

monthly newsletter from



# WELCOME

From the desk of the General Secretary...

As we start another calendar year across the World, it's business as usual at Singh Sabha Southall, serving the local, national and international Sikh community as well as wider society...

Read on at page 3



## Thousands welcome 2023 AT SINGH SABHA SOUTHALL

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### Our students

News and updates from the range of settings where Singh Sabha Southall creates space for students:

- Khalsa Primary School;
- Dastar competition winners in Slough.

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## Upcoming Events

Find information on a selection of upcoming events at Singh Sabha Southall - for a comprehensive list and for regular weekly Darbar programmes please check our noticeboards on site.

- return of adult Punjabi classes;
- Kaur's Connect - 'My Sikhi My Journey';
- half term girls' football and netball skills day;
- Anand Karaj course.

### Adults Punjabi Classes

WEEKLY 1.5 HOUR CLASS

- 30-week course with highly experienced qualified teacher
- Reading, writing, listening and speaking skills at all levels

**Wednesday**  
6-7.30pm | 7.30-9pm

**Saturday**  
9-10.30am | 10.30-11.45am

📍 Park Avenue committee room  
www.sgsss.org | @sgssouthall

MORE INFORMATION  
[PAJNABI@SGSSS.ORG](mailto:PAJNABI@SGSSS.ORG)

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REPORTING ABUSE TO THE GURDWARA

Name	E-Mail	Number
Your Report		

[Report Now](#)

### Safeguarding Update

An official statement from the management committee of Sri Guru Singh Sabha Southall following a safeguarding incident on 7 January.

Further information on how we safeguard can be obtained from [sgsss.org/safeguarding](http://sgsss.org/safeguarding).

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# GURPURAB AND 2023 DARBAR

**Singh Sabha Southall continues to be the hub for Sikh gatherings in the UK**

as seen at both the Gurpurab of Guru Gobind Singh Ji in late December and the new year's eve darbar on Saturday 31 December. Tens of thousands attended across the last week of 2022, culminating in midnight darbars at both the Guru Nanak Road and Park Avenue sites where collective Sangat numbers were at 10,000!

**Thank you to all of our hardworking sevadars and personnel who endeavoured to make these events run smoothly and to the Sangat for showing their support throughout.**

## **Gurpurab celebrations**

On Thursday 29 December 2022, Singh Sabha Southall celebrated the Gurpurab of Guru Gobind Singh Ji with katha, kirtan and kavishri at both the Guru Nanak Road and Park Avenue sites. Many members of Sangat from far and wide attended to have the blessings of being

in the presence of the Guru and the Sangat.

Pupils from Sri Guru Singh Sabha Khalsa Primary School, Norwood Green, recited Sukhmani Sahib and performed in a kirtan divan on stage at the Park Avenue site during the day.

Elsewhere, there was lots of fun for children at an activity day filled with arts and crafts housed in the Gian

Ditt Singh Hall on the Park Avenue site. Volunteers from the Sikh Education Council facilitated parent-child painting, colouring, clay-modelling and more.

We hope all who participated enjoyed their day and we encourage others in the Sangat to benefit from such events organised on special Sikh calendar dates in the future.

**estimated Sangat of**

**10,000**

**saw in 2023 at Southall Singh Sabha**

FROM THE DESK OF THE  
GENERAL SECRETARY

## Dear Sangat, welcome to 2023,

As we start another calendar year across the World, it's business as usual at Singh Sabha Southall, serving the local, national and international Sikh community as well as wider society. There are no holidays in the Sikh Panth for seva is necessary around the clock by those in need; hunger, a thirst for knowledge, elevation of the mind - these wants are unaware that it is New Years Eve or a public holiday.

It is with that bigger picture in mind that our management committee is constantly looking to enhance the Gurdwara, from the facilities we have to the services we provide. Of course, at the heart of what Singh Sabha Southall does is provide the Darbar in which we can all come before the Guru Granth Sahib Ji to listen and learn. Everything else we do stems from that basic need being served, so we are pleased to have seen so many attend the various Samagams and programmes in the last month of Poh and hope that will continue to be the case well into 2023.

We invite you to join fellow members of the Sangat who have over the last few weeks heeded our call to become regular sevadars, volunteering your time, energy and skills for the benefit of all. Look out for the stands inviting you to get more involved at both Park Avenue and Guru Nanak Road sites. Take care of yourselves and others in the cold of Magh, *may the rider of the blue horse protect us.*

## CONTENTS

### 2 Gurpurab and 2023 Darbar

Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Gurpurab and new years eve fell close together to bring 2022 to a resounding end for the sangat of Singh Sabha Southall, culminating in wonderful Darbars.

