

# DURGA PUJA

Glasgow 2016

*36th Anniversary Year*

[www.durgapujaglasgow.com](http://www.durgapujaglasgow.com)





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तामग्निवर्णा तपसा ज्वलन्ती वैरोचनी कर्मफलेषु जुष्टाम् ।

दुर्गा देवी शरणं प्रपद्या महेऽसुरान्नाशयित्र्यै ते नमः ॥

tāagnivarnāṃ tapasā jvalantīm

vairocanīm karmaphaleṣu juṣṭām ।

durgāṃ devīm śaraṇaṃ prapadyā

mahe-surānnāśayitryai te namaḥ ॥

We take the refuge of She who is of the nature of Fire, who illuminates the Light of Wisdom in Meditation, the bestower of the fruits of all actions, the Goddess Durgā, the Reliever of all Difficulties. To the Destroyer of All Thoughts, we bow down to you.



পুজো এসে গেছে. আকাশে নীল মেঘের ছোঁয়া. বুকে চাকের গুরুগুরু ধ্বনি. গ্রামবাংলায় কাশফুলের সাদা আর হাওয়ার মাতামাতি. দোকান পাটে ব্যাস্ততা, পুজোর কেনাকাটা. চারদিকে উৎসব আর খুশির মেজাজ.

গ্লাসগোতে পুজোর আগমনবার্তা এতটা প্রকট নয়. কিন্তু প্রবাসী হলেও, আমরা দুর্গাপুজোকে নিয়ে আসতে চাই একদম অন্দরমহলে. বঙ্গীয় সাংস্কৃতিক পরিষদের পুজো কমিটি এখন ভীষণ ব্যাস্ত. চার পাঁচ দিনের বহু আয়োজন ও পরিকল্পনায় সতিই পুজো পুজো ভাব.

আসুন সবাইকে নিয়ে আবার আনন্দে মাতি. সমস্ত ক্লান্তি, দুঃখ সরিয়ে মায়ের আগমনিতে যোগদান করি. সঙ্কলের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতায় ছড়িয়ে পড়ুক প্রীতি ও শুভেচ্ছা.

জয় মা দুর্গতিনাশিনী, বিপদতারিনী সর্বমঙ্গলপ্রদায়িনী দুর্গা.



Warm wishes to everyone celebrating the 2016 Durga Puja festival from those at Hutchesons' Grammar School



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## SRI SRI DURGA PUJA PROGRAMME 2016

[www.durgapujaglasgow.com](http://www.durgapujaglasgow.com)



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### MAHALAYA

Clarkston Hall, Clarkston Road, Glasgow G76 8NE (Tel: 0141 577 4861)

SATURDAY, 1st OCTOBER 2016

Shri Chandi Paath & Ananda Bhojon: 6.30pm - 10.00pm

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### SARBOJANIN DURGOTSAV

Couper Institute, 86 Clarkston Road, Glasgow G44 3DA (Tel: 0141 637 2157)

FRIDAY, 7th OCTOBER - TUESDAY, 11th OCTOBER 2016

#### MAHA SASTHI

FRIDAY, 7th OCTOBER 2016

Kalpambha, Bodhan, Amontran, Adhibas, Arati: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Preeti Bhoj: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

#### MAHA SAPTAMI

SATURDAY, 8th OCTOBER 2016

Puja, Puspanjali, Prasad: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

#### MAHA ASTHAMI

SUNDAY, 9th OCTOBER 2016

Puja, Puspanjali, Prasad: 5.30pm - 8.00pm

Sandhi Puja: 8.00 pm, Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 11.00pm

#### MAHA NAVAMI

MONDAY, 10th OCTOBER 2016

Puja, Puspanjali, Prasad 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

#### MAHA DASAMI

TUESDAY, 11th OCTOBER 2016

Puja, Bisorjan, Santijal & Prasad: 5.00pm - 8.00pm

Preeti Bhoj: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

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#### MAHA LAKSHMI PUJA

Couper Institute, 86 Clarkston Road, Glasgow G44 3DA

SATURDAY, 15th OCTOBER 2016

Puja, Arati, Puspanjali, Prasad: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

