



Ipswich Hindu Samaj

Reg charity no. 1118790

Hindu Samaj's News Letter

No. 2

August 2008



Welcome!

Welcome to all for this second newsletter of year 2008.

We convey our best wishes and greetings to all new members of the Samaj and to all those who have renewed their membership since January 2008.

*We all are aware of the immense contribution made by our President/Chairman Dr. Sushil Soni towards the activities of Ipswich Hindu Samaj. It gives us great pleasure that Dr Sushil Soni, received the prestigious award of **Glory of India**, from the **India International Friendship Society**, at their 38th Annual Seminar of Non-Resident Indians, for commendable achievements for Community Service, on 28th June in London. Hearty Congratulations!!*

We would welcome any comments on the newsletter. We would also welcome any feature or article for next newsletter.

Regular Bhajan Evenings / Hawan

Singing of bhajans with Bhakti makes us feel closer to our true self, to God.

The Samaj continues to hold Bhajan Evenings, every third Friday of the month at Unitarian Hall, Unitarian Meeting House, Gt Friars Street, Ipswich, IP1 1TD, with sponsorships for Aarti at £25.00. Since December 2007, Mrs Dharmistha Patel, Dr & Mrs Sushil & Hamlesh Soni, Mr & Mrs Sunil & Nayana Patel, Mr & Mrs Maheshwar & Bholi Mohan have sponsored the Aarti..

The next Bhajan evening will be held on Friday 15th of August at our regular place, Unitarian Hall at 7:30 pm. Sponsor for the Aarti for these evenings is Mr & Mrs Umesh Patel.

All are welcome, and if you wish, you may bring Prasad for offering.

Samaj News

Since the issuing of the Samaj's newsletter in April 2008, the Executive Committee (EC) and Trustees have been busy in carrying out the objectives of the Samaj.

Site & Premises for the Cultural Centre & Place of Worship

Samaj has identified the premises, Sir Thomas Slade Court, Star Lane, Ipswich, IP4 1JN as suitable premises. It has been on the market for £615k, but the Samaj has offered £500k with first refusal. To raise this amount is a big task, and we have asked Emica consultancy, employed for fund raising to submit applications for revenue funding.

Discussions are continuing with both Ipswich Borough Council and Suffolk County Council for a possible grant for the Cultural Centre. The Samaj is also continuing to look for other sites in Ipswich for the Centre.

Business/Development Plan

The Emica Consultancy produced 2nd draft for the Samaj, and after consultations, Emica has been asked to rewrite the plan according to the suggested structure. We hope to receive the 3rd draft soon for consideration and final approval. Once the plan is ready, it would be easier to apply for funding.

Vacancy

One of the Trustees Mrs Hema Chhabra, resigned in April from Trusteeship of the Samaj. We had five trustees and Mrs Renu Mandal is its Chairperson, and we look forward for a volunteer to take the vacant position. If you want to know more of a Trustee's role, please contact Renu or myself (mob: 07740 377 422 or 07944 180 026) or you can contact me by email info@ipswichhindusamaj.org.uk..

Website

Sushil has been keeping the website to date on his own some times with the help of Kerry Burn of OneSuffolk website co-ordinator. A few photographs have been entered in the gallery from Holi and Bhajan Evenings and would be pleased to hear of any comments.

Email: info@ipswichhindusamaj.org.uk.

Bharat Natyam – Classical Indian Dance Classes for Children

Near Ipswich Hospital; For Age Group 5 to 16 years.

Contact: Mrs. Thabovathani

thabog76@yahoo.co.uk, Tel: 01473 724718

Activities and Fund Raising

St Lawrence Centre

6th July onwards, the Samaj has started to organise Hindu Service at St Lawrence Centre, Dial Lane, Ipswich, IP1 1DJ, on every 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month. Two evenings have taken place in July. At the first evening Mr & Mrs Dhirajlal & Sushilaben Karia of Ram Mandir, Clacton-on-Sea, presented the Samaj a lovely deity of Lord Ganesha.

Indian Summer Mela

The Ipswich Hindu Samaj had a stall at the 6th Indian Summer Mela at Christ Church Park on Sunday 13th July. Thanks to volunteering of Mrs Chhaya Loomes (face painting), Mrs Priya Prasad, Mrs Abha Bansal, Mrs Vinaya Kulkarni (henna painting) and Mrs Shakti Khosla (reiki), as between them they raised for the Samaj more than £200.