### 4 Janam dihara of Bhagat Ravidas

Having been selected overwhelmingly to serve the Sangat at Singh Sabha Southall, read this guide to the personalities and positions who are now responsible for this great institution.

### 5 Upcoming events - a selection

Find information on a selection of upcoming events at Singh Sabha Southall - for a comprehensive list and for regular weekly Darbar programmes please check our noticeboards on site.

**Read an important Safeguarding Update from the management committee**

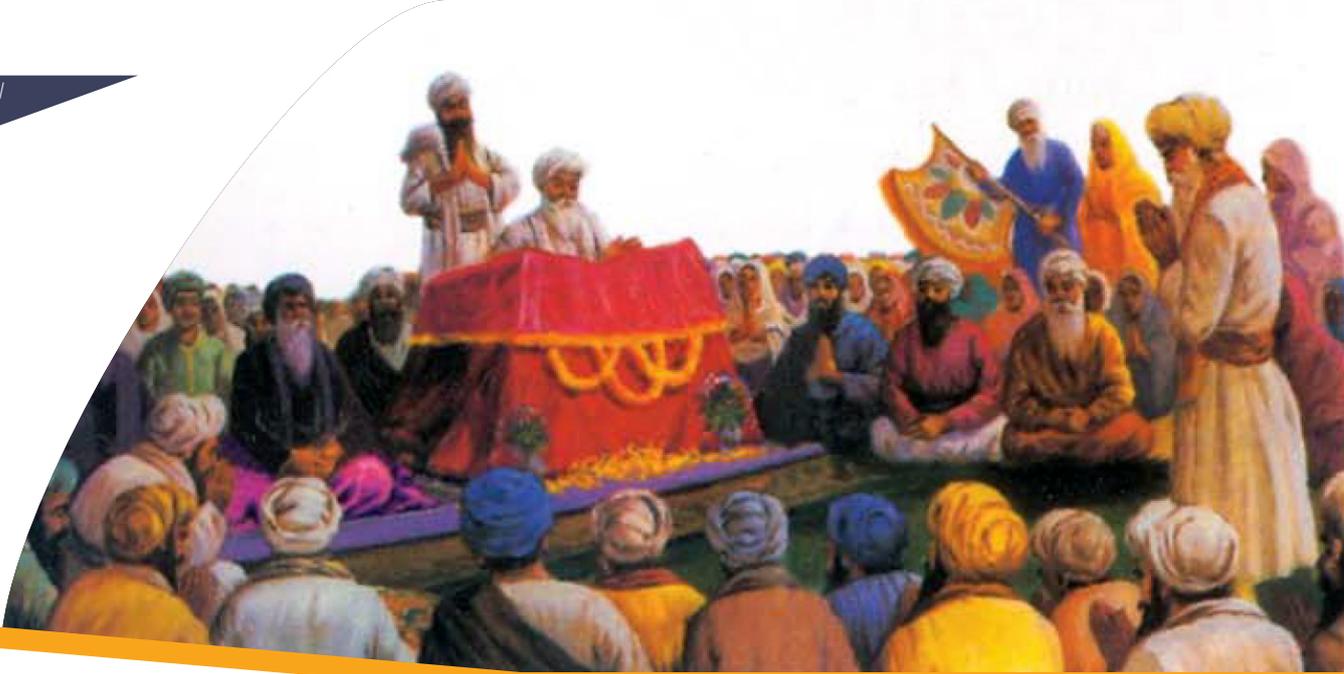
See page 7

### Upcoming Samagams, next edition and credits

Find them all on page 8

### 6 Our Students

Read news and updates from the range of settings where Singh Sabha Southall creates space for students and student learning.



# Janam dihara of **BHAGAT RAVIDAS JI**

Join Singh Sabha Southall as we look forward to celebrating the birth anniversary of Bhagat Ravidas Ji on Sunday 5 February

## Bhagat Ravidas Ji

Born in 1376 in Banaras, Uttar Pradesh, to Raghu Rai ji and Karma Devi ji, Bhagat Ravidas Ji grew up in a household that earned its living as cobblers in the leather trade. But like all enlightened beings, Bhagat Ravidas Ji was not to be defined by his profession or his familial relationships, instead by his devotion to Divinity.

