

Working towards a closer community

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Visit us online

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

The Secretary's Message

A very warm Namaste to all members of our Samaj. It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that I write to you in my new role as the Honourable Secretary.

Firstly, I hope that you are all keeping safe in these rather strange and unorthodox times. We all know the do's and don'ts in respect of Covid-19. My observation is to enjoy the down time and keep both the mind and body active. Use your allocated hour out of the house to take in some fresh air (and it really is fresh!) and do the things that you will never get to do once normal life resumes. Mother Earth is enjoying the break (it is quite exciting seeing the rivers & oceans sparkling clean and views of the mountain ranges so clear), so why shouldn't we?

Back to our Samaj...

Some of you will know that Anjanaben Thaker has become the Trustee in charge of the E-Group after Vinodbhai Mehta's sudden health scare. We wish Vinodbhai a full and speedy recovery and would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the 8 years of total dedication and service that he has given all of the community. We also thank Anjanaben for stepping up to the challenge and for filling those rather large shoes.

E-Group will continue as normal and we hope the attendance continues to increase. Please contact Anjanaben for more information.

2020 is going to be an exciting year with activities and events for all ages. We have already enjoyed a number of superb events – Bhajan evening, Joshi Brothers Musical Evening, Maha Shivratri Pooja & Holi but to name a few.

Events have stalled in light of the measures placed on us by the Government. We may be down, but certainly not out. Keep your eyes open for the next set of events lined up, including the extremely popular One Day Cricket Match, Quiz Night and Sports Day. We are looking forward to seeing you at each one.

Let's also not lose sight of Navratri coming up (which may seem a long way away, but it is only a few months) until we dance the night away. This will be followed closely by the Havan and our Diwali Show. Given the success of last year's event, we certainly have set the bar high for another great night.

Of course, none of these events would have been, or can be a success without your attendance. A big **thank you** to all of you who have taken part, your attendance has made them the success that they were. With this in mind, our aim is to keep laying on better events for you to enjoy even more than the last. Please continue to support the BSNL, come and get involved, it really is fun!

The Secretary's Message (continued)

The next big push for the Board of Trustees is to re-start a Young Brahmins Committee. We know our youngsters' lives are busier than ever but we need their help to build the Young Brahmins group. We need a new team full of ideas, passion and energy to carry the torch. We will be holding a YB recruitment event shortly. Please keep an eye out for more information in the newsletters. If you are interested in shaping the future of the next generation and fancy taking on the challenges that come with being a committee member, please get in touch with me without delay. If you wish to encourage your sibling, son or daughter to take on an active role, I can promise you the hard work is met with equal reward.

Speaking of the youngsters, I have been in touch with a few of our more youthful and dynamic members through the various WhatsApp groups. I was surprised to learn just how many are involved in the medical profession. It was very warming to see them support and encourage each other during this difficult time where the NHS Staff are under intense pressure. Looking after the ill is one thing but let's not forget these individuals are actually putting themselves in harm's way. We can proudly say that members of our Samaj are involved in the fight against Covid-19 and I ask all readers to show appreciation but following the official advice and preventing the spread of the virus. Let us also remember those who we have lost. During this lockdown, exercising the last rites is not straightforward; if anyone needs help with arranging funerals or general support, please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of the Trustees. We will gladly help where possible and continue supporting our Community.

Please follow our Newsletter, website and social media for more information and look forward to seeing you at our events.

The Board of Trustees thank you for your continued support.

Take care and stay safe.

Ameet Kumar Sharma
Secretary, BSNL
secretary@bsnl.org.uk



Due to the current climate and government guidance, quite a lot of our members who have had bereavements are having to do virtual Prathna's. We, as BSNL, are offering a virtual Prathana Sabha to all our members who have had bereavements in the family. We will provide a bhajan mandli who can sing bhajans via our Zoom platform for an hour. Family members would be allocated a code to be used for the prathna Sabha which can be shared with up to 100 other families. Please contact Anjanaben (07949 830 273) or Parul (07940 584 321)

Moksh Funeral Services

Moksh Funeral services have approached BSNL and have offered a reduced rate for all affected BSNL members. Please contact them directly for further information.

Ashish Barot - 07946 307 622

Akshay Barot - 07961 180 420

Messages from the subgroups

BSNL Ladies Club

As the new year came in 2020, the Ladies Club reopened on 7th Feb.

The subcommittee was formed, Chair - Shila Vyas, Secretary - Veena Subramaniam, Treasurer - Nitaben Mehta.

The club ran for three weeks and celebrated the following during that time;

1) Valentines Day

Bhartiben Shukla led the warm up exercises.

Veena Subramaniam started on a valentine themed discussion of what love means to all individual ladies. Some very interesting views came across. LOVE = Family/Bhakti/Kind gestures/Giving time to loved ones/selfless acts/love should be unconditional /greatest love our Mums.

