

## Ipswich Hindu Samaj

### Secretary Annual Report for the Year 2009

This year the Ipswich Hindu Samaj has continued with its core activities and has maintained the level of activities.

The major Hindu festivals of Holi, Ramanavi, Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturji, Navratri and Diwali were all observed. The bhajan evenings have been continued on a monthly basis throughout the year. The Samaj organized a publicity stall and a mandir which was very successful at the Summer Mela.

I want to mention special thanks to Vinaya, Shakti Khosla, Mayuri Patel, Hamlesh Soni, Martin Spettigue and Dr Soni for helping with the organizational work. And of course, Abha Bansal who was the Development Co-ordinator until her departure to India.

One of the key occupations of the Executive this year has been trying to acquire premises. This was given a major impetus in the summer, when Mukesh Bansal drew up plans for acquiring and funding premises. The Executive agreed that premises for leasing could be investigated, and decided after some enquiries to negotiate for the premises above the Evolution shops used by the Ipswich Buddhist Centre. Since that time negotiations have been ongoing and we are still trying to reach a final settlement of terms and conditions. Special mention has to be made for the efforts of Mukesh Bansal, Martin Spettigue and Dr Soni in the time consuming and complex work of property negotiations.

In September we were sorry to lose the considerable efforts of Abha and Mukesh Bansal who returned to India. Abha's work in helping with events and administration was very valuable and allowed Dr Soni and myself more time for other functions.

Also in July, Anil and Shakti Khosla who were among the founding Executive members, left Ipswich to live in London. Anil did a lot of work regarding structures and constitution for the Samaj. And Shakti was very energetic with the functions and meetings.

Dr Soni as ever has been working almost full time doing different activities in particular management and property matters and EC meetings, and Mayuri & Chandresh Patel for keeping the IHS accounts and membership details.

We still have a lot of work in terms of development administration and setting up a cultural centre to do. For this we need more volunteers and support. I personally would like to have more education and welfare services organized.

When we have a centre, we hope that not only will there be a place for Deity worship, but also place for meetings, social gatherings, courses for yoga, meditation, music, dance and children's activities.

The Centre can also be a place where the Hindu culture and practices can be shown to others of different faiths in the community and beyond. We hope that the Hindu community and also other communities and organizations in Ipswich will further and continue their support for our work and endeavours in the coming year.

I give thanks to all who have participated in and supported us throughout this last year.

**Lila Patel**