#### MAHA KALI PUJA

Couper Institute, 86 Clarkston Road, Glasgow G44 3DA

SATURDAY, 29th OCTOBER 2016

Puja, Arati, Puspanjali, Prasad: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

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#### MAHA SARASWATI PUJA

Clarkston Hall, Clarkston Road, Glasgow G76 8NE (Tel: 0141 577 4861)

WEDNESDAY, 1st FEBRUARY 2017

Puja, Arati, Puspanjali, Prasad: 6pm - 8pm

Bhog Bitoron: 8pm - 10pm



## EDITORIAL

**Namo namo Durge sukh karani  
Namo namo Ambe dukh harani**

*Chant the name of Goddess Durga, the bestower of happiness  
Chant the name of Goddess Ambe, who ends all miseries.*

We have once again come together to celebrate Durga Puja for the thirty-sixth year running, and its message of good over evil, peace and unity amongst mankind.

These celebrations enrich all our lives, both young and old, and serve to maintain and further our Bengali religious and cultural heritage.

Our appreciation and thanks go to the numerous public dignitaries who endorse our Puja through their messages of support.

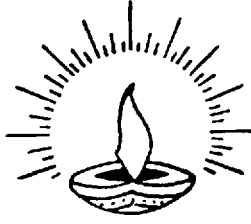
Our thanks also go to the Police Service of Scotland and Glasgow Life, Glasgow City Council for their continuous help and support. Our thanks go to Glasgow City Council for their help in providing a safe place to store our images.

As always, the Puja would not be possible without the tireless efforts of the members of the community.

This souvenir helps us to raise funds for celebrating the Durga Puja. We are therefore grateful to all our advertisers and other patrons who have contributed financially.

We hope you all enjoy this year's celebrations.

***Durga Puja Committee, Glasgow***



## **BANGIYA SANSKRITIK PARISHAD**

(BENGALI CULTURAL ASSOCIATION)

Estd. 1971

This is our thirty-sixth time that the Durga Puja Committee of Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad is celebrating our Durga Puja in Glasgow. People from all walks of life attend this festival and we humbly desire everyone to come and join us to celebrate our Puja.

'Durga', our Mother Goddess, is seen to be the personification of tender love, wealth, power, beauty and all virtues. Durga also represents 'Shakti', the destroyer of evil and the preserver of good. At the end of each cycle of human development, she is believed to represent the destruction of evil in the world and the beginning for a new cycle of humanity, where all people's minds are cleansed of impure thoughts. This personification is reflected in other religions too, such as Hathor of the ancient Egyptians. The term 'Puja' means a gathering of humanity in rituals in the honour of the 'Divine', where prayers become more meaningful by all minds coming together for the good of everyone.

The ceremonial worship of Durga is one of the most important festivals of India. Apart from being a religious festival, it is also an occasion for reunion and rejuvenation; an endeavour to maintain a caring, compassionate community that engages and embraces people of all cultural and spiritual backgrounds.

We need your support to make this festival a success.

I convey my seasonal greetings and sincere thanks to everybody.

*Dr Haradhan Datta*

*President*

*October 2016*

### **SOCIAL CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR 2016-17**

Bijoya Sammelani & Dinner	Sunday, 23rd October 2016, 5-11pm	Clarkston Hall
Christmas Night	TBA	TBA
Bengali New Year & Dinner	Saturday, 22nd April 2017, 5-11pm	Clarkston Hall
Annual Drama & Dinner	Saturday, 3rd June 2017	Clarkston Hall
Picnic	Saturday, 10th June 2017, 11-5pm	Pondside BBQ Mugdock Park
AGM & Puja Committee Mtg	Saturday 17th June 2017, 2-7pm	Maryhill Community Centre





# BANGIYA SANSKRITIK PARISHAD

(Established 1971)



