



Registered Charity No: 1118790

## IPSWICH HINDU SAMAJ: NEWSLETTER

Issue No 9 – December 2010

**Welcome!**

*Welcome to all for the Third newsletter of the year*

### **Ipswich Hindu Samaj Community Centre & Mandir**

In the last two issues we dealt with two themes. The first, “**Change that we want to see**”, an important quote from the Father of the Indian Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, and the second, “**Opportunity dances with those, who are already firmly on the dance floor**”. Dr Sushil Soni, Chairman of the Samaj, along with colleagues in the Executive Committee & Trustees, is endeavouring to bring the change, that would take the Samaj successfully to the second decade of the twenty-first century and afterwards, and to serve the Indian Community within the Samaj. That “**we are as well firmly on the dance floor**”, we have achieved our primary objective i.e. to have a Community Centre and Mandir in Ipswich. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010, the lease for the old Buddhist Centre was signed and sealed, and keys received. We can now proudly say that the Ipswich & Suffolk Hindu community has its own Community Centre & Mandir, for which we worked very hard during the last four years to achieve this objective, since the inception of the Samaj on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2006. The centre is now being refurbished and very soon, the marble Murtis of Lord Krishna and of Shrimati Radha Rani, donated by devotee members of the Samaj will be installed.

As indicated in the September issue of the newsletter, it is now up to the Indian community to support the efforts of the Executive Committee & Trustees, as we do need monetary support to sustain the Community Centre and the Mandir. We are looking for dedicated members of the community to donate every month £5 or £10 or more via **Standing Order Mandate (SOM)**, to sustain the Community Centre & Mandir. Please visit our website [www.ipswichhindusamaj.org.uk](http://www.ipswichhindusamaj.org.uk), for SOM or contact

the Chairman, Secretary, or the Treasurer for more information on the SOM by contacting at 01473 399391, 07944180026, 01473 424576 or 01473 728323 respectively. A copy of the SOM will also be circulated with this newsletter.

### **Interfaith Co-ordinator & Project Officer**

Mrs Shivaleela Satishchandra who was appointed to the above position last July will be leaving us on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010. She will be returning to her home in India by the end of January 2011. We hope to carry on the interfaith activities in conjunction with the local interfaith group SIFRE. Our best wishes to Shiva on her future

### **Future Funding**

In the last newsletter we listed all the funding that we received in the year 2010, which will expire by March 2011. We have already applied to Suffolk Foundation and the Ipswich Borough Council for our social, cultural and religious activities and for the refurbishing of the centre to provide service to the needy within the community and for the provision of health, social care, and educational requirements of the community particularly for the elderly, youth, unemployed and vulnerable members of the community.

### **Activities**

#### **Project: Be Well & Live Well**

The funding for this project, which was to end on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011, has been extended by the grant funding body "Big Lottery Fund", for six months until 17<sup>th</sup> August, because of the late start of the project.

Luncheon for the Elderly (60+) and light Aerobic & Yoga classes for Elderly (50+) are being now carried out on every Wednesday & Thursday of the week respectively. If you are aware of any member of the Hindu Community or of persons believing in Hindu Cultural traditions & Philosophy/Beliefs, please contact the Samaj's Chairman, Dr Soni by post, 5 Thoroughfare, Ipswich, IP1 1BX or by email [info@ipswichhindusamaj.org.uk](mailto:info@ipswichhindusamaj.org.uk) or by phone 07944180026.

#### **ISIA Diwali Dinner Dance 2010.**

Ipswich Hindu Samaj as in previous years supported the ISIA Annual Dinner Dance, held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2010. There was poor attendance, and the ISIA had a loss of £590. The IHS covered the 50% of the loss. Being a membership led organisation and depended on funding for its activities this was a big loss that the Samaj had to bear. I think we will have to be careful in future to our financial support to the ISIA activities.

#### **Diwali Milan**

This was held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November to celebrate Diwali 2010, and the Hindu New Year Vikram Samvat 2067. The event was hosted by the Suffolk New College, and supported by the Suffolk County Council. Because of bad weather, the attendance was

20% low than last year. However, the Indian meal provided by the Catering students of the College was appreciated by all present at the Milan. Earlier candles were lighted in front of Goddess Lakshami and Lord Ganesha a symbolical way of enlightening us with the removal of darkness within us & to bring happiness, good health and prosperity for the coming year.

### **Children's Christmas Party**

Samaj organised for the first time, children's Christmas Party, at the Community Centre and Mandir on December 20<sup>th</sup>. About 12 children attended the party with their mums. Many thanks to the Secretary, Lila Patel and Sital Patel for organising the event.

