

## Asian Bedford Home



### Art & Music

#### At Your Library

- Browse the shelves at [your local library](#) for books on **Asian art history**, individual artists and sculptors and art forms.
- Music from Asia? Have a look at Bedford Library's selection of books and CDs.  
Or you can search the online catalogue for art and music at [www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries)  
Click Do it Online then Search and Request



#### Locally

- **Gujarati Mitra Mandal Bedford**  
Caters for the educational, cultural, spiritual & religious needs of the Gujarati community in Bedford, including Gujarati language classes, classical Indian dance and music.
- **Shri Guru Ravidass Bhawan and Community Centre**  
Activities at the Bhawan and Community Centre include religious and cultural activities, and music.
- **Indian Music Tuition – Pooja Music**  
Interested in learning how to play Indian Music? Pooja Music offers tuition in Indian music with a classical/semi-classical base: theory, voice training, scales, notation, ragas.
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Trust**  
Asian music, vocal and dance classes.

Contact details and more information for the above are on the Local Information Database.

[www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh](http://www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh)

## On the Virtual Library

- **Oxford Art Online (Grove Art)**  
An in depth encyclopedia covering Western and non-western art
- **Oxford Music Online (Grove Music)**  
Includes expert articles on all aspects of music.

Free access with your library card and PIN.

[www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries)

Click Online Resources



## Online

- **BBC Asian Network**  
Listen to Asian music, find listings, information about programmes, and listen to music clips.  
[www.bbc.co.uk/asiannetwork](http://www.bbc.co.uk/asiannetwork)

## Did you know...?

The widespread use of the tablā in South Asian folk, religious and classical music has meant that they have also become one of the central instruments in Indian popular music that draws on a variety of musical sources to create its unique sound.



For more interesting facts about the history of Bedford, visit the Virtual Library, click on [Local Studies and Family History](#).

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## Country Information

### At Your Library

- Your [local library](#) can provide **books on the history of Asia and individual Asian countries**. If you are travelling, have a look at guidebooks and maps on Asia. You can search the Virtual Library catalogue online too.  
[www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries)  
Click Do it Online then Search and Request

- **Europa World Year Book**  
Find this in Quick Reference- extensive, annually updated,



information about all the countries of Asia and the rest of the world.

### On the Virtual Library

- **Credo Reference** includes articles about Asia and its individual countries.
- **Encyclopaedia Britannica** online  
Substantial articles about Asia and individual Asian countries.

Free access with your library card and PIN.

[www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries)

Click Online Resources

### Online

- **BBC Country Profiles**  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country\\_profiles/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country_profiles/default.stm)  
Useful for outlines of history and politics, a timeline and links to selected news items about Asian countries and elsewhere.
- **CIA World Factbook**  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>  
Find information and statistics about Asian countries.

### Did you know...?

For more interesting facts about the history of Bedford, visit the Virtual Library, click on Local Studies and Family History.

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## Books, Films and Newspapers

### At Your Library

- At [your local library](#), **our foreign language section** has grown! Borrow books in a number of different Asian languages
- Look out for our selection of **Asian cinema DVDs** to borrow- films from Bollywood and the Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Punjabi cinema
- If you want to keep up with **news or gossip** you can read ~
  - ❖ Akhbar E Jehan
  - ❖ Daily Jang
  - ❖ Des Pardes
  - ❖ Eastern Eye
  - ❖ Epoch Times
  - ❖ India Today



All at Bedford Central Library

## Locally

- **Cineworld**

Bedford Cineworld often shows popular Bollywood films. For showing times visit the Cineworld website.

<http://www.cineworld.co.uk/whatson/category/bollywood>

## Online

- Have a look at Wikipedia for articles on Bollywood and the Hindi cinema and for links to further information about the South Asian cinema.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bollywood>

- Try these websites for more about films from specific countries:

### **China**

Chinese Movie Database

<http://dianying.com/en>

### **India**

Upperstall – Indian cinema (search for films or people) and reviews

<http://www.upperstall.com/home.html>

### **Japan**

Cinema of Japan

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese\\_cinema](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_cinema)

### **Korea**

Koreanfilm.org

<http://koreanfilm.org>

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## Languages

### At Your Library

- Learn a new language – there are Asian language **courses** to borrow from [your local library](#)
- Consult **dictionaries** in some Asian languages
- At [your local library](#), **our foreign language section** has grown! Borrow books in these languages ~ Bengali, Gujerati, Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Chinese, Marathi, and Farsi



## Locally

- **Gujarati Mitra Mandal Bedford**

Caters for the educational, cultural, spiritual & religious needs

of the Gujarati community in Bedford, including Gujarati language classes.

Contact details and more information are on the Local Information Database.

[www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh](http://www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh)

### Online

- **BBC Languages Guide**

[www.bbc.co.uk/languages/guide/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/guide/)

A guide to a number of different languages

### Did you know...?

Between 1871 and 1914 over 5,000 houses were built in Bedford to accommodate an influx of Anglo-Indians who had served in the Raj; Bedford was chosen because it offered a cheap public school education for their children. Interestingly, these same houses were later used to accommodate many Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi immigrants to the town in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

For more interesting facts about the history of Bedford, visit the Virtual Library, click on [Local Studies and Family History](#).

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## Religion and Festivals

### At Your Library

- Find books at [your local library](#) on the major religions practised in Asia and their traditions and festivals.