The Guru Granth Sahib contains forty works of bani from Bhagat Ravidas Ji across sixteen raags. His praises are sung in the Guru Granth Sahib itself alongside others, and he is considered a truly venerable soul in the Gurmat tradition.

## Sikh calendar dates

Whilst Gurburabs, janam diharas and shaheedi divas are celebrated daily in Gurdwareh across Punjab, in countries like the UK where Sikhs have settled and adopted a different work-life balance, we have largely taken to only celebrate and commemorate major

dates of significance from Sikh history - and that too on the

weekend falling after the respective calendar date. Our Gurdwareh are not as locally accessible as they were/are in Punjab so naturally our way of commemorating dates has changed. However, it is our aim at Singh Sabha Southall to provide the Sangat with the opportunities to learn more about those who made Sikhi what it is and to congregate before the Guru to enrich our souls. We are pleased to be celebrating Bhagat Ravidas Ji later this month.

## Singh Sabha celebrates in 2023

An Akhand Path in celebration of the birth anniversary of Bhagat Ravidas Ji will be held, with associated katha and kirtan performed throughout the weekend to share information about their lifetime, explain how they are connected with the House of Guru Nanak, and how selections of their bani was included in the Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

Please join us from Friday 3 February to Sunday 5 February for the celebration - please see the Gurdwara programme of events closer to the time for details of kirtan and katha.



## DIGITAL & PRINT EXHIBITION

- curated by the Sikh Education Council

*We will be using this occasion to provide the Sangat with learning on all of the contributors to the Guru Granth Sahib - a digital and physical exhibition will showcase each of the Bhagats, Bhattis and Sikhs whose work we bow down to when we place our head before the Guru Granth Sahib Ji.*

# Upcoming Events A SELECTION

**KAURS CONNECT**  
MONTHLY FORUM FOR SIKH WOMEN  
Session #3  
Age 13+

**Adults Punjabi Classes**  
WEEKLY 1.5 HOUR CLASS  
30-week course with highly experienced qualified teacher  
Reading, writing, listening and speaking skills at all levels  
Park Avenue committee room  
www.sgsss.org | @sgssouthall  
MORE INFORMATION  
**PANJABI@SGSS.ORG**

**NETBALL & FOOTBALL SKILLS DAY**  
9AM-5PM - FRIDAY  
SINGH SABHA SOUTHALL  
Open to girls currently in year 3 to 13, our netball and football skills day provides valuable guidance, expertise and sisterhood to Sikh females with a keen interest to cater to a range of abilities. Register at: [www.sgsss.org/news/girls-skills-day](http://www.sgsss.org/news/girls-skills-day)

**GETTING MARRIED IN 2023?  
ANAND KARAJ**  
INTRODUCTORY SIKH MARRIAGE COURSE  
**11th Feb 2023 4pm - 7pm**  
Guru Nanak Road Gurdwara

FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER [WWW.SGSSS.ORG/ANANDKARAJ](http://WWW.SGSSS.ORG/ANANDKARAJ)  
EMAIL: [SUKHJEEVANSINGH@JOYTISAROOP.CO.UK](mailto:SUKHJEEVANSINGH@JOYTISAROOP.CO.UK) OR [HARMEET@SGSSS.ORG](mailto:HARMEET@SGSSS.ORG)

**Part 1 - Anand Karaj**  
An introductory discussion on the idea of Marriage in Sikhi

**Part 2 - Your Special Day**  
Essential knowledge for the Anand Karaj ceremony - what it all means, must do and must don'ts.

PRESENTED IN ENGLISH BY  
**GIANI SUKHJEEVAN SINGH (JYOTI SAROOP FOUNDATION)**

[WWW.SGSSS.ORG](http://WWW.SGSSS.ORG) **JYOTI SAROOP** **TSDESIGNS**

This is a selection of upcoming events at Singh Sabha Southall - for a comprehensive list and for regular weekly Darbar programmes please check our noticeboards on site.

Are you getting married in 2023? Or are you already married but interested in understanding what marriage is all about in Sikhi? Come along to our half day course exploring the concept of marriage in Sikhi and the Anand Karaj ceremony, hosted by Singh Sabha Southall and the Jyoti Saroop Foundation. Register at [sgsss.org/anandkaraj](http://sgsss.org/anandkaraj).

