

BSNL NEWS

OCTOBER ISSUE

Big Events Due

In this issue:

October

- Navratri
- Diwali In London

November

- Havan

DAY CLUBS

- eClub (Elders Club) for our elders over the age of 65 every Tuesday.
 - Chair
Shila Vyas +44 7515 819120
 - Trustee in Charge
Sameet Pandya +44 7905 025715
- mClub (Mens Club) for Gentlemen over the age of 18 every Wednesday.
 - Chair
Bharat Desai +44 7512 715777
 - Trustee in Charge
Ramnik Joshi +44 7729 655424
- tClub (Thursday Club) for members over the age of 18 every Thursday
 - Convener
Anjana Thaker +44 7949 830273
 - Trustee in Charge
Vinod Mehta +44 7770 730202
- OM (Open Mic) for members over the age of 18 wishing to sing on Karaoke held on the last Friday of each month
 - Chair
Bipin Thanki +44 7774 895814
 - Trustee in Charge
Vinod Mehta +44 7770 730202

Working Hard for our Members

Important Message

AGM 2022—2023.

This will be held on Sunday 14th of January 2024. Members are advised any resolution that they wish to propose must reach BSNL Secretary at least 60 days prior to the AGM. This should be proposed by a full / Life member and seconded by a minimum of 9 full / Life members. Further information on AGM to follow.



THE BRAHMIN SOCIETY NORTH LONDON (BSNL) & UK VALAM BRAHMIN ASSOCIATION (UKVBA)

First day (Pratipda) is for Goddess Shailputri, an incarnation of Parvati, wife of Lord Shiva. Action and Vigour are invoked on this day.
Second day (Dwitiya) is for Goddess Brahmacharini, is an unmarried reincarnation of Parvati. Bliss and Calmness are invoked on this day.
Third day (Tritiya) is for Goddess Chandraghanta, after Parvati's weds Shiva, she wore a half moon on her forehead. Beauty and Bravery are invoked on this day.
Fourth day (Chaturthi) is for Goddess Kushmand who gave us our flora. Good health, wealth and strength are invoked on this day.
Fifth day (Panchami) is for Goddess Skandamata (mother of Skanda the warrior) Protective Motherhood is invoked on this day.
Sixth day is for warrior Goddess Katyayana, slayer of demons. Fierce Shakti is invoked on this day.
Seventh day (Saptami) is for yet another ferocious demon slayer Goddess Kalaratri (Kali). Rage is invoked on this day.
Eighth day (Ashtami) is for Goddess Mahagauri. Peace, optimism and intelligence are invoked on this day.
Ninth day (Navami) is for Goddess Siddhidatri, last of the (nine) navdurgha forms of Mataji. Divine aspirations are invoked on this day.

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NAVRATRI 2023

Dear Members,

We welcome you to another festive and ever popular event of Navratri. We look forward to seeing you celebrating the 9 days with us as well as Sharad Poonam.

Dates: Sunday 15th Oct – Monday 23rd October
And Saturday 28th October 2023
Times: Sunday to Thursday – 8pm to 11pm
Friday & Saturday – 8pm to 11:30pm

Music by our regular group 'The Musical Stars'

Venue: JFS School, (Main Hall) The Mall, Kenton HA3 9TE

On Friday, Saturday and Aatham day, guests and non-members allowed entry after 8:30pm subject to capacity.

Daily Entrance

Seniors (65 & over) & Junior Members (under 12s): £2.00
Members (12 & over): £5.00 **Guests/Non-Members (All Ages): £7.00**

Fast Track Pass (All 10 Nights)

Seniors (65 & Over) & Junior Members (under 12s): £20.00
Members (12 & Over): £40.00

Fast Track Passes can be purchased in advance only, by sending a request by email to ramnik.joshi@bsnl.org.uk using your postcode or samaj membership number as reference. Use the same reference no. to make your online payment to our Navratri account, HSBC Bank, **Account name: BSNL-BRAHM SAMAJ, Sort Code: 40 23 13 and A/C no. 82099748.** You will be sent an email to confirm. You can collect your passes from reception on the first day of the festival.

Management reserves the right of entry (Health and Safety Legislation). Daily tickets will be on a first come first served basis.

Membership - Please renew your Samaj membership prior to the beginning of this Navratri festival



THE BRAHMIN SOCIETY NORTH LONDON (BSNL) & UK VALAM BRAHMIN ASSOCIATION (UKVBA)

The Navratri Festival

Samaiyo at 8pm followed by Garba - This is a daily ritual whereby any family may request the honour of welcoming Mataji to our Garba. The first Garba is performed by the family carrying the lit Garbo (ladies on the head, men on the shoulder). Contact Darshna Pandya on 07833 963597 if you wish to perform the Samaiyo.

Aarti - At 9.30pm everyone is welcome to perform the Aarti, however, please bring your own Aarti Thali (with one divo only) per family and ensure you collect it at the end of the evening. There is no charge for this.

