

Working towards a closer community

Contact Us

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BSNL Ladies Club:

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Visit us online

Stay in touch with all the latest
news by visiting our website
(www.bsnl.org.uk) & our
Facebook pages
([Brahmin Society North London](#))

Dear Members,

Welcome to our second newsletter of the year!

We trust that you are staying safe in these uncertain times and hope that our online clubs and activities are bringing a little brightness and joy.

If you are interested in joining any of our existing subgroups or activities, please contact the relevant organising team. If you are interested in being a pioneer and starting something new, please get in touch with Parul Jani and share your ideas.

Take care all and stay safe.

Harsha Trivedi,
Chair, BSNL
chair@bsnl.org.uk

Our Regular Virtual Club

- **YOGA**
Every Tuesday 8.30-9.30am
Every Wednesday - Saturday 8:15-9:15
Contact: Parul Jani: 07940 584321
(Zoom ID: 884 9960 6739, Passcode: yoga)
- **Elders Group**
Every Tuesday, 11am-1pm
Contact: Hitesh Purohit: 07882 571 234
- **Ladies Club**
Every Friday, 11am-1pm
Contact: Vandana Joshi: 07944 913 208
- **Open Mic**
Every last Friday of the Month, 7.30-9.30pm
Contact: Chandrashekhar Thaker: 07956 967046
Anjana Thaker: 07949 830273

Membership Update

Digital Membership and your data

Dear Members,

We are pleased to inform you that BSNL is going digital with the launch of its Wild Apricot software. This is part of our commitment to GO GREEN.

The full details of the software, along with how to log in and other details, please follow the guidance included in this newsletter. Here is summary and actions we suggest you follow: -

- New membership applications on www.bsnl.wildapricot.org
- Members can apply to renew membership online at www.bsnl.wildapricot.org if your email address was provided for BSNL database, otherwise please visit www.bsnl.org.uk
- By Post to: Membership Trustee, The Brahmin Society North London, 128 East Lane, North Wembley. HA0 3NL
- One email address can be used for a group of members with **only one admin who will have access and be responsible for payments and update of members data.** Please contact Membership Trustee if you wish to choose this path.
- Members will be able to use Laptops/PCs/ Tablets/iPads to access the website. **Member can reset their password on the website.**
- In addition, there is also an app available from App store(iOS) or Google Play store (Android) for 'Membership' Wild Apricot. This is free to download. This will enable the members to have BSNL details at hand on the smart phone. **The app will not allow you to reset your password on smart phone.**

Membership Renewals

- Renewals to begin from 1st August 2021 and will expire after 13 months on 31st August 2022.
- Reminder that your membership has expired or due to expire on 31/08/2021.
- Forms enclosed are as per number of family members registered with BSNL. Kindly complete one form per person. Each child's (under 18) form should be filled in separately.
- Children under the age of 18 can have child membership if a parent or grandparent is a member and ceases with the expiry of parent/grandparent's membership.
- The fee structure for the year 2021-2022 is £15 for Full Members and £25 for Associate Members.
- Please check your email inbox and spam for an email from Wild Apricot.
www.bsnl.wildapricot.org for login details if you have given us your email address.
- The advantages of using the new system are numerous. BSNL will be able to communicate much quicker with the members and help achieve its goal in GOING GREEN.

Membership Data

- We use your data to send you information related to BSNL.
- Update data on Wild Apricot software www.bsnl.wildapricot.org with login details emailed to member.
- Data submitted is subject to GDPR and only used for BSNL purpose. Data will kept for 5 years rolling from the time you have ceased to be a member. Email and mobile number submitted as a means of communication will result in efficient communication and help us achieve our goal in GOING GREEN with less use of paper.

Happy to support our members with any queries.

Jai Mahadev
Chandrashekhar Thaker
Membership Trustee
07483 952957

[Overview of Membership Renewal using our new Wild Apricot system](#)

Go to BSNL website and click on Membership from top menu or go to this link <https://bsnl.org.uk/membership-details> Once redirected to our BSNL website you will have two options for renewal.