### Locally

- **Jamia Masjid Gulshan-E Baghdad Mosque**
- **Shri Sai Sidh Baba Balaknath**
- **Bangladesh Islamic Mission**
- **Guru Nanak Gurdwara**

Contact details and more information for the above are on the Local Information Database.

[www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh](http://www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh)

- Contact the Bedford Council of Faiths for more information about local Asian religious groups.

[www.bcof.org.uk](http://www.bcof.org.uk)

### Online

- **BBC Religions**  
Covers all aspects of the major religions - beliefs, holy days/festivals, rites, symbols and important texts.  
[www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/)
- **Interfaith Calendar:** primary sacred times for world religions.  
[www.interfaithcalendar.org/](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/)
- **Religion in Asia**  
Information from Wikipedia.  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion\\_in\\_asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_asia)

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## Culture and Heritage

### At Your Library

- Find books **on Asian culture, heritage, history and cookery** at your [local library](#).

### Locally

- You don't have to look far for a variety of **Asian restaurants** in Bedford – details are in the Yellow Pages.



All the **organisations** and their contact details listed below are on the Local Information Database ~

[www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh](http://www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh)

- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Trust**  
Asian music, vocal and dance classes. Educational help. Provides diversity training, Heena painting and Rangoli workshop.
- **Santosh Women's Foundation**  
Run by Shri Sai Sidh Baba Balaknath Mandir, the Asian Women's Foundation offer support to Asian women.
- **Gujarati Mitra Mandel Bedford**  
Caters for the educational, cultural, spiritual & religious needs of the Gujarati community in Bedford. The Mandal now organises most of the Indian festivals in Bedford.
- **Shri Guru Ravidass Bhawan and Community Centre (Bedford)**  
Activities at the Bhawan and Community Centre include religious and cultural activities, music, language, education, personal health, benefits advice and a day-centre.





## On the Virtual Library

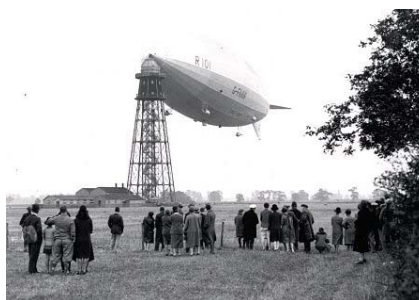
- Search for articles on Asian culture, heritage and history on **Credo Reference online**.  
Free access with your library card and PIN.  
[www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries)  
Click Online Resources
- **South Asian Family History Top Tips**  
Where to start researching your South Asian family History  
[www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/webingres/bedfordshire/vlib/0.local\\_studies/tips\\_family\\_tree\\_south\\_asian.htm](http://www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/webingres/bedfordshire/vlib/0.local_studies/tips_family_tree_south_asian.htm)

## Online

- **BBC Recipes from Around the World**  
Choose from a number of different cuisines, including Chinese and Indian recipes.  
[www.bbcgoodfood.com/content/recipes/cuisines/](http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/content/recipes/cuisines/)

## Did you know that...?

The R101 airship was constructed in Cardington and met disaster over Beauvais in 1931 on her way to Karachi, India. The route that she was to fly had been carefully surveyed and all the stations at which she might stop were prepared. Mooring masts were built at Ishmalia in Egypt and Karachi, India. A huge shed was also built at Drigh Road, Karachi (now the International Airport) to house the airship. At the time it was the largest building in the British Empire. The shed was later pulled down and used to repair bridges on the Indian railways.



For more interesting facts about the history of Bedford, visit the Virtual Library, click on [Local Studies and Family History](#).

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## Asian Connections

### At Your Library

Read more about the growth of **Bedford as a multicultural town**.

- Ring-binders of newspaper cuttings and articles delving back into the 1950s are available at Bedford Library.

## Locally

- Looking for links to Asia? You will find **clubs and organisations** listed on the Local Information Database. Search by entering the country name.  
[www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh](http://www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh)

## On the Virtual Library

- Follow the **Multicultural Timeline** on the Virtual Library  
[www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/webingres/bedfordshire/vlib/0.digitised\\_resources/multicultural\\_timeline.htm](http://www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/webingres/bedfordshire/vlib/0.digitised_resources/multicultural_timeline.htm)

## Did you know...?

**Mudhsuden Singh Panesar**, popular cricketer and a left-arm spinner of great talent was born in Luton and educated at Bedford Modern School. He started his playing career with Luton Indians and Dunstable Town and played his first match for Bedfordshire at 17.

For more interesting facts about the history of Bedford, visit the Virtual Library, click on [Local Studies and Family History](#).

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## Facts and Figures

### Online

Find out more about the demography of the Asian communities in Bedford.

- Bedford Borough **Statistical Profile:** demography  
[www.bedford.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/statistics\\_and\\_census/borough\\_statistical\\_profile.aspx](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/statistics_and_census/borough_statistical_profile.aspx)  
Click on 'Demography'.
- **Neighbourhood Statistics**  
[www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/](http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/)  
Search as follows:  
Bedford and Local Authority  
Bedford  
People and Society: Population and Migration  
Country of Birth Table UV08
- For more data go to:  
[www.bedford.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/statistics\\_and\\_census/other\\_data\\_sources.aspx](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/statistics_and_census/other_data_sources.aspx)





- And for further information contact:  
[intelligence@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:intelligence@bedford.gov.uk)
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