

BSNL NEWS

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

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Big Events Due

London Mayors 'Diwali in London' audition deadline date was end August and the results are due shortly. The actual event takes place on 29th October from 1pm to 7pm in Trafalgar Square, Westminster.

The next exciting events in our Calendar are in the month of October. Navratri, followed by Diwali In London.

Working Hard for our Members

Membership Renewal Reminder

Our Members are reminded that your annual membership is now due for renewal and the fees remain unchanged. BSNL has a digital platform

<http://bsnl.wildapricot.org>

for renewals. If you experience any difficulty with this online process, you can also make contact with the membership Trustee.

Chandrashekhar Thaker

Tel : +44 7483 952957

We wish to remind our members that Membership renewals before Navratri will enable you to facilitate easy entry at the door. Please download the WildApricot members app. on your mobile phone (from App Store or Play store), for a soft copy of your membership card.

Please provide us with, both, your correct email address and your mobile number so that you are kept fully informed of ALL BSNL news and information through these digital avenues.

Important Message

Every member is reminded that if you have a family bundle membership, BSNL requests a mobile number and an email address for each individual. It is important that each member is kept informed of our news and events. If you provide us with just one phone number for the whole family and similarly one email address, you are likely to receive more than one broadcast message on your mobile phone as our list automatically includes names of all individual paid members. Those members who have not provided Mobile phone number and an email address will not be able to download membership card from 'WildApricot' for members app. or receive any communication. We are unable to communicate by Post as it is not cost effective or environmentally friendly. In this digital age, we request our younger members to assist our elders with setting up their account on their mobile phones.

WhatsApp

BSNL Membership Trustee

has now compiled a WhatsApp Broadcast List for our members whose mobile numbers are available to BSNL. This Broadcast list will enable our members to be informed quickly about events, Newsletters, etc. You are requested to add the number listed below to your mobile phone contact list. Only by adding this number will you receive BSNL information and News.

Tel : +44 7483 952957

Thursday Club



The Thursday Club had a grand opening on 31st of August and there were just under 50 elders who participated on this auspicious day in BSNL diary of day clubs. The entrance fees were set at £3.00 for members and £5.00 for others. The Club set itself a target of self funding for its weekly expenses and achieved it from day 1. Members enjoyed the activities and the hearty meal.

BSNL are pleased to announce that we have had 2 successful sessions of our Thursday Club since opening on 31st August 2023.

Venue: BSNL House

Time: Every Thursday 11.30am to 3.30pm

Entrance fee: **Members £3 Non-members £5**

Trustee in Charge: Vinod Mehta

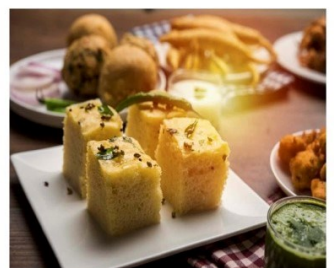
This club will be open for members of ALL ages above 18 yrs., male and female.

There will be varied activities including music, singing, games, quiz sessions, outings, cultural shows and much more...

If you wish to attend, kindly contact

Anjana Thaker (convener) **07949 830273**

Vinod Mehta (Trustee in charge) **07770 730202**



Men's Club

The BSNL Men's Club organised a Special Event and invited their spouses to join them on the day. A special group of singers (RPM) were invited to perform for the day. The event was very popular and all enjoyed a traditional meal. Well done Men's Club. The numbers attending Men's Club have increased recently and it is good to see new faces taking part. The Club is open to all male members on every Wednesday from 11am to 4pm. Entrance fees are £2.00 for Members and £4.00 for others.

Please contact Bharatbhai Desai on +44 7512 715777 for further details.

Trustee In Charge : Ramnikbhai Joshi Tel +44 7729 655424



Members and their spouses celebrating 'Chandrayaan 3' mission. Live landing on the Moon.



Singers from 'RPM' Club entertaining Men's Club Members and their Spouses on a special event.

Open Mic

BSNL Open Mic Subgroup provides a wonderful and friendly platform for our budding as well as our veteran singers every last Friday evening of the month to sing on karaoke tracks – and occasionally to live instrumental accompaniments.

Some 25 to 35 singers attend and perform regularly and some just come to enjoy listening to others.