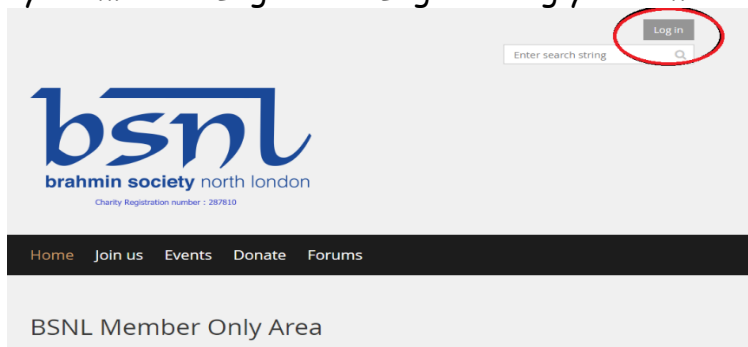
If you have an email address registered with BSNL (we will have sent you an email)

Click **option 1** or click this link www.bsnl.wildapricot.org to take you to our Wild Apricot system for members.

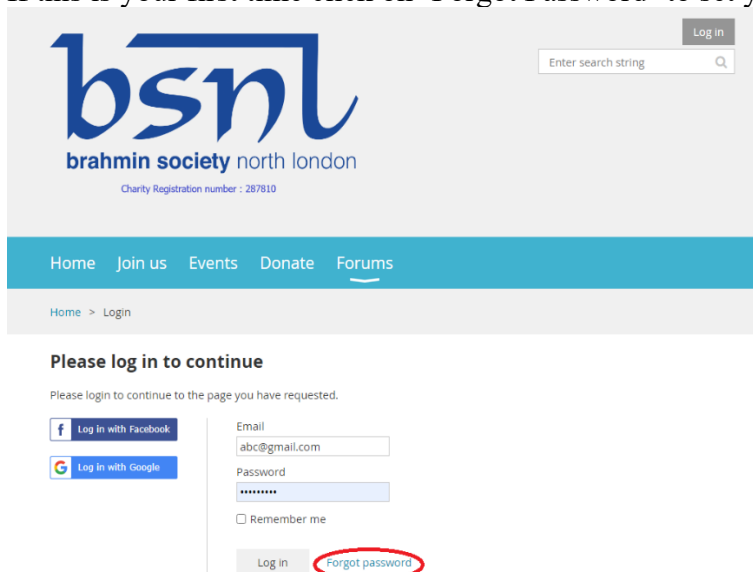
If you do not have an email address registered with BSNL. Click **option 2** for renewal online.

Wild Apricot System

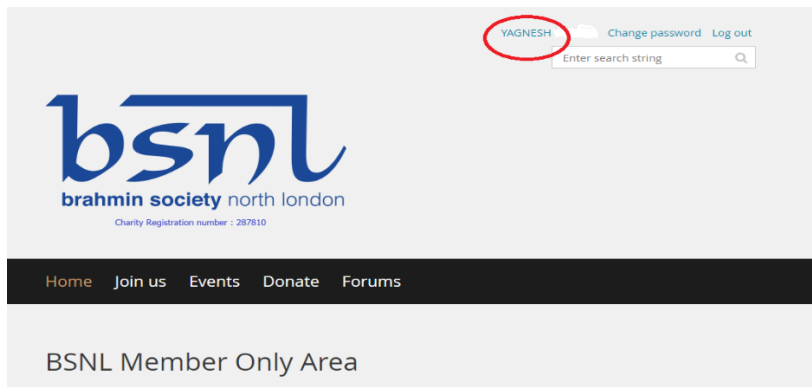
If you select **option 1** as above, you will be taken to the logon screen of our Wild Apricot system. Click 'Log in' and Log on using your email address and password.



If this is your first time click on 'Forgot Password' to set your password.