## Kaur Connect - Fri. 3 Feb. 7-9pm

The third 'Kaur Connect' forum event is titled, 'My Sikhi, My Journey' and will comprise four separate group discussions that attendees can sit-in on. Sign up to attend through eventbrite - a direct link can be found on [linktr.ee/sgsss](http://linktr.ee/sgsss).

## Girls' netball & football skills day - Fri. 17 Feb. 9am-5pm

Open to girls currently in years 3 to 13, our netball and football skills day provides guidance, expertise and sisterhood to Sikh females keen on sport. We cater to a range

of abilities on the day. Register to attend at: [linktr.ee/sgsss](http://linktr.ee/sgsss).

## Adults Punjabi class - Wednesdays 6-7.30pm; and 7.30-9pm

Our hugely popular adult-level Punjabi classes return from Wednesday 15 February taking place on the Park Avenue site in two weekly sittings - 6-7.30pm and 7.30-9pm. The classes are part of a thirty week course. These classes were oversubscribed the last time they were offered so don't waste time and sign up today at: [sgsss.org/punjabi-for-adults](http://sgsss.org/punjabi-for-adults).

# Our Students NEWS AND UPDATES

**Khalsa Primary School (Voluntary Aided) was founded by Sri Guru Singh Sabha Southall. The Sabha also runs extra-curricular classes in Sikhi, Punjabi language, music and more.**

## Update from Khalsa Primary School

Like all schools, we have had a busy first term at Khalsa Primary School. From welcoming new children in reception to implementing fresh learning ideas for Key Stage 2, there is real positive energy in the school. This is partly down to our extremely good SAT results in July where the school was in the top ten across the Borough. This is no small feat, especially because of the disruption caused by the pandemic, so a big thank you to the senior leadership and staff.

The school has marked two big events this term, namely, Bandi Chhor Divas and Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurburab. Sewa of the Nishan Sahib at the school has also been carried out by local volunteers, to whom the school is immensely grateful. Most pleasingly, the children took a leading role on all of these occasions.

If your child is starting reception from next year, or you are thinking of moving your child to a new school, I would encourage you to book a visit to our school. You can contact the office on 0208 574 9045 or info@khalsa.ealing.sch.uk.

Finally, the governing body wishes to pay tribute to the outgoing Chair, Surinder Singh Purewal, for working with the school's leadership team in steering the school through challenging times over the years.

- Randeep Singh Sidhu, Chair of Governors

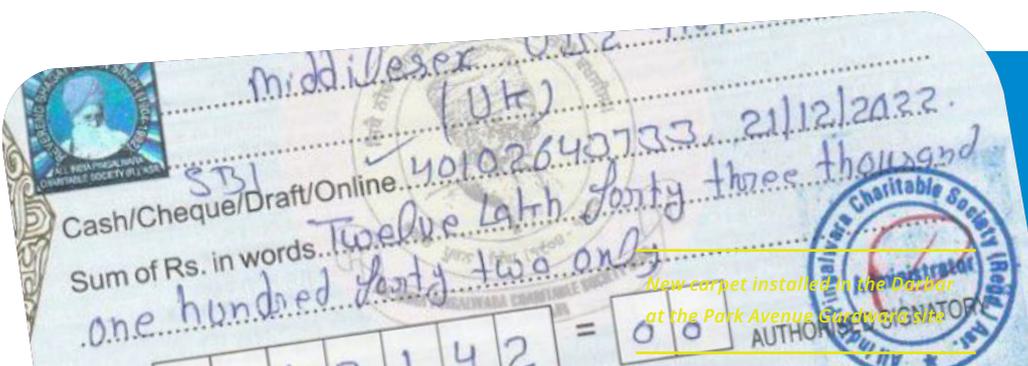


## Slough: Turban Academy students win!

Our Turban Academy students won several categories at a Dastar-tying competition organised by and held at Sri Guru Singh Sabha Slough. Well done to all involved and of course to the youngsters who have learnt so well and take pride in the dastar.

Dastar (turban) classes take place at Singh Sabha Southall in the Guru Nanak Road site every Friday and Saturday from 4-5.30pm - make your way to the reception area or library on the ground floor.

For more information on the Turban Academy call:  
**Ravinder Singh: 07383 550067**



*New carpet installed in the Dastar at the Park Avenue Gardens GNA*

## Pingalwara

On 22 December 2022, donations from the Sangat of Singh Sabha Southall were made to Pingalwara for 12,43,142 rupees.