A small shrine of Lord Ganesha and Krishna Bal-Gopal was setup on the stall, and many visitors had blessings from the Lord.

Also thanks to Mr Anil Patel for sale of Indian snacks and to Mr Chandresh Patel, Mrs Mayuri Patel and Sital Patel together with Bhaskar Patel for looking after the stall and selling donated goods and finally to Dr Sushil Soni for selling raffle tickets and collecting donations in the donation box. Collectively we raised about £450 for the Samaj.

The criticism has been that the Samaj was not well organised and Sushil Soni as Chairperson accepts the responsibility for this lapse and hope that we will be better organised next year.

Charity Walk

This was to be held on the 8th June, but postponed due to heavy rain on previous two days, will now be held on 7th September. About 13 volunteers from the Samaj are participating and hope to raise more than £1000.00. Part of the amount raised would be used for the purchase of PA sound system for the Samaj.

Future Events

We hope to organise the following events in the coming months:

- ❖ Regular Bhajan evenings at Unitarian Meeting Hall
- ❖ Regular Pooja and social gatherings at St Lawrence Centre
- ❖ Janamashtami on 24th August
- ❖ Ganesh Chaturthi on 3rd Sep. Visarjan on 9th Sep.
- ❖ Navratri on 29th Sep to 7th Oct at Gurdwara Community Centre
- ❖ Diwali Milan on 29th Oct and Diwali Dinner Dance 8th Nov.

Durvasa's Blessing (A short story from Mahabharata)

Durvasa was a most powerful sage. He thought he had conquered everything. He said, "I have conquered anger, I have conquered passion, and I have conquered everything. There is nothing left in the world to conquer."

Then one day, when he was meditating, a fly came and sat on his shoulder. Durvasa flew into a rage. He, who was so powerful, became very angry with the fly and said: 'I have the power to destroy the world. How dare you sit on my shoulder! The fly flew away and took the help of Lord Siva. Siva came to Durvasa and said, 'You have conquered everything, yet a fly can sit on your shoulder and you become angry!'

Durvasa had spiritual power and occult power, but he could never conquer his anger. In the Mahabharata there are many authentic stories of his cursing people in season and out of season. His blessings too were very irrational. Often his very blessing was a curse!

Now the mother of the great hero of the Mahabharata, Arjuna, was Kunti. Kunti came of a royal family, and when she was young and unmarried, a virgin, it happened that Durvasa came to her father's palace and she served him. Durvasa was so pleased with her that he immediately said, 'I shall grant you a boon'.

She said, 'Thank you. I will be so happy'.

'All right. The boon is that soon you will be the mother of a great hero.' This was Durvasa's blessing! Kunti was unmarried, and this was his boon!

She said, 'Now I am unmarried, how can I become a mother?'

But poor Kunti had a child, a son, fathered by Surya, the Sun God. As the child was illegitimate, she placed him in a casket and threw it in the river. The river flowed and carried the baby into the hands of a commoner, a charioteer named Adirat. Adirat brought up the child, Karna, who grew up to be a great warrior, as powerful as his brother Arjuna. These two brothers, Karna and Arjuna, were to meet on the battlefield of Kurukshetra.

Congratulations and Thanks

"Glory of India" – Dr. Sushil Soni

Congratulations to Dr Sushil Soni, President/Chairman, for receiving the prestigious award of **Glory of India**, from the **India International Friendship Society**, at their 38th Annual Seminar of Non-Resident Indians, for commendable achievements for **Community Service**, on 28th June in London.

Community Champion – Dr. Sushil Soni

Earlier in April, Dr Soni was also awarded the **Community Champion Award** by the High Sheriff of Suffolk, by Suffolk Foundation Trust. Congratulations for this as well Sushil!

Membership and Donations

Thanks to Anilbhai Patel, Subhashbhai Patel and Mrs Thanusha Soni for taking Life Membership of the Samaj for £500.00 each.

Also thanks to Mr D C Nayar for his generous donation of £101.00.

And finally thanks to Mrs Santosh Nair for her final and 3rd collection of £854.00 from Newcastle-on-Tyne.