings to all the MCC members and their families.

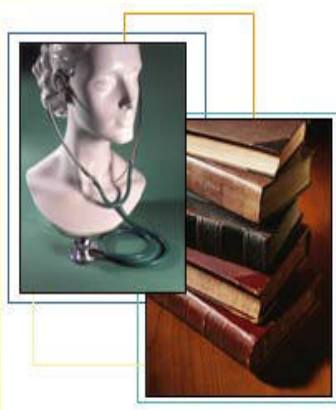
For all your health information needs, personal or professional, academic or research, litigation or knowledge contact:

SUMA, 2 Heron Close, Watermead Grange, Brownhills WS8 6EH

T: 01543 376143 / 07769 687076

E-mail: Suma@health-information-professional.co.uk

Web: www.health-information-professional.co.uk



AONE

Warm greetings to MCC

Out Door Catering service
Specialise for all occasions
Small or big functions

Contact:

Mr Ram Panwar

Ex Chief Chef of various 5 star Hotels

Unit 25 North Site Business Centre
Wellington Street, Winson Green
Birmingham B18 4NR

T: 0121 523 9365; F: 0121 554 5516
M: 07932 692875 / 07979 085550

The Inaugural Event of the 9th November

2002 was a grand success as attested by the large number of members who attended. The appointed DJ did a good job, however, not to everyone's satisfaction and the caterer excelled himself. Decorations were appreciated by all and added colour and gaiety to the event. Connoisseurs of wine appreciated

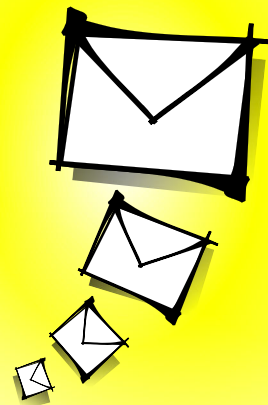
the free flow of both the white and the red!

The feedback has been very helpful to evaluate the event and suggestions and complaints, which were very few, have



been taken on board to improve arrangements in future events. To satisfy the needs of individuals, like light music lovers and loud music lovers, it was decided to have

different types of music arrangements to satisfy all members. Hence the idea of 'Classical Indian Music Night' was born. This event is scheduled for the 17th of May 2003. A stint of Bharatha Natyam and Sitar music are being arranged. *Do not miss this event. Mark your diaries now!* - Ed



MCC CONTACT DETAILS

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ORGANISING COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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MCC NEW MEMBER FEE (ANNUAL)

SINGLE - £05.00

COUPLE - £07.00

FAMILY - £10.00

PAYMENTS

Send your membership payment

with your address, telephone numbers and e-mail address.
CHEQUE ONLY PLEASE MADE PAYABLE TO MCC

REMEMBER 17th MAY 2003! CLASSICAL INDIAN MUSIC NIGHT!

May						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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Let us get together!