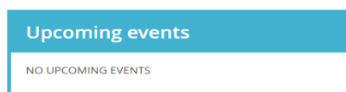


Once logged in go to your Profile by clicking your name in the top right hand corner

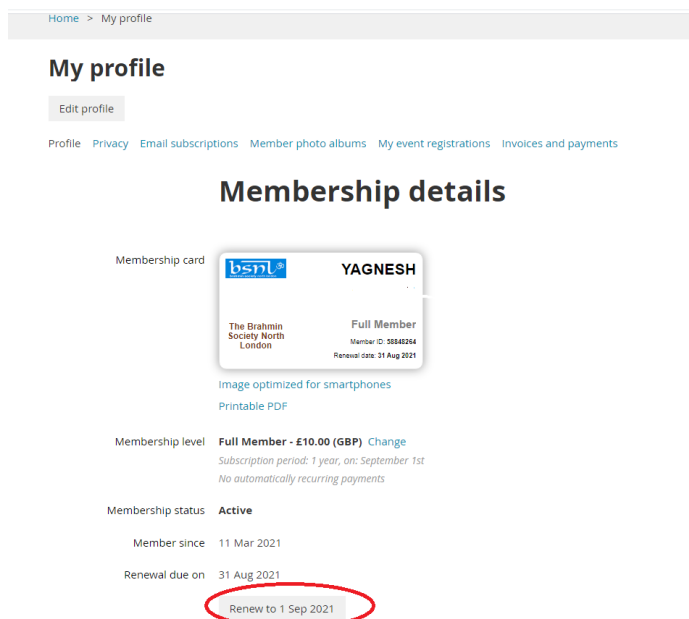


BSNL Members can update their contact details or preferences here. Click on your name link above to see your profile.

[If you find it difficult or you are unsure how to complete New Membership / Renewal form, you can contact our trustee for assistance on 07483 952957.](#)



Then follow renew option, you will be asked to confirm your details and make payment



Mobile App

Alternatively, you could download the Wild Apricot App for Members and do your renewal there.



You will need to have your password to login, there is no options to reset your password via the app.

Events and Activities

BSNL Monthly Bhajans and Hanuman Chalisa

Dear Members,

Thank you for supporting the monthly bhajans & Hanuman Chalisa events and making these events joyous! Summer is finally here and we will be taking a break to allow us all to enjoy the Sun (when it appears)!

Kind regards,
Parul Jani, 07940 584321

BSNL Ladies Club

Jay Shree Krishna!

It has been almost a year now since we are operating our Ladies Club virtually and our new subcommittee:

Chairperson - Harshaben Bhatt

Secretary - Shilaben Vyas

Sub Committee members - Pannaben Bhatt, Geetaben Sharma, Pannaben Amlivala.
have worked hard to make our time together enjoyable and memorable.

So what exactly have we organised? The list is long but some of the highlights have been ...

- Talks on a variety of topics (e.g., Health and wellbeing, The advantages of veganism, Beauty therapy and Posture) delivered by knowledgeable speakers (including Bhartiben Vyas, Heena Modi, Lalitbhai Sodha).
- Exciting cookery demonstrations delivered by Jyotiben Shah.
- Games and quizzes to exercise the mind.
- A Dance workshop during which Kalpanaben Bhatt taught a dance (to 'Sathiya puravo dware') that was later performed by Induben Acharya, Nimuben Rawal, Chandrikaben Pandya, Sudhaben Unzia and Urmilaben Trivedi as part of the Chaitri Navratri celebrations.

We are always on the lookout for new skills and talents that can be shared with our group so if you want to organise an event, please do get in touch.

If you have not experienced 'LC', I urge you to get in touch - we look forward to welcoming as many eligible members (obviously ladies - sorry gents!) as would like to join (being 'virtual' has meant that we have overcome our previous limitation on club membership - surely a silver lining!).

Jsk from Vandana Joshi (07944913208),
BSNL Ladies Club Trustee in Charge.

BSNL Tesco Grant Activities: Be Healthy via Music, Yoga and dance

Exciting news! Our Tesco grant activities are set to resume soon!

Dance (based on religious stutis, prayers) with Binalben Trivedi, Wednesdays (3-4 pm)

Yoga (fitness) with Pritty Pandya, Thursdays (11-12 am)

Music (Vocal classes) with Meenaben Trivedi (3-4 pm)

If you are interested in joining any of the above activities, please contact Vandana Joshi on 07944 913208.

BSNL Harmonium Classes

Did you know - BSNL members are learning to play the Harmonium? We are running classes on Mondays under the expert tuition of Meenaben Trivedi (who is a qualified teacher)

Currently, Meenaben is delivering two classes on Mondays, with six students per class.