Nourishing refreshments are included during the break when everyone gets a chance to mingle and make new friends.

There is an entrance fee of £5.00 for BSNL Members and £7.00 for Non-Members.

Our BSNL Open Mic sub-group is run by a committee with Bipinbhai Thanki as Chair of the committee, Dhirendrabhai Dave, Smitaben Vyas, Jyotiben Joshi and Kishorbhai Vyas as committee members and Vinodbhai Mehta as the Trustee in Charge.

If you wish to join Open Mic please contact Bipinbhai Thanki on 07774895814 or Vinodbhai Mehta on 07770730202

Last Friday of each month.





Navaratri

15th to 24th October 2023

Sharad Purnima 28th October 2023

Venue: JFS Kingsbury



Save the date



*Navchandi Havan -
4th November 2023*

*Venue: Oakington Manor
School- Wembley*

DIWALI IN LONDON



Date: Sunday 29 October 2023

Time: 1:00pm to 7:00pm

Venue: Trafalgar Square, Westminster, London, WC2N 5DN, GB

Cost: Free

Join us for Diwali, a festival of lights in the heart of London. With an exciting line up of music and dance, plus workshops, food, art and crafts for the whole family, it's a fantastic day out for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to wishing you a Happy Diwali. For more information please visit

<http://www.london.gov.uk/events/diwali-square-2023>

- 1. Parul Jani — Chair of Trustees.**
email : chair@bsnl.org.uk Tel : +44 7940 584321
- 2. Gunvant Dave — Deputy Chair.**
email : gunvant.dave@bsnl.org.uk Tel : +44 7877 565747
- 3. Vinod Mehta — Secretary.**
email : secretary@bsnl.org.uk Tel : +44 7770 730202
- 4. Ramnik Joshi — Treasurer.**
email : treasurer@bsnl.org.uk Tel : +44 7729 655424
- 5. Chandrashekhar Thaker — Membership.**
email : membership@bsnl.org.uk Tel : +44 7483 952957
- 6. Pramath Pandya — Building.**
email : hall@bsnl.org.uk Tel : +44 7483 904979
- 7. Sameet Pandya.** email : sameet.pandya@bsnl.org.uk
Tel : +44 7905 025715
- 8. Ameet Sharma.** email : ameet.sharma@bsnl.org.uk
Tel : +44 7903 674820
- 9. Ashwin Thaker.** email : ashwin.thaker@bsnl.org.uk
Tel : +44 7811507546

Know Your Rights!!!

Do you have a Physical or Hidden Disability?



A Blue Badge may Help

At BSNL, we recognise that we do not always exercise our rights due to our pride, or simply not knowing or lack of help. In this edition, we are introducing a section called, Know your Rights!!!

The aim of this page is to furnish you with what concessions you can apply for in your local borough to promote independence and improve your standards of living.

In this edition, we are focusing on Blue Badges which may be of use

People who automatically get a Blue Badge

You automatically qualify for a Blue Badge if you are aged 3 or over and at least one of the following applies: you receive the higher rate of the mobility component of the [Disability Living Allowance \(DLA\)](#) , you receive a [Personal Independence Payment \(PIP\)](#) because you can't walk more than 50 metres (a score of 8 points or more under the 'moving around' activity of the mobility component)

you are registered blind (severely sight impaired)

you receive a War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement

you have received a lump sum benefit within tariff levels 1 to 8 of the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation) Scheme and have been certified as having a permanent and substantial disability that causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking You receive the mobility component of PIP and have obtained 10 points specifically for descriptor E under the planning and following journeys' activity, on the grounds that you are unable to undertake any journey because it would cause you overwhelming psychological distress. If you have any score other than 10 points under descriptor E, in the 'planning and following journeys' activity of PIP you may still be eligible for a Blue Badge, but you do not automatically qualify. This includes if you have a higher score of 12. You will have to provide evidence to demonstrate your eligibility which will be assessed as part of your application.



