



## INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

 **ITALY:** The Savona Branch invites you to submit entries for a painting competition which will take place between 11th and 18th October 2007. Entries must be received no later than 20th September. Full details and the entry form are available from the British Section Administration Centre in Nottingham (BSAC)

 **GABON:** There is a new official email address for the Gabon Section at: [marcelnyamat@yahoo.fr](mailto:marcelnyamat@yahoo.fr). There is also a new official email address, [mazwimngo@yahoo.com](mailto:mazwimngo@yahoo.com) for the one in Swaziland.

 **SOUTH AFRICA:** The IPA House Timour Hall has a new e-mail address for information and bookings: [timour@mweb.co.za](mailto:timour@mweb.co.za)

 **SPAIN:** Congratulations to IPA Spain on the opening of a new IPA House Madrid. Situated in the centre of Madrid close to Plaza Legazpi, the apartment has 2 bedrooms (1 double and 1 twin - sleeps 4), 2 bathrooms, lounge with TV and kitchen. It is 500 metres from the subway and buses. There is a garden with 2 swimming pools, suitable for adults and children. Parking. Linen provided. No pets allowed. The Housing Manager, Gonzalo Recio can be contacted on ++34 619159104 (mobile) or e-mail: [ipa-house.madrid@hotmail.com](mailto:ipa-house.madrid@hotmail.com) More details are available from the website: [www.ipaespain.org](http://www.ipaespain.org)

 **GERMANY:** Under its 'Other Accommodation for IPA use' category the international office of the IPA has announced that a German member has offered inexpensive accommodation for 2/3 persons at his house in Munich. Approximately 20 minutes from the main railway station, approximately 30 minutes from the airport and convenient for main traffic routes and public transport links. For information and booking contact Karl Hilz: [KarlHilz@yahoo.de](mailto:KarlHilz@yahoo.de)

Details of all international events can be found online at: [http://en.ipa-iac.org/online-diary/en\\_diary-events.htm](http://en.ipa-iac.org/online-diary/en_diary-events.htm)



It's amazing how the IPA can open so many unknown doors when travelling abroad. Here Steve Gale from the **New Scotland Yard Branch** tells how IPA members in **Sri Lanka** made his trip to the country one to remember. So much so, that he is now planning an official trip to the country in three years time!

In November 2005 I attended the Friendship Week in Sri Lanka with my wife and several friends. Although the itinerary was for only five days, it gave me an insight into a country of outstanding natural beauty, friendly people, and ancient culture. It also gave me a desire to return, and explore the country further.

Earlier this year, myself, my wife, Christine, and David Hilder from No11 Region returned. We contacted Hema Dias of the Sri Lankan IPA and asked for assistance with various visits, and also to meet up with IPA members for drinks or meals.

On our arrival at Colombo Airport we were met by four plain clothes police officers, who assisted us through customs to meet our guide for the visit, Lalith.

The next day we went on a tour of Colombo, and in the evening went for dinner with Hema Dias, Srijah Senenayake and Foni De Fonseka and their wives Padma, Mallika and Sharmi. This was to thank them for their help on the previous visit, when one of our party fell and broke his hip.

We stayed for three days at the Kandalama Hotel in Dambulla, which is in the area known as the Cultural Triangle. On our first night we were visited by the local police commander and his deputy.

Onwards to Kandy, where we spent three days, visiting the botanical gardens, arts and crafts centres, and the Kandy Museum.

With the assistance of the local IPA we gained entry via the V.I.P. entrance to the

world famous Temple of the Tooth, which contains the most sacred relic of Buddhism and the most precious symbol of Sinhalese pride.

We were given a tour of Kandy Police Station and then went to the Police Dog Training School, where a display was laid on for us. The local police also arranged for us to visit Mount Ampulawara, where at the summit there has been built a shrine for all the religions in Sri Lanka. This was the idea of the Minister of Agriculture, and has taken 10 years to complete. We were privileged to meet the minister who was on a visit.

Onwards to Galle, the seafarer's capital of Sri Lanka, where we stayed for two nights. With the assistance of a local police sergeant we visited the natural harbour and Dutch Fortress.

We were invited to take part in the retired senior officer's picnic. David and myself were mad enough to play in their annual cricket match - in the midday sun.

We returned to Colombo where we spent our last few days, and were invited to the police club at Mount Lavinia, for a farewell meal.

We can only thank the local IPA for their amazing help during our holiday.

It is my intention to arrange an IPA visit to Sri Lanka in March 2010 on behalf of New Scotland Yard Branch. Anybody who is interested in joining this trip can contact me at: [stevecgale@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stevecgale@yahoo.co.uk) and I will supply them with a proposed itinerary. There will be a limit of 30 places on the trip.



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