Our students are happily learning various alankars, harmonious melodies and shlokas (like Gurur Brahma, Saraswati Vandana) and making excellent progress.

If you are interested in joining a Harmonium class with Meenaben, please contact Vandana Joshi on 07944913208.

BSNL Open Mic (OM)

BSNL Open Mic welcomes members to enjoy singing on Karaoke tracks or simply listen to our members singing away their favourite tracks according to the theme of the month.

When? Last Friday of each month.
Time? 7.30-9.30pm
Where? Virtually on BSNL Zoom
Contact: Chandrashekhar Thaker 07956 967046
Anjana Thaker 07949 830273

Do get in touch and join us. We look forward to hearing from you!

Coming Soon

Sweet and Spicy Speed Dating!

We are planning for the return of this popular event in the near future.

To register interest, please contact Parul Jani (07940 584321) or Trupti Joshi (07947 807147).

Our Building

A message from the Building Committee

Dear Members,

As you are aware, since March 2020, BSNL East Lane Building has been closed due to the spread of Covid-19 pandemic and Government regulations.

Who would have thought that this dreadful disease would have troubled us for this long?

BSNL has continued with the necessary maintenance of the building during this closedown and has met with all legal obligations with regards to health and safety.

Whilst the Children's nursery closed down for a short period in 2020, it reopened in September 2020 and continues to function providing a service as per Governments Education requirements.

The Governments cautious approach to reopening of some community halls and places of religion, has limited our options and the goal post seems to be a moving target. Under the circumstances, going forward, if we were to open, it would be a challenge to accommodate our day clubs back into the premises, taking into account all the health, safety and legal requirements of our mostly elderly members: Accommodation capacity, Hygiene, First Aid, Fire Marshalling to name a few among other risk assessments.

The Portacabin, unfortunately has seen better days and will be demolished soon. This space will provide additional parking space in the short term and will be evaluated by the board for any future development in the medium/long term.

The BSNL Building Committee.

BSNL HALL HIRE

We are pleased to advise that our hall will be available for hire from 1st August 2021.

For Terms and Conditions please visit our website:

<https://bsnl.org.uk>

For hall booking enquiries please contact Anjana Thaker via Mobile: (text message)

07483 904979 or Email: bsnlhallbooking@gmail.com / hall@bsnl.org.uk

The BSNL Building Committee

Message from Gunvantbhai Dave - Longstanding Member & Trustee

Start your journey to becoming a BSNL Trustee!

Dear Members,

We are calling on you, especially the younger ones, to consider taking up a fantastic opportunity to serve your community by becoming a Trustee!

You can start by joining the various day clubs organising committees and gain valuable insights into the workings of arranging events and activities. BSNL is particularly requesting our younger audiences to come and participate in your age group and steer the Samaj and the next generation in a modern era.

You can prepare yourself by learning about the role and the liabilities of being a trustee in a registered charity. BSNL, being a registered charity is guided by its constitution and the rules and regulations of the Charities Commission.

There is valuable information available out there. However, the following link is from the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3>



Charity trustees are the people who share ultimate responsibility for governing a charity and directing how it is managed and run. They may be called trustees, the board, the management committee.

As we approach our AGM at the end of this year, this may be the perfect time to talk to any of our trustees and seek guidance or information on the workings of the committee.

Come and take part. Become more than an audience. Reward is the gratitude from your Samaj members.

We look forward to hearing from you!

🙏 Jai Mahadev

Board of Trustees.

Bereavement Bhajans

Dear Members,

Hopefully we are coming to the end of this very difficult period, however we recognise that it may still be a while before we get to a full level of normality. With that in mind and to further help and support our members, BSNL have created a 'Bereavement Services Team' that consists of Parul Jani (07940 584321) and Harsha Trivedi (07956 586926).

As part of our service to our members, we can arrange one hour of Zoom Shradhanjali Bhajans for up to 500 devices. Music and singing can be provided by our own experienced BSNL in-house singers.

Additionally, 'Moksh Funeral Care' have approached BSNL and offered a reduced rate for all our members. For further information please contact Ashish Barot (07946 307622) or Akshay Barot (07961 180420) directly.