Prasaad - You are welcome to bring Prasaad but please ensure all sweets etc. are approved as suitable for pure Indian vegetarians and appropriate for offering to Mataji and make organisers aware of any items containing nuts to avoid risk of allergic reaction. Remember to collect your containers at the end of the evening.

How Can I Get Involved?

Matajini Chundadi - Community Members wishing to donate a new Chundadi (Sari) to Mataji, please kindly contact Darshana Pandya on 07833 963597. The Sari will be placed on the Mudh and returned to you as Prasaad during the same evening. Saris will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

Navchandi Havan Yajman Bidding - On Sunday 22nd October (**Aatham**) there will be bidding for the honour of being Yajman at the Oakington Manor Primary School, Oakington Manor Dr, Wembley, HA9 6NF on Saturday 4th November 2023 (9am to 5pm). This Havan is organised by **Brahmin Society North London**, however, everyone is welcome to bid and be the Yajman. For further information, contact Kamal Purohit on 07946 344075 or Parul Jani on 07940 584321.

What Can I Do To Help?

Become a Volunteer - Offer your time and join us as a volunteer – you will be allocated duties which you will be responsible for completing. Please contact Vibhuti Gor on 07435 970929 or Parul Jani on 07940 584321. **To all those taking part in Duke of Edinburgh Award, this will count towards your 'Volunteering' section of the award — Help Your Community and Let Your Community Help You!**

Donations & Sponsorship - You can make a donation and sponsorship towards the cost of this Navratri celebration. We are also offering advertising at this festival for your company or organisation, please contact Harsha Trivedi on 07956 586926 or any JSC member for further details.

Best wishes from the BRAHM SAMAJ Joint Steering Committee (JSC)
Parul Jani (Chair of Trustees at Brahmin Society North London)
Vibhuti Gor (President of UK Valam Brahmin Association)





HAVAN 2023

Jai Mataji

The time for our renowned Havan is nearing so we wanted to share details with you so that you can ensure that you and your family are able to come and join us.

This year we are moving from our normal venue of SKLP in Northolt to Oakington Manor Primary School in Wembley due to availability. Please rest assured that the new venue has ample parking spaces.

As always, our Havan bidding will take place on Aatham day (22nd October) during Navratri. This is open to all who would like to bid. Being the Havan yajman is truly a great privilege and an opportunity to have a Havan planned and catered for you.

The Havan mahaprashad is prepared from food donations that we get from you all. If you are interested in donating any food item, please contact us. We will be looking for donors at Navratri as well so feel free to come and see us there.

NEW VENUE :-

Oakington Manor Primary School

Oakington Manor Drive

Wembley

HA9 6NF

Details:-

Havan Bidding - Aatham Day 22nd October at Garbas JFS School

Utensil Washing – Wednesday 1st November from 7:30pm at BSNL House

Ladoo Making - Thursday 2nd November from 9:30 am at BSNL House

Van Loading – Friday 3rd November from 5pm at BSNL House

Havan Setup - Friday 3rd November 8:00pm at Oakington Manor School, Wembley

Havan - Saturday 4th November 9am at Oakington Manor School, Wembley

Mahaprashad – After the Havan pooja at Oakington Manor School, Wembley

We need your help :- The Havan takes a lot of manpower. You can help in many ways so please get on touch with us. You can help with the ladoo making, the haar preparation, the hall set up, hall clear up and so much more. Please do volunteer whether you can share an hour or a day. If you would like to join the subcommittee and help with the planning and the full event please contact us as per the details below before **October 15th**.

Contact Details:-

Kamal Purohit 07946 344 075

Parul Jani - 07940 584 321

Elders Club

ECLUB STRUCTURE

- The day-to-day management and planning of the eClub is managed by the following members.
- **Chair**
Shilaben Vyas
- **Secretary**
Bhartiben Pandya
- **Treasurer**
Jagdishbhai Mehta
- **Committee Member**
Pannben Bhatt
- **Committee Member**
Virblaben Bhatt
- **Trustee In Charge**
Sameet Pandya

If you have any suggestions, please contact the Sub Committee in the first instance.

eCLUB UPDATE

Firstly, let me welcome to most recent Elders Club Update first which will provide you with up-to-date information. Inadvertently, this update was missed out from the September newsletter. Having been Trustee in Charge for a brief period, it gives me great pleasure to see how the eClub is growing each week. It goes without saying that the eClub subcommittee is working extremely hard and delivering exceptional events each week. Again, a BIG thank you!!!

Celebrations

The eClub has been active in hosting various functions to which members have given fantastic reviews. Our most recent functions were celebrating India Independence Day which saw many of our members proudly dressed in our 'Tiranga' colors. Not only did we acknowledge our beloved Bharat, but this was an occasion where we saluted those fallen soldiers in our hearts. Proudly we say Jai Hind!!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With the ever growing demands of the eCLUB and the increase in attendance, The eClub are seeking the following volunteers to help on event days.