People who may get a Blue Badge

You may be eligible for a badge if one or more of the following applies:

- you cannot walk at all
- you cannot walk without help from someone else or using mobility aids
- you find walking very difficult due to pain, breathlessness or the time it takes walking is dangerous to your health and safety
- you have a life limiting illness, which means you cannot walk or find walking very difficult and have a SR1 form
- you have a severe disability in both arms and drive regularly, but cannot operate pay-and-display parking machines
- you have a child under the age of 3 with a medical condition that means the child always needs to be accompanied by bulky medical equipment
- you have a child under the age of 3 with a medical condition that means the child must always be kept near a vehicle in case they need emergency medical treatment
- you are constantly a significant risk to yourself or others near vehicles, in traffic or car parks
- you struggle severely to plan or follow a journey
- you find it difficult or impossible to control your actions and lack awareness of the impact you could have on others
- you regularly have intense and overwhelming responses to situations causing temporary loss of behavioural control
- you frequently become extremely anxious or fearful of public/open spaces

Your local council will decide if you are eligible for a badge. They cannot start the assessment process until they have all the necessary evidence. It may take 12 weeks or longer to assess your application. If they decide that you are not eligible and you think that they did not take account of all the facts, you can ask them to consider your application again.

What you need to apply for a Blue Badge

You will need to provide:

- proof of identity
- proof of address
- a recent head and shoulders digital photo
- your national insurance number (if you have one)
- contact details (phone number, email and postal address)

To prove your identity, you can provide a copy of either:

- birth or adoption certificate
- passport
- driving licence
- marriage or civil partnership certificate
- divorce or dissolution certificate

To prove your address, you can provide a copy of either:

- a recent council tax bill
- a recent letter from a government department such as Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- driving licence
- a recent letter from a school (if you are under 16)



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Providing proof of benefits

Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

You'll need to know the scores from the mobility assessment and the award end date (if applicable). You'll also be asked to provide proof of the PIP award. This would be the 3 pages from the letter from DWP, which clearly shows:

- entitlement to PIP (front page)
- assessment scores (second to last page)
- mobility scores (last page)

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

You'll need to know which rate of the mobility component you receive and the award end date (if applicable). You'll also be asked to provide proof of the DLA award. This should be the most recent letter from DWP, which clearly shows:

- mobility rating
- certificate of entitlement to DLA
- the date of the letter

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

You'll be asked to provide proof of the benefit. This should be the most recent letter from the Ministry of Defence, which clearly shows that you:

- were injured in service on or after 6 April 2005
- have been awarded a benefit by the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, with a lump sum payment within Tariffs 1 to 8
- are certified as having a permanent, substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking

War Pensioners' Mobility Scheme

You'll be asked to provide proof of the benefit. This should be the most recent letter from the Ministry of Defence, which clearly shows that the applicant:

- was injured in service before 6 April 2005
- is in receipt of a War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement

Proof of eligibility

If you are applying without one of the benefits, the application will need to be assessed by the issuing local council. To help assess the application, you'll be asked to provide extra information depending on the answers you give when you are checking eligibility.

If you cannot walk or find walking difficult or you have a non-visible (hidden) condition, you will be asked to provide details of any:

- relevant medication that is taken
- relevant treatments that you receive or are due to receive
- healthcare or associated professionals that have been involved with the treatment of your condition.

How you can provide documents

When you are applying online, you'll be able to upload a photo or scan of:

- proof of benefit
- proof of address
- proof of identity
- supporting documents

You can also upload a recent digital photo. Just make sure the photos or scans are good quality and include all of the relevant information.

If you are applying on a mobile or tablet device, you can take a photo of the required documents and upload within the application itself.

You can choose not to upload the documents when you're applying. If you do this you'll need to supply copies of the documents to the local council. Find out how to [contact your local council](#).

Instead, if you receive one of these benefits, you can still apply and your application will be assessed by your local council.

Blue Badges for organisations

An organisation may be eligible for a badge (or multiple badges), if they both:

- care for or assist people who need a Blue Badge
- transport people who need a Blue Badge

The issuing local council will decide whether the organisation has a clear need for an organisational badge rather than using the individual badges of the people it is transporting. An organisational badge must only be displayed when someone who would be eligible for a Blue Badge in their own right is being transported.

Common examples of organisations that may be eligible include residential care homes, hospices or local council social services departments. It is unlikely that taxi or private hire operators and community transport operators would be eligible for an organisational Blue Badge as they are not usually concerned with the care of disabled people.