If you require any other support or advice during this time, please do not hesitate to contact the Bereavement Team and we will be happy to assist you and your family members in any way possible.

BSNL Bereavement Team 🙏🌸🙏

We will remember you...

Sadly, many in our community have lost loved ones, but they will live on in our hearts and our memories. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Om Shanti 🙏



TrilokChandra Vyas

TrilokChandra Vyas born in Nairobi on 5th Feb 1945 sadly passed away on Sunday 4th July 2021.

He was one of the founding members of Brahmin Society North London in the early 1970's. He held the positions of president for some years, secretary for many years and later headed the Programme committee. The entire Vyas family invite all members of BSNL to commemorate the life of TrilokChandra Vyas by remembering his values, his character, and the role he played in each of our lives. Please offer a prayer for his soul to rest in peace.

Om Namah Shivay. 🙏

Hansaben Gunvantbhai Dave



Hansaben Dave was born in Rajkot, India, in 1947; the youngest of 6 children of Chhottalalbai and Durgaben Shukla.

Hansaben's vibrant, warm and friendly personality has shone through from her childhood days. As a young college student, she took up many opportunities - from debating to fancy dress and even mountaineering adventures in Kullu Manali. At university, on scholarship she attained a masters in world history - then being offered a position as a lecturer which she thoroughly enjoyed.

In 1976, she started her married life with Gunvantbhai Dave. They moved to London the following year and were blessed with 2 sons (Rahul and Mehul) in 1977 and 1983.

In her 44 years in London, Hansaben worked hard initially in supermarkets and then as a teacher in schools including teaching Gujarati in the community institutions. She touched countless hearts and made many friends. The BSNL community played a central role in Hansaben's life in London. She was an active volunteer at community events over many years and also enjoyed participating in variety shows, garba competitions and more. While Gunvantbhai served the BSNL community for many years as President, Hansaben was the pillar of strength and support as "first lady".

Hansaben lived life to the fullest, she cherished her family and friends with all her heart. Her positive attitude and resilience has been an inspiration to all those close to her.



Mahendra Kantilal Raval

Mahendra Kantilal Raval. Born on 26.10.1951 in Nairobi passed away unexpectedly on 4.7.21. Mahendra was a well-respected pharmacist running his own pharmacy (Nash Chemist) in Hemel Hempstead. He leaves behind wife Laxmi, Daughter Bhavika, son in law Vishal, Son Jiten, daughter in law Melissa and grandchildren Annie, Zane, Ryan and Frankie.

He will be missed by the whole family.

Om Namah Shivay. 🙏

Free Qualifications!

Launch of free qualifications marks a major milestone in government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee

Almost [400 qualifications](#) are available to take from 1st April 2021 - backed by £95 million in government funding in 2021/22 - as part of the government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee.

The qualifications on offer range from engineering to social care to conservation and are available to any adult who has not already achieved a qualification at Level 3 (equivalent to A-levels).

The roll out marks a major milestone in the delivery of the landmark Lifetime Skills Guarantee - [announced by the Prime Minister in September 2020](#). The Guarantee aims to transform the skills system so everyone, no matter where they live or their background, can gain the skills they need to progress in work at any stage of their lives. It will also ensure employers have access to the skilled workforce they need, and more people are trained for the skills gaps that exist now, and in the future.

Adults who take up the free courses have the potential to boost career prospects, wages and help fill skills gaps, while supporting the economy and building back better.

For example, with a Diploma in Engineering Technology adults can progress to roles in Maintenance or Manufacturing Engineering. A Level 3 Diploma in Electrical Installation or a qualification in Adult Care can also provide a gateway to sectors offering rewarding careers and where there are multiple job opportunities.

So more unemployed people can take full advantage of these courses, the government will pilot an extension to the length of time they can receive Universal Credit while undertaking work-focused study.

They will now be able to train full time for up to 12 weeks, or up to 16 weeks on a full-time skills bootcamp in England, while receiving Universal Credit to support their living costs This will allow access to more training options and provide a better chance of finding work, while continuing to receive the support they need.

Use the link below (you will need to type it into your browser if you are looking at a paper copy of the newsletter) to find out more.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hundreds-of-free-qualifications-on-offer-to-boost-skills-and-jobs>

Happy learning!