### **Bhajan Evenings**

These have now been transferred from the Unitarian Meeting House to the Community Centre & Mandir, 5 Thoroughfare, Ipswich, IP1 1BX. This will be held on every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month from 7.30pm to 9.30pm with Aarti at 9pm. The next Bhajan Evening will be on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January. If you want to sponsor the Bhajan Evening, please contact Dr Soni at 07944180026, or by email: [info@ipswichhindusamaj.org.uk](mailto:info@ipswichhindusamaj.org.uk)

### **Future Activities**

We will endeavour to continue to organise the religious, social and cultural programmes at the Community Centre & Mandir through out the year 2011. The Opening hours of the Community Centre & Mandir are noted below:

**Wednesdays (Luncheon) 1pm to 3pm (Aarti @1.15pm)**

**Thursdays (Aerobic & Yoga Classes) 7.30pm to 9.30pm (Aarti @ 8.15pm)**

**Fridays 7pm to 9.30pm (Aarti @ 9pm)**

**Saturdays 3pm to 7pm (Aarti @ 5.30pm)**

**Sundays 3pm to 7pm (Aarti @ 5.30pm)**

Details of all programmes and events will be circulated well in advance and posted on the website.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Samaj's AGM will be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March @7.30pm in the Board Room 1 of the Suffolk New College, Rope walk, Ipswich, IP4 1LT. Agenda and related papers will be circulated nearer the time.

### **Renewal of Membership**

Samaj's financial year ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December each year and therefore the need for renewal of membership from 1<sup>st</sup> January. **Please renew your membership ASAP.** The new membership form has already been circulated, and will be circulated again with this newsletter.

### **Donation for the Sustainment of the Community Centre & Mandir**

SOM for the above donation has already been circulated. This will be circulated again with this newsletter. **Please do not confuse this with the renewal of membership, as both are completely separate items.**

**PS: Please note the views expressed in this newsletter may not be of the views of the Executive Committee & Trustees.**

**NB: Please note the change of address of the Samaj from P O Box 892, Ipswich, IP1 9NW to 5 Thoroughfare, Ipswich, IP1 1BX. Also the change of Tel No from 0844 3572846 to 01473 399391.**

### **A Short Story from Mahabharata by Sanjay Martin Spettigue**

#### **DIVINE WEAPONS**

*Arjuna and his teacher, guide and friend, Lord Krishna, are two most significant figures in the Mahabharata. Both Krishna and Arjuna possessed special weapons which they used to fight against undivine forces. This is how they came to have these weapons.*

*Agni, the great sage, had a curse place on him; he was forced to eat all things in God's creation. One day he voraciously ate clarified butter and then he suffered from a terrible stomach upset. He tried so many ways to cure himself from pain. It was unbearable.*

*Agni thought to himself - 'since I am suffering so much anyway I may as well eat everything. How long can I go on suffering from this pain?' So he went into Khandava, the beautiful forest of Lord Indra and began eating everything in sight. Indra tried to prevent him from eating the animals in the forest, but Agni was so powerful that Indra could not do anything.*

*Krishna and Arjuna happened to be walking in the forest and Indra went to them and begged for help. "Look, Agni is destroying my beautiful forest. Everything is being killed and devoured by him. Please, please help me... I cannot fight him. Agni is too powerful!"*

*Krishna and Arjuna agreed. 'Give us some weapons', they said. 'We have come with nothing. If you can give us weapons, we shall fight him'.*

*Indra gave the Sudarshana Chakra, the famous disc, to Krishna. To Arjuna he gave the famous bow called Gandhiva. With these powerful instruments, Krishna and Arjuna fought against Agni and finally defeated him.*

*Indra was very happy and said, 'Please keep your weapons. With these divine weapons you will be able to conquer the world.'*

*Indeed, in the time of the Mahabharata Arjuna used his Gandhiva countless times. And the Sudarshan Chakra, Krishna killed many undivine beings.*

### **Comments of Sri Chinmoy on Mahabharata:**

*In Bengali there is an immortal utterance: 'Jai nai Bharate ta nai Bharate.' It means, 'Whatever is not in the Mahabharata is not to be found in Bharatbarsha, or India.' Indeed, it is true, more than true.*

and

*"Mahabharata Katha Amrita Saman'.*

*This is a Bengali saying handed down from generation to generation. It means, "The message-light of the Mahabharata is a good, divine and immortal as Nectar-Delight."*