Karaoke was set up by Anjanaben, with love songs theme. Ladies took turn to sing songs, with bit of dancing.

At the end of the session, all the ladies were presented with a rose by Veena Subramaniam.

2) Mahashivratri was celebrated and home made farar was donated by Sushilaben Vadher.

3) International Women's Day.

This was celebrated in a good spirit.

Event started with a beautiful Bharat Natyam dance performance by Bhavishna, leading to various talks by the members giving an inspiration to women in general.

Since the colossal pandemic has occurred, we have had to close the ladies club temporarily. Instead, we have been organising online Antakshri, quizzes and different kids if interactive entertainment via our WhatsApp group chat. This has allowed members to join in and keep the positive vibes up amongst each other.

Collectively our team is bringing joy to our members who are isolated at home.

We are most certainly working towards bringing more stimulating and educational ideas.

Come and have fun with the ladies of BSNL.

No Men allowed!!

Contact Vandana Joshi on 07944 913 208 for more information

BSNL Yoga

During this difficult time that we are all facing, we have temporarily closed BSNL Yoga activities at the hall, in line with the other activities at BSNL.

However, to remain focused in a challenging time, we are offering video clips every Thursdays on the BSNL Yoga WhatsApp group. Jyoti Joshi, who is the BSNL Yoga Conductor, records a variety of video clips such as sun salutations & Pranayam etc. to benefit our members. This way, they can see her and practice in the comfort of their home surroundings.

Contact Anjana Thaker (07949 830 273) to join the group.

Messages from the subgroups

BSNL Elders Club

Bsnl E-Club last met on Tuesday 3/3/2020 after which we decided to close it due to the current situation and to keep our elders safe.

Although we are closed, we run the club virtually every Tuesday on our WhatsApp group chat.

So far, we have played Antakshari, sung Mataji garbas and our members will be singing bhajans next Tuesday. Also, in the pipeline, we have jokes, chintan and various other themes.

Members are happy as they are still able to enjoy the (virtual) club and still look forward to Tuesdays. We have received quite a lot of positive feedback from the members.

We have yet to elect a new subcommittee since I was appointed Trustee in Charge at the beginning of Feb. I take this opportunity to thank Vinodbhai and his team - Shashikantbhai Mehta, Sharadbhai Mehta, Mukundbhai Mehta, Jagdishbhai Mehta and Nimuben Rawal for their hard work in the last 7-8 years in continuously running the club and making it very successful,

I am grateful to Shashikantbhai and Sharadbhai for their continuity in assisting me with running the club and Jagdishbhai for his assistance in setting up. We have wonderful members who are also eager to volunteer and always working hard.

Kind regards
Anjana Thaker
Trustee in Charge
BSNL E-CLUB

BSNL Open Mic

Open mic is karaoke singing with like-minded members. We meet at the BSNL Hall on the last Friday of each month & members enjoy singing, some come to listen and enjoy the lively atmosphere.

The entry fee for singers is £5 and £3 for guests.

Our planned session for March at Bsnl on 27/3/2020 was initially cancelled due to Covid-19 lockdown. However, the music lovers were determined to continue and so we did a virtually session, via a video call. This was enjoyed by the singers. We sang Bhajans, Dhuns & chanted Omkar & Hanuman Chalisa. We hope to continue this way until the restrictions are lifted.

The Open Mic members also chant Omkar daily at 9pm virtually. This helps us to deal with the current global crisis and pray that everyone stays safe. If you would like to take part, contact either of the people below.

If any member wishes to join the Open Mic group, please contact
Anandbhai Pancholi on 07984 439 307
Pathik Vyas on 07590 818 653

Messages from the subgroups

BSNL Men's Social Club

The BSNL Mens Club, unfortunately had to be suspended due to the guidance given by the government following the coronavirus pandemic. This decision was not taken lightly. However to protect our members health, the trustees concluded that All club activity will cease until the situation improved.

So, rather than meeting at the hall, we decided to set up a virtual meeting so that men in the group can stay in touch.

So, BSNL Mens Club, would like to invite any male member of BSNL who can and would like to take part in a virtual video gathering online held every weekday between 12 noon and 1 pm. There is no fixed format. This is to encourage the shy and not so shy to participate in our daily gossip and informal chitchat plus plenty of laughter. It is simple to connect.

We as members, volunteers and trustees are here for the benefits of our samaj during good and difficult times and pray that this temporary phase will pass very quickly.

Contact Guntantbhai Dave on 07877 565 747 for more information
Trustee in-charge
BSNL Men's Club

BSNL Young Brahmins

As mentioned, our new trustee on the block, Ameet K Sharma will be planning new events for all the YB's as well as a brainstorming day to revive the YB's. He is looking for more help on the subcommittee, especially from the younger members of the Samaj.

If you or anyone you know wants to become a part of BSNL and help shape the future of it, get in touch.