**REPORTING ABUSE AND FINDING SUPPORT**

If you have information about a safeguarding situation where a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires immediate medical attention call the emergency services on 999. Do not delay.

If you wish to report anything of concern you can email

[safeguarding@sgsss.org](mailto:safeguarding@sgsss.org) or complete the contact us form.

REPORTING ABUSE TO THE GURDWARA

Name	E-Mail	Number
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Your Report

# Safeguarding Update

## COMMITTEE STATEMENT

**Incident**

A man was arrested in Southall following a safeguarding incident on 7 January 2023. The individual concerned attended Singh Sabha Southall as a worshipper, but was not a member or employee. We are treating this issue with the highest concern and will do whatever is necessary to protect the Sangat and particularly our children.

**Immediate response**

Since the incident we have:

- Submitted a Serious Incident Report to the Charity Commission;
- Cooperated with the Police;
- Launched a precautionary review of our safeguarding policies, procedures and practices;

- Approved the implementation of the Safeguarding Quality Improvement Plan to ensure the Sabha has robust safeguarding provisions.

**Zero-tolerance**

We have a zero-tolerance policy for any form of abuse. We are committed to doing everything in our power to protect children, promote their welfare and support their families.

**Who to contact**

If you ever have concerns about safeguarding, contact the police by calling 999 to report emergencies or by calling 101 for non-emergencies.



More information can be obtained from [sgsss.org/safeguarding](http://sgsss.org/safeguarding).

If you are a child or young person and are worried about anything you can call Child-line on 0800 1111 (calls are free and open 24 hours).

- Management of Sri Guru Singh Sabha Southall

*[Pictured above: The Borough Commander and other senior police officers met new members of the committee to find ways to work closer together. The challenges facing our community were discussed.]*

Stay up to date with what's happening at Singh Sabha Southall with the latest news and happenings via Whatsapp and email. Sign up at <https://sgsss.org/latest-news/>

## Amrit Sanchar - 12 February

At Singh Sabha Southall we hold regular amrit sanchar ceremonies for those members of the Sangat who are ready to give their head to the Guru. Our next such opportunity falls on Sunday 12 February taking place at the Guru Nanak Road site from 12.30pm.

Kesi ishnaan before arrival is a must; Kakaars are available. For more information contact:

[info@sgsss.org](mailto:info@sgsss.org) / [harmeet@sgsss.org](mailto:harmeet@sgsss.org)



## Gurmat Samagam - 22 January

A special Gurmat Samagam will be held at Singh Sabha Southall at the Park Avenue site on Sunday 22 January from 1.20pm to 5pm. Join the Sangat for a blissful afternoon of kirtan from a variety of World-renown performers.

Kirtanis include:

- Bhai Davinder Singh Ji sodhi

- Bhai Ranjit Singh Ji Khalsa

- Bhai Sahib Singh Ji

(Hazoori Ragi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar)

- Bhai Sandeep Singh Ji

(Hazoori Ragi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar)

- Bhai Niranjjan Singh Ji

**Gurmat Samagam**

ਗੁਰਮਤ ਸਾਗਮ  
ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਭਾ ਸਾਊਥਾਲ  
Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha

**22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2023**

1.20PM-2.00PM  
BHAI DAVINDER SINGH JI SODHI (LUDHIANA WALE)

2.00PM-2.45PM  
BHAI RANJIT SINGH JI KHALSA (DELHI WALE)

2.45PM-3.30PM  
BHAI SAHIB SINGH JI (HAZOORI RAAGI SRI DARBAR SAHIB AMRITSAR)

3.30PM-4.15PM  
BHAI SANDEEP SINGH JI (HAZOORI RAAGI SRI DARBAR SAHIB AMRITSAR)

4.15PM-5.00PM  
BHAI NIRANJAN SINGH JI

**GURDWARA SRI GURU SINGH SABHA SOUTHALL**  
2-8 PARK AVE SOUTHALL UB1 3AG

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**  
MANJIT SINGH 07866 474 262 HARJIT SINGH 07810 233 400



## Volunteer with us

If you can help provide seva to improve communication with the Sangat, email:

[info@sgsss.org](mailto:info@sgsss.org)

Visit our website at

<https://sgsss.org>

Follow our social media channels at

[@sgsssouthall](https://www.instagram.com/sgsssouthall)

next edition: ੴ ਫੱਗਣ, ੫੫੪ | 1 Phagun, 554 | 13 February 2023