



# Ipswich Hindu Samaj

Reg charity no. 1118790

Hindu Samaj's News Letter

No. 3

December 2008



## Welcome!

*Welcome to all for this third newsletter of year 2008.*

*"No Dream is too Big", to borrow award winning slogan from Amandeep Singh Kohli, from Jullander, Punjab, for Chandrayan 1 Moon Mission, rightly fits into our dream and vision for the Hindu Community Centre and Place of Worship for the Ipswich Hindu Samaj. Our dream for the Community Centre and Place of Worship may appear to be big, but is not too big to achieve. We very much hope that with the support of the Hindu and of wider community and with the Grace of god, we shall achieve our objective.*

*Since the issuing of the last newsletter in August, lot of water has gone under the bridge, and we in this newsletter would recapture some of our events that we had organised and other news of the Samaj.*

## Activities and Fund Raising

### Shri Krishna Janamashtami

This was celebrated in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ipswich on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August. There was singing of bhajans, sankirtan of Mahamantra and dance performances. Mrs Deb performed Kathak dances on Mira Bai bhajans, where as Mrs Thabo did Puja and Krishna Bharat Natyam Dances.

The deity was installed and beautifully decorated by Ms Lila Patel. After the Aarti, prasadam was distributed to all those who attended. The venue was provided free of charge by the Ipswich Borough Council. All those present enjoyed the spiritual atmosphere of the birthday of Lord Krishna. We raised more than £200 for the Samaj, by donations, on this occasion.

### Charity Walk

Two groups of ten members and friends took part in the Orwell Sponsored Charity Walk on 7th September to raise funds for the Samaj. Together we raised nearly £3000. From the amount raised, the Samaj has purchased the PA system for about £600 for use at the Navaratri festival and for other occasions. Congratulations to all those who participated in this walk, nearly all for the first time except for Dr Soni, completed 12 miles of walk in about 4 and half hours.

## **Ganesh Chaturthi**

This was celebrated from 3rd Sep to 7th Sep at the Unitarian Meeting house. Like last year, the celebration was a great success with an average attendance of 100 over the five days. This year the organisers also arranged for the food and fancy dress competition for ladies and children respectively. On one of the days, Rev Cliff Reed of the Unitarian Meeting House was invited to light the lamp for the Ganesh Puja, who also highlighted the importance of the Meeting House and its architecture.

For the first time the deity of Lord Ganesh, who is also regarded as the God of Wisdom and Prosperity and who would remove all obstacles in His devotees spiritual tasks, was taken in procession to river Orwell for immersion. This was a big occasion not only for the Samaj, but also for the organisers. On the day of visarjan i.e. on Sunday 7th Sep, besides singing bhajans in the praise of Lord Ganesh, young girls from Kerala performed Ganesh Vandana. We were able to raise more than £300 for the Samaj in donations. Special thanks to Mrs Vinaya Kulkarni, Dr's Praveen and Shilpa Desie and their friends for making the celebrations a great success. Prasadam was distributed to all on each day after the Aarti.

## **Navaratri Celebrations**

This was celebrated at the Sikh Sangat Association Community Centre adjacent to the Ipswich Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Bramford Road, Ipswich from 30th Sep to 8th Oct, with Poornima Ras Garba on 10th Oct. Again like last year, it was a great success with an average attendance of 80 over the period of 10days. Special thanks go to organisers Umesh Patel, Sital Patel, Nayna Patel, Harshad Patel and Mayuri Patel. Help was also provided by Hema Patel, Chandresh Patel and Jayesh Patel, who managed the PA system.

We had emails congratulating the Exec Committee and the organisers for the excellent arrangements. There were 21 raffle prizes and prizes for fancy dress competition for children and young girls. We were able to raise by donations and entrance fees more than £1900 for the Samaj.

## **Diwali & Hindu New Year**

On behalf of the Ipswich Hindu Samaj we would like to convey Greetings and Best Wishes for the Happy Diwali (28th Oct) and a happy & Prosperous New Year (29th Oct) to all members of the Ipswich Hindu Samaj and their friends. Also Best Wishes, to all brothers and sisters on the auspicious day of Bhaiya Dooj (30th Oct).

Samaj celebrated the Hindu New year on the 29th Oct with Diwali Milan at the Lecture Theatre 4, Long Street, University Campus Suffolk, Ipswich. Besides members of the Samaj, the invited guests included the Deputy Mayor of Ipswich Cllr Inga Lockington and her consort, leaders of the Suffolk County Council and Ipswich Borough Council, the Resident Judge of Ipswich Crown Court Hon'ble Judge John Devaux and a few other distinguished guests.

Indian food and sweets were served to all present. Every one enjoyed the evening.

## **Merry Christmas!**

As Christmas is approaching and we will be soon in the year 2009, may we wish "A Very Happy, Peaceful and Joyous Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2009."