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2016-2017

President .....	Dr Haradhan Datta
General Secretary .....	Mr Saibal K Sen
Joint Secretary .....	Dr Santanu Acharya
Treasurer .....	Mr Arijit Mukherjee
Social Secretary .....	Mr Arunava Banerjee
Puja Convener.....	Mr Dhruva Kundu
Co-opted members.....	Dr Mridula Chakraborty, Mr Subrato Chatterjee & Dr Sudipta Roy
Auditor.....	Mr Mihir Mukherjee

## HANUMATI PALA BA MONDODORI HARAN



by

*Manoj Mitra*

5th June 2016,  
Eastwood Theatre.



This year's drama production was another great success and we would like to thank all those who made the event possible.

### Cast included:

Arun Ghosh-Roy, Sudipta Roy, Arunava Banerjee, Gautam Patra, Rajdeep Routh,  
Dhruva Jyoti Kundu, Anupam Sinha, Somsuvra Sarkar, Subrata Chatterjee,  
Anindita Mukherjee, Meghamala Das, Sukanya Sarkar & Payal Debroy.

**Prompting** - Aditi Palchoudhari, Rituparna Sengupta

**Make-up & Costume** - Sunetra Saha, Rituparna Sengupta, Anusha Patra & Oshmi Deb

**Music** - Debjani Patra & Sanjeet Bhattacharya

**Lighting** - Sraboni Bhattacharya & Anuradha Roy

**Photography** - Amit Datta

**Stage Management** – Partha Ghosh-Biswas, Saibal Sen,  
Santanu Acharya, Amit Deb, Anjana Sen & Anuradha Roy

**Direction** - Sheela Mukherjee

**Co-ordination** - Gautam Patra & Sudipta Roy

Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad holds a drama production every year at Eastwood Theatre.  
Make sure to attend next year's production - always an excellent evening - not to be missed!



# Glasgow Puja





# DURGA PUJA COMMITTEE

**Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad  
Glasgow**

[www.durgapujaglasgow.com](http://www.durgapujaglasgow.com)



It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to our 36th year of Durga Puja celebrations in Glasgow.

We have the accolade of being the first and longest running Puja in Scotland.

Following the establishment of Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad (BSP) in 1971, a small group from the community had the vision to celebrate Durga Puja in Glasgow in order to keep our customs and traditions alive particularly with the younger generation and also to share our beliefs with other communities in multi-cultural Scotland. The enthusiasm, emotion and pride that marked those very first celebrations continues to grow stronger with every year's festivities. More and more people from all over Scotland join us to make these celebrations a success.

Durga Puja symbolises the victory of good over evil and is an experience evoking a wide range of thoughts and emotions. Swami Vivekanda best explained the worship of the image of Durga as "the Hindu does not worship an idol made of clay and wood, he sees consciousness within the earthiness and loses himself in it."

Our deep rooted belief is that religions can work together for a better world. Through our faith and celebrations, we endeavour to create a caring, compassionate community that engages and embraces people from all cultural, ethnic and spiritual backgrounds. It also builds social cohesion that promotes affirmation and respect of diversity, and celebration of the rich heritage of humanity. Last year, we hosted a group from the Church of Latter Day Saints who were interested in gaining a better understanding of Hinduism which they appreciated very much.

This year we have re-introduced cooking our meals in-house. Thanks go to Sarojit Sen, Gautam Patra and Arijit Mukherjee for taking the lead with great interest and enthusiasm in this endeavour. This has been made possible by the kind generosity of Bishnu and Rashmi Rautray who have provided kitchen and storage facilities.

As always, a special mention goes to Sarojit and Anjana Sen who have donated the invitation cards.

Thanks to the ladies who raise funds through the snack stall.

Thanks to Police Scotland and Glasgow Life for their continuous help and support.

Our thanks go to Babulayeb Mukhopadhyay and Arunava Banerjee for acting as priests for the Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati Pujas. Prabhakara Bhatt for Kali Puja.

