



Ravi Shankar's work exhibiting at The Noble Sage

## Back to his childhood

By Sheila Armstrong  
How many artists started out training to do something else and then could resist the call of the muse no longer? S. Ravi Shankar was certainly one of these, originally planning to train as an engineer before signing up at the Government College for Art in Madras, very much against his parents' wishes.

Born in 1960 and now living in Kerala he has exhibited in India and beyond since 1979. He is a long-time member of Jana Manuelpillai's stable of contemporary Asian artists at the Noble Sage Gallery in Fortis Green. This solo exhibition is titled *Back to His Childhood* and includes eight new works.

A crowd of his fans turned up to the private view in April to see a whole room full of his complex black and white drawings of Indian life. With no surface left undecorated, his visual vocabulary is complex, many-layered and some say cryptic. The pictures done in black gel pen allude to specific moments in his past life: he has a photographic recall of specific moments from his childhood and these inspire the pictures. He can be seen looking out at us from the pictures, surrounded by fascinating details from Indian life – and, more specifically, his own life.

To view the exhibition contact Jana at [www.thenoblesage.com](http://www.thenoblesage.com) where all works can be seen online or by emailing [thenoblesage@thenoblesage.com](mailto:thenoblesage@thenoblesage.com)

## Fresh look for dry cleaners

By Diana Cormack

"We've got a little bit more than they might get elsewhere," said Krishna Pattani, during a look around the refurbished Pristine Dry Cleaning on Viceroy Parade. Just over a year ago, the premises underwent a major revamp, being completely gutted back to the original structure. New ceilings, floors and walls were installed throughout, along with modern electrics.



Readers may only have been aware of changes at the front of the shop, with its new windows and entrance area. However, the working section at the back was altered too, with extra hanging space being created to deal with clothing cleaned using state-of-the-art machinery. Krishna told *The Archer* that the inspiration for all this came from his wife Hema. She felt that the changes were necessary despite the recession and were a way of being loyal to their clientele and of keeping their custom.

One of the innovations is a shirt press that treats collars, cuffs and sleeves under steam pressure before the whole shirt is dealt with on a shaped hanging frame, giving an almost new look.

A new look can be given to other garments too, for there is an on-site tailor offering an alteration and repair service. New clothes are also made, as well as covers for cushions and other forms of upholstery. Two other shorter services are key cutting and "while-you-wait" shoe repairs, the only one in the vicinity.

Krishna and Hema offer a 10% discount on dry cleaning clothes or 15% on curtains and sofa covers to anyone presenting this article at Pristine, 53 High Road (offer ends 31 July 2012).



By Adam Justice-Mills

After predicting in *The Archer* last month that drought would turn to flood, I'm certain that making little changes really can make a difference. Water butt installed, we've enough free water to keep plants and fish happy. Unfortunately, it's going to be a record hay-fever season as a result.

I read in 2009 that 15 of the world's largest cargo ships made as much sulphur dioxide (a source of acid rain) as all the world's 760 million cars, but the same statistic was applied this week to cruise ships. Who writes this stuff and do they check it? Deciding how to make a difference is hard enough, without misinformation and 'greenwashing'. With all the hype of the Olympics it was good to hear, on our school trip to the London site, that environmental concerns for the development had been carefully thought out and measured. A report from [www.cslondon.org](http://www.cslondon.org) says that although there were many really good intentions, there will be mixed success at achieving their sustainability goals. I particularly appreciated their disappointment that the Olympic torch couldn't be made low carbon. Let's concentrate on their achievements – after all, nobody's perfect. Lots of the materials used in construction, much of the energy needed to run the Games, and loads of the water in and on the stadia will meet sustainability targets. Perhaps most of all, though, was the extent that sustainability was considered important: more than for any other large-scale development in the UK, if not the world. Finally, once the excitement is over, the legacy considerations kick in: re-using as much as possible of the buildings (the basketball building is moving to the next Games), waste (70% re-cycled) and even people (outplacement of the contractors). Perhaps this could become a realistic model of how to plan such developments in future. In contrast, it saddened me to hear that suggested strengthening of planning requirements for insulation of existing properties (which will save householders money even in the medium term) was greeted as a 'planning tax' by the media. It's about investing in our future, not about paying to 'be green'. We don't fully recognise the costs of clean water, cheap power and 'acceptable levels' of pollution: if we did, we'd all be clamouring to do more to help. Good information and foresight are essential parts of making the right choices. Choose your sources with care.

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