Catering Manager – This role manage the catering and distribution of food on event days. This is a real fulfilling role that will support the eClub - For further details, please contact Shilaben Vyas



The eCub also celebrated the biggest birthday of the year – Janmashtami. The day was marked with Bhajans which was well attended. This was followed by 'farahari' prasad.

Scheduled Celebrations

We look forward to inviting you all to the auspicious occasion of Navratri. As per previous years, Navratri will be held at JFS School, The Mall, Harrow HA3 9TE from the 15 October 2023. Please do ensure that your membership is up to date by visiting <https://www.bsnl.org.uk/>

Our annual Havan will take place on 4 November 2023 at Oakington Manor Primary School, Oakington Manor Drive, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 6NF

Fees And Charges

At our last face to face meeting, which was attended by our Chair of BSNL, Parul Jani, Secretary, Vinod Mehta and myself. Concerns were raised regarding fees and charges. For clarity, we made clear that over the past few months inadvertently food sponsors were charged where their guests accompanied their food sponsor. It was agreed that any sponsors that were affected by this should contact me for a full refund at sameet.pandya@bsnl.org.uk

All fees and charges can be reviewed by the Board of Trustees without prior consultations with members. We wish to remind our members that this is an Elder Members Club and by definition is for members over the age of 65 and over. All rules governing BSNL Membership apply.

Listed below is the corrected Fees & Charge schedule.

BSNL Members	No charge
BSNL Expired Membership	£2
Non-Member Volunteers (over 18)	£2
Carer	No charge
Food Donor Sponsor + 5 guests	No charge

USEFUL INFORMATION

As some of you may already know, there are various council schemes that are in place to help individuals access services which are listed below. If you're disabled, you can't use public transport, or you don't have access to a car, you might also be able to use a community transport scheme – such as a social car, dial-a-ride, or taxicard scheme. Depending on your age and your circumstances, you might be able to get one of the following free bus passes, which allow you to travel free on local buses: an older person's bus pass, a disabled person's bus pass, older person's bus pass when you reach State Pension age, which is currently 66 for both women and men.

Dial-a-Ride is TfL's free door-to-door service for those with permanent or long-term disabilities. This service can be accessed online at <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/dial-a-ride/membership?intcmp=4002>

Harmonium Classes



Remote Learning Harmonium Classes with Meenaben Trivedy

The new term will commence from 23rd October 2023.

BSNL is running Harmonium Virtual classes over 'Zoom' with Meenaben Trivedy. These classes started over a year ago and as the time has flown by, the students have progressed very well with teacher Meenaben Trivedy. Level 1 classes are for beginners and continue with learning Simple Harmony, mastering it so well that the students had an opportunity to showcase their skills recently.

Level 2 students also continued with so much enthusiasm and performed a Raag Khamaj based Lakshan geet. Meenaben introduces a classical thaat or raag and then tests the students in the class too by questions and answers. All the students are enjoying thoroughly. These classes are conducted on Mondays between 2-4 pm over 'Zoom'.

Charges: for 10 lessons. 6 Student per classes

£65 for Members

£75 Non-Members

If you are interested learning Harmonium, please contact.

Vandana Yogen Joshi on +44 7944913208

Parul Jani on +44 7940584321



Happy Diwali

BSNL DIWALI GET-TOGETHER PROGRAMME

Dear Members

We have organised our Diwali get-together programme on Sunday 19th November 2023 for all of us to meet and greet and enjoy lunch together with some lovely music played by a band from India. Programme details are:

Time & Date: 11:00 am to 4:30 pm on Sunday 19th November 2023

Venue: **Blue Room**, 220 Headstone Lane, Harrow, HA2 6LY

Food & Drink: A full three course vegetarian lunch including starters, main course, dessert and soft drinks.

Price: £25 per person for Members and Non- Members.

Toddlers entrance is free.

Music: Popular Bollywood songs for easy listening as well as dance numbers.

To book your tickets please contact any of our trustees for more information.





श्रद्धांजलि Shradhanjali

OBITUARIES

In the sad event when a family loses a loved one, BSNL does provide, with the permission of the family, details of the loss of the loved one and further details of the funeral to all the members of BSNL. We use the digital social media of a Broadcast list on WhatsApp messaging where members have provided BSNL with their mobile numbers and also through email on our database where these details have been provided. Please contact BSNL Chair or The Secretary for this service.

1. Parul Jani — Chair of Trustees.

email: chair@bsnl.org.uk Tel : +44 7940 584321

2. Vinod Mehta — Secretary.

email : secretary@bsnl.org.uk Tel : +44 7770 730202



Jai Mahadev

1. Parul Jani — Chair of Trustees.

email: chair@bsnl.org.uk Tel : +44 7940 584321

2. Guntant Dave — Deputy Chair.

email : guntant.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

EDITORIAL

Any news worthy article / Club Information should be passed on to the relevant committee who can discuss and communicate with the Trustee in charge. It is the Trustee in charge who decides the content and meet any deadline set for print. Please note that the newsletter is for information about the activities, events, etc., No politics or any contentious matter will be entertained.

DIWALI IN LONDON



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>