I am very grateful to all our advertisers and patrons who have contributed financially.

My sincere thanks and gratitude to Sanjeet Bhattacharya, Rajdeep Routh, Dhruba Kundu, Santanu Bhattacharjee, the Durga Puja Organising Committee and Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad for volunteering their time and for their hard work and commitment in serving our community.


My thanks go to all parents and children who have helped to make the Puja enjoyable and successful.

I hope you enjoy this year's Puja and thank you for your continuous support.

*Sheela Mukherjee*

*Chair*

*October 2016*



We are pleased to be associated  
with this event

With Best Wishes  
from

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Care Centre**

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Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0300 244 4000



## **Message of support for the 36th Festival of Durga Puja**

On behalf of the Scottish Government, and the people of Scotland, I would like to take this opportunity to send my best wishes for the festival of Durga Puja.

May this celebration that epitomises the victory of Good over Evil be a joyous time. Our Hindu communities make a welcome contribution to our society, culturally, socially and economically, which enriches our society and country.

I look forward to our Hindu communities continuing to be part of our work to ensure a future built on mutual trust, respect and understanding.

NICOLA STURGEON  
First Minister of Scotland



The Rt Hon The Lord Provost of Glasgow  
Councillor Sadie Docherty



I am once again delighted to send my best wishes to everyone celebrating Durga Puja here in Glasgow.

This famous festival worships the Goddess Durga's victory over the evil buffalo demon Mahishasura and, I believe, is the biggest celebration of its kind.

Our Hindu community makes a huge contribution to our city and beyond and, as First Citizen, I'm honoured to be given this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful five days of festivities.

Glasgow is proud of its reputation as a multi-cultural, diverse and tolerant city. It's always wonderful to witness the colour, excitement and vibrancy events like this generate.

Your celebration of the Mother Goddess is a familiar tale of good triumphing over evil. That is a universal message that all right thinking people celebrate. However, Durga Puja is also a deeply religious occasion allowing Hindus to contemplate their faith.

I wish you all a joyous and uplifting Durga Puja.

*Sadie Docherty*

Councillor Sadie Docherty

Rt Hon the Lord Provost of Glasgow

Deputy High Commissioner



भारत का हाई कमीशन  
लन्दन

High Commission of India  
India House, Aldwych  
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On the 36th year of the Hindu Bengali festival of Durga Puja, I congratulate the Durga Puja Committee, Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad, Glasgow on celebrating this auspicious ceremony.

Durga Puja is one of the major festivals celebrated in India. It is not only a religious festival but also has great social and cultural significance with all communities celebrating it with great fervour all across India.

On behalf of the High Commission of India, I would like to convey our best wishes to the Indian community in Scotland and the organisers on this occasion.

(Dinesh K. Patnaik)



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत का प्रधान कौंसल  
एडिंबरा

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On the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja, I convey warm greetings and good wishes to Indian Community in Scotland.

I congratulate Durga Puja Committee, Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad, Glasgow, for organising the festival, which I hope will bring to the devotees peace & prosperity and promote communal harmony.

Durga Puja represents the triumph of truth over untruth, light over darkness and knowlege over ignorance. May Goddess Durga guide us on the path of justice, truth and wisdom. Let us pray to the Universal Mother to instil in us a spirit of brotherhood and love for all. May this festival strengthen the moral foundations of the society and turn us away from all that divides and destroys.

May Goddess Durga shower her blessings on all her devotees with her nine forms of Name, Fame, Health, Wealth, Happiness, Humanity, Education, Bhakti & Shakti

I congratulate Durga Puja Committee, Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad, Glasgow, for organising the festival, which I hope will bring to the devotees peace & prosperity and promote communal harmony.

