



Hungarian Cultural Group Monthly Newsletter Jan/Feb Issue

Dear **Members**,

The **Hungarian Cultural Group** wishes a very Happy and Successful New Year to every returning and new family interested in Hungarian culture.

Review

"As many of you already know our organisation was started in April 2009. Thanks to our successful operation the number of families who contacted us has increased from only twenty to over sixty since the start. Regularly over thirty families visit us and take part in the Saturday sessions. The number of recipients on our mailing list is more than three hundred!" summarised Mária Chambers, Chair of the HCG. She then continued: "We have won some grants last year such as the Big Lottery Fund (£8,770) and the Grassroots Grants (£5,000). Thanks to these successful applications a new time has begun in the life of the HCG. This year not only the school fees have been decreased but we have had the chance to organise not one, but three great special events."

The greatest event of last year: Santa Claus Event



Santa Claus visited the HCG on the 5th of December which was a fantastic and memorable time for us all. More than one hundred and fifty people came together to wait for the arrival of good old Santa. He finally arrived and shared the content of his sack with the excited group of children. Little ones and older children impressed the great guest with poems and songs, who gave stockings to them in exchange for their skilled performance. The several weeks of hard work and practising were not useless.

Those who do not believe it, go and find out more about the event through the pictures by clicking the link below:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/32130857@N04/sets/72157622851832685/>

News

"We continue to promote the Hungarian language and culture. The focus is still on teaching in regular groups. Based on the results of our latest survey the number of the lessons were decreased to six in the first quarter." – explained Dorotea West, Senior Teacher.

The groups and schedules are available on our website, please follow the link below to find out more:

<http://www.hungarianculturalgroup.co.uk/>

HCG offers new services



The HCG Café - called „**Apple Pie**” - opens soon, which will be available for parents during the lessons for a little chat and gossiping. Meanwhile the little ones can use the new **play-room** (free of charge) supervised by Krisztina Koch and the **folk-dance salon** is also going to be available occasionally.

School fees, preferences

"Those families which pay the yearly fees till the **15th of January 2010**, receive **10%** off." – said Katalin Hegedüs, Treasurer. She also emphasised the importance of the membership fee, which should be paid soon as well.

EVENT CALENDAR

After a very successful last year we are offering wide range of colourful opportunities for entertainment this year as well.

Hungarian Ladies' Evening Out

Saturday, 23 January 2010 7.00 pm, Guildford, **Brasserie Gérard** Restaurant
(<http://www.brasseriegerard.co.uk>)



"It has now become a tradition the Hungarian ladies and mums regularly meet for a dinner in a lovely restaurant to discuss their every day joys, problems and difficulties as well as experiences with regards to integration. These meetings open the door to genuine conversations and shared opinions. For that reason these informal feedbacks are highly important for HCG to be able to develop it's services. Plenty of good ideas and programme opportunities were created by friendly chatting during these dinners." – said Krisztina Koch, Image Designer. Everyone is more than welcome. Please email Krisztina Koch (krisztina.koch@hungarianculturalgroup.co.uk) or alternatively contact her personally on Saturdays in the school. The summary of the latest evening out is now available on our website.

Gryllus Vilmos „Maszkabál” (costume ball) children concert for all ages at 11.00 am followed by a Fancy Dress Party and „Songs inspired by poems” adult concert at 8.00 pm

Saturday, 06 March 2010, Royal Grammar School, Guildford

Have you ever seen Vilmos Gryllus?

The prestigious Kossuth prize winning musician is going to perform in Guildford for a whole day. "After wondering around above us he plops straight from the sky" (qv. one of his songs) to remind us that the good old Hungarian songs have not been heard for a long time now. The founder member of the group Kaláka is also well-known as the composer of several songs for children and going to sing about a fancy costume ball. It will be fun for all ages. Participation is strictly recommended.

Guess who will be the next performer? Ideas are more than welcome.



Further information and tickets are available upon request from Mária Chambers on 01483 570710 or maria.chambers@hungarianculturalgroup.co.uk

Hungarian Cultural Group

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Big Lottery Fund, Working Association of Voluntary Service, Royal Grammar School Guildford, Surrey Community Foundation Grassroots Grants, Hungarian Shop London, Hungarian Cultural Centre London, SEEBYS Consultancy Ltd., Dr. Éva Forintos, university lecturer and linguist



Written by Barbara Molnár, PR Consultant