

Jalaram Mandir Greenford

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Newsletter Issue 3 April 2010 website: www.jalarammandir.co.uk

Bapa's Prasad now seven days a week

This is the third newsletter from the current Trustees. As reported in our two previous newsletters, our priority since election on 18 October 2008 has been to modernise the Mandir and to maintain transparency in our dealings, especially financial, with all devotees. The devotees have responded superbly and donations have continued to increase month by month. We arranged car parking facilities on Thursday evenings and arranged a small bus to transport devotees from the Mandir to the car park. We are pleased to announce that, starting on 11 January 2009, Bapa's Prasad has been served seven days a week, during lunch time, from 1 pm to 2.30 pm. In addition, the usual Thursday evening Prasad continues.

The Mandir is a source of spiritual fulfilment for the devotees; it is also important that the Mandir becomes a source of physical nourishment in the form of regular prasad to the devotees. In an age when many people, especially the elderly, are feeling isolated, it is important that the Mandir becomes more of a community centre where devotees can find company of like minded people.

Developments

We have also given priority to the training and development of all persons connected to the Mandir. We organised full day training for Trustees in connection with their legal and other obligations. Ten of the eleven Trustees attended this course. We have also sent some of our employees and volunteers on Health and Safety course; more will be sent in due course.

Health and Safety

We have also had, for the first time in eight years, a thorough Health and Safety inspection by Ealing Council. This complete inspection, which lasted for four hours, gave us a clean bill of health. Prior to this, we had invested lot of time and resources towards reaching the standards which the best restaurants have towards their food hygiene. This was a long process which took many months but was worth the final result. More employees and volunteers will be sent on Health and Safety courses.

Finances

We have published in our two previous newsletters our finances until then. In this newsletter, we are publishing, on final page, the management accounts for the year 2009. You will note that the total income came to £350,718. We spent £94,536 (27%) on catering supplies and wages for the kitchen staff. After spending £30,089 on refurbishment and £12,721 on equipment for the kitchen and fixtures, and allowing for other running costs, we made a surplus during 2009 of £127,821. This surplus is reflected in increase of bank balances. When we took over on 18 October 2008, the bank balance was £52,797; this has increased to £202,986 over fourteen months, which is an increase of 284%.

Programmes

Over the past few months, we have had a few successful programs. We celebrated

Bapa's birthday on October 2009. Prasad was served from 1 pm to 9 pm and we had Aarti every hour. Throughout the day some 2,500 devotees attended the Mandir.

Valjibhai Davda: On 24 December 2009, we had Bhajans by Valjibhai Davda of Jalaram Matru Seva Mandal which were, as usual, well attended. On New Year's Eve we had Bhajans during the evening and had maha aarti at midnight.

Hanuman chalisa: On 1 January 2010, we had 108 recitals of Hanuman Chalisa, and the attendance was very good. We served Prasad through the day from 2 pm to 9 pm. As on 1 January 2009, this again was a success.

Republic Day of India Celebrations - 26th January 2010 :Over 200 devotees attended celebrations in the mandir's carpark where the Indian Flag was raised ceremonously with singing of Jai Bharat Anthem followed bu Puja and and Prasad.

Maha Shivratri - 12th February 2010: The event was very well attended with 1800 devotees thought out the day despite freezing weather. During this day Shiv puja was conducted every 45 minutes from 8am to 6pm with Maha Puja from 9pm to midnight. Maha Aarti was done at 7.30pm. Falhar Prasad served from 1pm to 9pm.

Holi Utsav - 28th February 2010: Despite rain and cold weather the event was very well attended with 3000 devotees on the day. Holi pujan was conducted at 5.30pm followed by Holi lighting at 6pm.

Hanuman Jayanti - 30th March 2010: The day was very well attended with 1400 devotees taking part in Hanumanji puja and havan. This follwed chanting of 108 Hanuman Chalisa. Prasad was served from 1pm to 9pm.

SAPTAAH Saturday 17 TO Saturday 24 APRIL 2010: You are all invited to the Saptah which will be from 2.30 pm to 6 pm, followed by Prasad.

We are grateful for all your support. We could not have achieved this without the efforts of the trustees and the selfless help given by many volunteers, some of whom are at the Mandir almost every day and who provide free services to the Mandir. These volunteers are the bedrock of the Mandir.

Mandir's Aarti at 7.30 pm every Thursday and can be watched on the internet. Go to www.jalarammandir.co.uk. Click on LIVE AARTI. This can be done from any part of the world through the internet.

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Trustees: Rajnibhai Khiroya (President), Rajnibhai Thakrar (Vice-President), Prakashbhai Gandecha (Secretary), Sharadbhai Bhimjiyani (Treasurer), Mansukhbhai Morjaria, Rajnibhai Dawda, Rashmibhai Chatwani, Kiritbhai Vinda, Manishbhai Popat, Dhirajbhai Kataria (co-opted), Pramilaben Dawda (co-opted).