(Oscar Kerketta)

Consul General



## DURGA PUJA COMMITTEE 2016

### OFFICE BEARERS

CHAIRPERSON Mrs Sheela Mukherjee

SECRETARIES Mr Sanjeet Bhattacharya  
& Dr Rajdeep Routh

TREASURER Dr Santanu Bhattacharjee

CONVENER Mr Dhruva Kundu

AUDITOR Mr Mihir Mukherjee

### ADVISORS

Mr Ashis Mallik Prof Purnendu Das Dr Satya Ranjan Chakrabarti  
Dr Sandip Ghosh Dr Bishnu Routray Mr Arijit Mukherjee

### CO-ORDINATOR

Mr Gautam Patra

### PUROHITS

Mr Arunava Banerjee - Durga Puja / Lakshmi Puja  
Dr Babulayeb Mukhopadhyay - Durga Puja / Saraswati Puja  
Dr Prabhakara Bhatt - Kali Puja

*The Organising Committee would like to express  
their gratitude to Catherine and her team for  
all their help throughout our celebrations.*

*We are most grateful to all the children for their  
participation. It is clear that our  
festival will be in good hands in the future.*



## ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Asha & Ashis Mallik  
Ira & Purnendu Das  
Mridula & Ashok Chakraborty  
Aditi & Mihir Palchoudhuri  
Versha & Virendra Sharma  
Moni & Kamal Mondal  
Uma & Satya Chakrabarti  
Kamala & Bibhas Ray  
Pratima & Shyamal Sengupta  
Kalpana & Biswanath Sinha  
Reba & Durga Rakhit  
Swati & Siddhartha Adhikari  
Kajal & Purnendu Chakraborty  
Anjana & Sarajit Sen  
Molly & Dilip Mukherjee  
Kalpana & Mihir Mukherjee  
Vimla & Arun Das  
Maitraye & Pinaki Ghosh  
Tripti & Gour Sarkar  
Ruby & Josh Sarkar  
Leena Mukherjee  
Madhushri Burman Roy  
Anu Sarkar  
Sanjukta Brahma  
Payal Debray  
Jayanti Kundu  
Srirupa & Santanu Bhattacharjee  
Suchandra & Ajit Kar  
Swapna & Ashok Roy  
Sumana & Prasanta Roy  
Usha & Priyo Sengupta  
Sathi & Bimalesh Majumder  
Debjani & Partha Gangopadhyay  
Dilip Ganguly  
Jaba Ganai  
Saikat Ghosh  
Saibal Sen

Meghomala & Parthapratim Ghosh-Biswas  
Baisali & Puspall Sengupta  
Sunetra & Amit Deb  
Sudakshina & Dhruba Kundu  
Moumita & Joydeep Dey  
Debjani & Gautam Patra  
Pamela & Arunava Ghosh-Ray  
Shakuntala & Haradhan Datta  
Arunima & Babulayeb Mukhopadhyay  
Anindita & Arunava Banerjee  
Indrani & Arijit Mukherjee  
Shalini & Amit Datta  
Sraboni & Sanjeet Bhattacharya  
Sudatta & Gobinda Chowdhury  
Kiron & Sandip Ghosh  
Rashmi & Bishnu Routray  
Chhabi & Bhajaman Singh  
Dolan & Dipayan Roy  
Soheli & Dev Mukherjee  
Mohua & Goutamananda Ray  
Rituporna & Subrota Chatterjee  
Mousumi & Rajdeep Routh  
Saroni & Santanu Acharya  
Sushmita & Shikhar Sircar  
Madhumita & Sudipta Roy  
Sindhuja & Anupam Sinha  
Robin Bhattacharya  
Arghanil Patra  
Arnab Mukherjee  
Anubhav Choudhury  
Mayurakshya Roy  
Rick Mukhopadhyay

*Our apologies if we have missed out anyone's name.*

# महोद्दरुतलरुदुी



## Cultural Co-ordinators:

Debjani Patra & Sraboni Bhattacharya

## Participants:

Siona Sircar  
Raina Mukherjee  
Ayanna Routh  
Risha Chatterjee  
Priya Datta  
Anharika Pandey  
Sinjini Dutta