## **Bhajan Evenings/Hawan**

Samaj has been holding Bhajan Evenings/Hawan on every 3rd Friday of each month at the Unitarian Hall. Currently, so far, barring once, only committee members have been sponsoring the event. We would like to receive more requests for sponsorships of £25 from members and their friends. We would also welcome any sponsorship for other events being organised by the Samaj.

**Please come forward and help us in raising funds for the Community centre and place of Worship.**

## **St Lawrence Centre**

Ipswich Borough Council gave us the free use of Centre on the 1st and 3rd Fridays for six months from July 2008 to end December, 4pm to 8pm for religious and social needs of the Samaj. Unfortunately for the lack of support from the community, the Exec Committee decided not to use the facilities from October. The IBC has been informed of the decision with regret and Samaj thanked them for their support.

## **Business Plan**

The Samaj's Exec Committee approved the 3rd draft with a proviso for Executive Summary and SWOT. These were written by Vinaya Kulkarni (Thanks Vinaya!) and forwarded to Alyas Khan, Consultant, Emica & Co to incorporate in the business plan. The latest information is that the plan has been completed and presently it is with the graphic designers for final touch.

Now that the business plan is out of the way, Alyas Khan would be submitting applications for revenue and capital funding for the Samaj. We are pleased to inform that our first application to Grassroots Grant for employment of development Officer/Co-coordinator has been successful with Suffolk Foundation for £5000.

An application for the same position has been submitted to CDF (Community Development Fund) Faiths in Action Round One for £12000. The result will be known in April next year.

## **Site for the Community Centre**

In the August issue of the newsletter, we informed you of the Sir Thomas Slade Court, Star Lane, Ipswich, as the possible premises for the Community Centre and the Place of Worship. It has been in the market for £615k and our offer of £500k has not been accepted. Negotiations are still continuing. In the mean time we continue to look for other sites or premises.

I am afraid there has not been any success from local authorities for conceding to our needs, though the Suffolk County Council External funding team has been of some assistance in guiding us to apply for funding. This has been now taken up by Alyas Khan, as mentioned above.

As I indicated earlier - No Task/Dream is too Big. We will eventually succeed in our objective and vision for a Hindu Community Centre and place of Worship in Ipswich. What we need from you is the moral, spiritual, social and financial support.

## **Next AGM**

**Please note AGM will be held on Wednesday 25th February 2009. Agenda & papers will be sent nearer the time.**

## **THE UNIVERSAL FORM** *(A story from Mahabharat by Sri Chinmoy)*

On the battlefield of Kurukshetra, Arjuna had come to know that Krishna was the Lord Himself. Now he wanted to see for himself the universal form of Lord Krishna. Arjuna's mind understood the truth, but his heart pined to vision the Truth and to live the Truth. He needed this experience, unavoidable and inevitable. Sri Krishna graciously and immediately granted it, the experience unparalleled.

He declared, "O Arjuna, behold in my body the entire universe!"

Arjuna's physical eyes naturally failed to vision the Reality. Krishna granted him the eye of supernal vision, the Yogic eye that sees the unseen.

Arjuna saw the many in the One Supreme possessing myriad mouths, numberless eyes, limitless marvels, wielding divine weapons, wearing divine garments and jewels, bearing celestial garlands of supernal fragrance. The effulgence of a thousand suns bursting forth all at once in the skies would hardly equal the supreme splendour of the Lord.

Arjuna cried out, "In Your Body, o Krishna, I see all the cosmic gods and numberless hosts of beings. I see Lord Brahma seated on His throne, and all the sages and celestial snakes. You are the Primal God, the Ancient Purusha. You are the supreme Haven of the Universe. You are the Knower, You are the Knowable, You are the Supreme Abode. By You pervaded is the entire Universe, O Being of Infinite Forms".

Krishna said "I am the beginning and the end of the universe. I am the Source of creation and I am the place of dissolution. Beyond me there is nothing. All this is threaded upon Me as pearls upon a string".

On the battlefield the fight was just beginning. The warriors were ready and willing to fight. To his greatest surprise, Arjuna saw the utter extinction of the warriors' lives in Krishna. All were destroyed. As he saw the fires of Krishna's flaming and all devouring mouth, his very life breath quivered and Arjuna cried, "My Lord supreme, Thy compassion I implore! I know Thee not! Who art thou?"

Krishna spoke. "Time am I. Time, the mighty destroyer am I. They are doomed. Whether you fight or not, they are already dead. Even without you, your foes will escape no death. Arise, Arjuna. Victory's glory and renown you win. Conquer your enemies. All this is ordained by Me. Just be My instrument, nothing more.

Arjuna placed himself at Krishna's feet. "To You I offer my salutations. I offer, a thousand times, and again and again, my salutations to You. My delusion is now destroyed for good. Through your boundless grace and Compassion I have recognised the Truth. All my doubts are expelled. To Your Will I surrender my life unconditionally. My existence is totally at your disposal.

**- Sent by Mr. Martin**