Gift Aid

You may wonder what Gift Aid and Taxman has to do with the Credit Crunch. Without your support and that of the Taxman, a lot of charities would be struggling, just like the banks, but not for the same reasons. The effects of the credit crunch have not only hit the poor, but also a lot of well to do people. As a result of this, the donations have dropped and charities are desperate to recoup this loss.

Fortunately, the Taxman has been supporting the charities for several years, through the **GIFT AID SCHEME**. This has been available for several years, but we are not making full use of it. **In these hard times it is important for us to maximize our income from all our sources, no matter how small it is.**

We, the trustees, appreciate that is a difficult time for all our sponsors devotees, and donors. However, we can get an additional 25%, on top of your donation, if you are a taxpayer and you sign the gift aid form. This will make a lot of difference to the finances of the Mandir.

We have also noted from our collection boxes, that a lot of you make a reasonable amount of donation in boxes. Unfortunately, we can not claim gift aid on these amounts. We have consulted the Tax Office and it has been suggested that **via the envelope scheme, we will be able to obtain the Tax refund on donations received in the collection boxes.**

In order for the envelope scheme to work, all taxpayers will have to sign the Gift Aid Form (only once) and on receipt of this form we will provide you with a Donor number. **The Mandir will provide you envelopes on which you need to put down your Donor number** (name and signature optional), and put your donation in the envelope, seal it and then put the envelope in the Donation Box. By using the envelop scheme we anticipate the Mandir will get an additional sum of between £15,000 and £20,000 per annum. We therefore request you that if you are a taxpayer and you want to donate, you sign the gift aid form and obtain your permanent donor number.

No matter how small the donation is, The Mandir will get an extra 25%, and as they say pennies make pounds. For every £1 you donate, the Mandir will get an additional £0.25p. For the next two years the government will pay an additional 3%, thus giving us a total of 28% of your donation.



CHARAKDHI – BAPA’S OTHER HOME

We all know that Puja Jalarambapa was born in Virpur and lived most of his life there.

During my recent visit to India, I was surprised to learn from someone in Jaipur, that Bapa had spent his younger days in a village called Charakdhi, in the Gondal District, and that Bapa used to walk from there to Virpur. Charakdhi is not far from Virpur (by car about twenty minutes) and has a population of about 5000.

As we were going to Virpur, we decided to go to Charakdhi as well. We had the privilege of visiting the place where Bapa used to live and this is currently known as Jalaram Mandir and the local people come to do darshana daily and they hold Bhajans on Thursdays. I am informed that the Sadavrath was started from here and at the time Mitho Bhath (rice and sugar was served). Bapa spent about ten years here.

Sharad Bhimjiyani

| Shree Jalaram Mandir Greenford | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Management Accounts | | | Forthcoming programmes | |
| Year Ended 31 December 2009 | | | | |
| | | | Saptah | 17 to 24 April |
| Income | | | Buddha Purnima | 27 May 2010 |
| Donations & Collections | | 322,631 | Guru Purnima | 25 July 2010 |
| Tax refunds | | 28,087 | Raksha bandhan | 24 Aug 2010 |
| Total income | | 350,718 | Janmashthami | 2 Sept 2010 |
| Less Expenses | | | Ganesh Chaturti | 11 Sep 2010 |
| Wages catering & related costs | 94,536 | | Navratri begins | 8 Oct 2010 |
| Fixtures & equipment | 12,721 | | Dussera/Vijya Dashmi | 17 Oct 2010 |
| Repairs refurbishment & cleaning | 30,089 | | Sharad Purnima | 22 Oct 2010 |
| Running costs | 85,551 | | Dhanteras | 3 Nov 2010 |
| Total expenses | | 222,897 | Diwali | 5 Nov 2010 |
| Net surplus for the year | | 127,821 | New year | 6 Nov 2010 |
| Represented by | 31.12.09 | 31.12.08 | | |
| Bank balance | 230,560 | 87,182 | | |
| Less creditors | -27,574 | -12,017 | | |
| Net balance | 202,986 | 75,156 | | |
| Increase during 2009 | | 127,821 | | |

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Mandir has two new Pujaris (Priests) and they are:

Shastri Piyushbhai Mehta and

Shastri Palkeshkumar Trivedi.

**To book Pujaris (Priests) for private work
such as Havans, Poojas, Kathas, Engagements,**

Weddings or any religious services

then please contact Mandir on 0208 578 8088.

**We have inhouse mandap and
can do total package for Hindu weddings including catering**

We are registered for civil marriages.