Abir Ghosh-Biswas  
Aaditya Bhattacharjee  
Pranjal Ganguly  
Sayon Sircar  
Aritra Acharya  
Batu Kirshna Maitra

Aditi Palchaudhuri  
Debjani Patra  
Sraboni Bhattacharya  
Suchandra Kar  
Mousumi Routh  
Kamala Roy  
Pratima Sengupta  
Mridula Chakraborty  
Anu Sarkar  
Sandip Ghosh  
Sanjeet Bhattacharya

## Narration:

Babulayeb Mukhopadhyay  
Sudipta Roy

## Tabla:

Arunava Ghosh-Ray

## Keyboard:

Rick Mukhopadhyay

## Sound Engineer:

Pro Sound Services

# Mahalaya

The traditional six day countdown to Mahasaptami starts from Mahalaya. Goddess Durga visits the earth for only four days but seven days prior to the Pujas, starts the Mahalaya. The enchanting chant of 'chandi path' fills up the pre-dawn hours of the day thus marking the beginning of "devipaksha" and the countdown of Durga Puja. It's a kind of invocation or invitation to the mother goddess to descend on earth - "Jago Tumi Jago". This is done through the chanting of mantras and singing of devotional songs.

The story element is captivating. It speaks of the increasing cruelty of the demon king Mahisasura against the Gods. Unable to tolerate his tyranny, the Gods plead with Vishnu to annihilate the demon. The Trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara (Shiva) come together to create a powerful female form with ten arms - Goddess Durga or 'Mahamaya', the Mother of the Universe who embodies the primeval source of all power.

The gods then bestow upon this Supreme creation their individual blessings and weapons. Armed like a warrior, the goddess rides a lion to battle with Mahisasura. After a fierce combat the 'Durgatinashini' is able to slay the 'Asura' king with her trident. Heaven and earth rejoice at her victory. Finally, the mantra narration ends with the refrain of mankind's supplication before this Supreme Power:

"Ya devi sarbabhuteshshu, sakti rupena sanksthita namasteshwai namasteshwai namasteshwai namo namaha."

This day bears immense significance for Bengalis. It is according to the myths that Sree Rama hastily performed Durga Puja just before he set for Lanka to rescue Sita from Ravana. According to Puranas, King Suratha, used to worship the goddess Durga in spring. Thus Durga Puja was also known as Basanti Puja. However, Rama brought the Puja forward and worshiped Durga in autumn and that is why it is known as 'Akal Bodhon' or untimely worship. It was considered untimely as it is in the myths that puja was performed when the Gods and Goddesses were awake i.e. "Uttarayan" and was not held when the Gods and Goddesses rested i.e. "Dakshinayan". It was on the day of Mahalaya, the beginning of "devipoksha", the Gods and Goddesses woke up to prepare themselves for Durga Puja.

Autumn in its bloom, mingled with the festive spirit of Durga Puja reaches its pitch on the day of Mahalaya. From this day starts 'Devipaksha' and marks the end of 'Pitri-paksha'. It is the day when many throng to the banks of river Ganga, clad in dhotis to offer prayers to their dead relatives and forefathers. People in the pre-dawn hours pray for their demised relatives and take holy dips in the Ganges. This ritual is known as 'Tarpon'.



## **Thistle Healthcare Ltd.**

Best Wishes to  
**Durga Puja**  
Glasgow 2016

*From*

*Mr & Mrs Dev Fowdar and Family*



*Greetings to*  
**Durga Puja**  
*Glasgow 2016*

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Durga Puja Committee wishes to express their gratitude and thanks to the following for their kind support and contributions:

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**We also wish to thank the members of our community, too numerous to mention, who have given countless hours of service in helping to make our Puja a continued success.**

*Our thoughts are with the friends and families  
of all those who have passed away recently.*

*Mr Shyamal Majumdar passed away following a short illness.*

*Mrs Jharna Ray also passed away recently.*

*They will be missed by our whole community.*

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**We wish you all the best for the coming  
Durga Puja celebration.**

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