Recent successful events have been the 5 a side football. We have been playing this for the past 3 years. At the moment, due to the government advice, it is currently on hold, but will restart as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

We have also arranged the kids Xmas party and ice skating events.

For more details and information, please contact
Ameet Kumar Sharma on 07903 674 820

Regular Events at BSNL

Following advice given by the Government, all our regular events at the BSNL hall are currently suspended. This is to protect you, our members, from coming into contact with anyone who may be carrying the virus.

However, a lot of the activities have move to online platforms and members are still enjoying these activities (where possible) from the safety of their homes.

BSNL Tesco Grant Activities

Currently all Tesco Grant activities are suspended. We will recommence once the restrictions are lifted.

Please contact Vandana Joshi on 07944 913 208 to register your interest in any of these activities.

BSNL Bollirobics

These are currently suspended as advised by the government.

We will recommence once the restrictions are lifted.

However, we are posting fitness videos by Binal on our Facebook Page, check them out !!

Please contact Nilima Raval on 07719 325 173 for more information.

BSNL Classical Sangeet classes

These are currently suspended as advised by the government.

We will recommence once the restrictions are lifted.

If you are interested in joining future classes, please contact
Anjana Thaker - 07949 830 273

BSNL Appeal for the Homeless

Help us to help homeless people living on the streets of London by helping to make sandwiches for them.

Our volunteers make between 150-200 sandwiches each week for the homeless at our hall and the demand is increasing. We need more volunteers so please come forward and help us to help in this wonderful seva.

You don't need to commit every week (though this would be useful) but can do so on an ad-hoc basis.

Venue: BSNL Hall

Day: Saturday

Time: 9.30am to about 11.30am

If you are interested in coming and helping, please contact

Anjana Thaker - 07949 830 273

Harshaben Trivedi - 07956 586 926

You will be added onto the WhatsApp group, which will keep you updated.

BSNL Hall Hire

The BSNL Hall is available for hire at very competitive rates for BSNL members.

As we have two halls, upstairs and downstairs, each with their own set of toilets, there is total flexibility on what you can hire. In addition to this, there are food warming facilities available in both halls.

Contact the BSNL Hall Hire team on 07483 904 979 to discuss your needs.

Remember the Hall was acquired for use for the Samaj and its long supporting members.

Forthcoming Events for 2020...

Due to the current conditions as imposed by the UK government, no events have been planned for the foreseeable future.

However, there are several ideas, as mentioned by our Secretary, which will be organised once the restrictions are lifted.

Below are the dates of our key events which we hope will remain unaffected. However, please do watch out for updates and progress reports of this continuously evolving situation.

SAVE THE DATES

BSNL are in the process of planning the following events, more details to follow via emails and social media

- Navratri celebrations are going to be from Sat 17th October 2020 to Sat 24th October 2020
- Sharad Purnima garbas will be on Sat 31st Oct 2020
- Diwali in London celebrations will be on Sun 1st Nov 2020
- Ladu preparation day will be on Thurs 5th November 2020
- Navchandi Havan will be on Sat 7th Nov 2020

For participation in any of these events, please contact Parul Jani on 07940 584 321

News from the Samaj

Below we celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of various members. If you have any such news that you wish to share with the members of the Samaj, please do let us know. We will gladly publish it in the next newsletter.

Letter of Appreciation from Go Dharmic (Luton)

Dear Arya Kelly,

Thank you for being the first and youngest fundraiser for our campaign to make a difference in the lives of the vulnerable during the Coronavirus crisis.

Although you are not at school at the moment and missing your lessons, I believe you are learning life's most important lesson which is how to be a good human being.

You have hit your fundraising target within 24 hours which is an incredible achievement!

You should be proud of yourself, well done.

The Funds you have raised will help Go Dharmic volunteers serve meals to elderly people, provide shopping support to NHS workers and ensure the homeless and vulnerable have meals on their table.

Let's make sure nobody goes without during this difficult time. Once again!

Well done on your brilliant achievement!

Kindest Regards,

Hemal Randerwala

Founder & Chairman

www.godharmic.com

Well done to Nandini Olson. This is her story.

My name is Nandini Olson. I am a young BSNL member. I was lucky enough to be chosen to sing at the Royal Festival hall with my school choir. We performed on the 9th of March 2020 for a competition. We did two performances. One in the morning (for the competition) and one in the evening (concert).

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NHS Trust wrote this about Anand Pancholi

The Pathology team brought in positive changes under the guidance and leadership of Anand Pancholi. The Pathology dept was nominated in the trust's "small change, big difference" campaign. The Small Change Big Difference campaign encourages all BHT staff to make small changes that reduce waste and improve efficiency. The Pathology team have great ideas for efficiency and waste reduction, and have implemented them across the Trust. These include standardising the specimen bags used internally and reducing printer usage and confidential waste across the Trust.