

FEBRUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

February Newsletter



Sufi Darbar - Nagaur Festival – John attended the Nagaur Sufi Festival 31st Jan – 1st Feb. This was the 2nd year that this festival has been held – organised by the Mehrangarh Museum Trust (our partners for the Jodhpur RIFF). A truly magical setting in an amazing old fort, extremely well restored by the Trust



Called Baajaa Gaajaa – Music from 21st century India, the event provided interactive space to indie record labels, book publishers, event organizers, audio-video equipment manufacturers and distributors, instrument-makers and retailers, musicians, music lovers, scholars and the general public. The event attracted national and international participation and media.

John attended this at the invitation of Shubha Mudgal. At their request - we presented Sumitra, who performed in front of a packed audience and was greatly appreciated by all. This is going to be an

Baaja Gaaja Pune

LAPIS Sculpture

(Small text, likely a description or quote related to the sculpture.)



JVF Les Amis de Jaipur Christian Lapie sculpture in Jaipur Central Park has been included in a prestigious, world Dictionary of Sculpture

Faith Singh went to the UK and presented the Jaipur citizen focussed model of heritage management at the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, annual conference on Feb 5th 2009

The Seminar was attended by aprox 100 eminent guests from the international sphere of architecture, urban and environmental planning and management, civil servants, funding agencies and related associations and foundations working in UK, US, the Gulf and Middle East, and other countries around the world. It was attended by HRH Prince of Wales who also made one of the key speeches.

The Prince then made an impassioned plea for re-thinking the relation of global to local, so that the processes of development do not destroy the inherited wisdom and intangible wealth of generations in traditional and historic settlements the world over.

There have been numerous meetings with various Secretaries and presentations made to the new Govt headed by Shri Ashok Gehlot. A very comprehensive Heritage plan for Rajasthan prepared by Smt Faith Singh has been handed over to the CMs office, which will hopefully be acted on soon after the elections. Some action has already been initiated by the with regard to Amber. More on this in the next newsletter.

ARTIST SUPPORT SCHEME



Mahadev Nath Kalbelia an artist who was being given financial support by JVF died.



Support has been extended to another artist Shafi Mohammed (Village Boghera – Shekawati)

BIKANER TRIP

- 24th – 27th Feb Divya Bhatia, Vinod, Georgie, John and K went to the Bikaner Region
- To establish a link with similar minded organization, which could act as an extension to the work that JVF, does in rural Rajasthan.
- To meet with the organizers of the Festival in Pabusar, this has been supported by JVF for 6 years now. The space available in the village was proving too small. The capacity at present was about 8-10,000, but the response from the villagers indicate that we would need enough space for 15,000 plus.
- To meet the performing artists of the area. We are informed of artists on a regular basis and then look for an opportunity to meet and listen to them.
- To meet the family of the departed Bhopa legend – Mohan Bhopa who died a month ago.
- To meet with Shafi Mohammed, the new person to be included in the financial support scheme of JVF from Feb 2009.

24th – Bikaner – our host Dr Shrilal Mohta took us in the evening to the Asapura Natya Sansthan to witness the practice of a traditional play – from this area – Rammat style of play which is only performed in this area of Rajasthan



. Later that evening, we witnessed people from Bikaner city practicing for the coming Holi festival in a town square – Chaang players and singers – traditional Holi music of this area

25th – We visited the villages of Sujandeshwar and Bacchasar to look for a site for an annual festival for the Bikaner region. At the moment we do not have a Festival for this area.



Later that day we were taken to the office of the Maru Parampara, which promotes folk culture and with whom JVF is establishing a tie up for collaborating in the future. We were shown and heard 20-30 artists who performed for us and we were able to have long discussions with the artists and the Trustees of the organization.

We also met with the Sarpanch (village elected rep) of Kanwalasar – Shri Gauri Shankar, who has been observing the activity of JVF for several years and is very keen to support any village festival that we would plan for this area

26th – We drove to Momasar and spent some time with Bajrang the disabled artist who JVF has been promoting for quite a few years now. Later we went to Sardarshahar to meet up with Hamid Khan who runs a small organization teaching young people Brass Band music. On to village Hariyasar to meet Brajlal Dhadi who organised a performance of Deru (local drum). We then went to village Aspalsar village where Laddoo Ram hosted us and highlighted the performance of his area – it was like a mini – village festival with a few hundred people getting together. We also had a chance to meet Shafi Khan the new person being supported financially by JVF.



27th – We drove to Pabusar village to the home of Mohan Bhopa's family – Mohan Bhopa probably the most famous Bhopa of the region and with whom JVF had been working for 6-7 years had died a month ago.



We had detailed discussions regarding the Annual Festival at Pabusar – with which we have been involved for 5-6 years and where the space is proving to be too small for the expected attendance of 10 – 15,000 people

Modern Translations of Traditional Skills



At the gallery – 14th February

A lecture – demonstration was given by Ayush Kasliwal one of our leading designers on Modern Translations of Traditional Skills.

Thierry Robin the famous French musician who has a number of CDs to his credit and who has performed at the Jaipur Festival a few years ago visited us and had detailed discussions with Divya and John for future collaborative work with JVF. Thierry has worked with Rajasthani folk musicians for years and in particular with Gulabo, with whom he has worked for many years and has made several CDs



23rd Our team attended a local festival which has been running for 41 years now at the Gateshwar Mahadeva temple in Gator. This is held every year at Maha Shivratri and the organizers were very keen on some sort of joint effort between them and JVF. Mr. Chandak the main Trustee of this organization has been attending JVF festivals in the past

Performances with our Folk musicians have been held at:
Delhi for the Carpet Manufacturers Association
Clarks Amer – a private gathering
Raj Palace also for a private gathering