



Welcome to our Diwali issue - the festive season is upon us once again. Darji Mitra Mandal of UK would like to wish you all a Happy Diwali, prosperous New Year and enjoy this wonderful time with your friends and family.

This past year has seen DMMUK forge closer links and support with the community but more importantly our younger generation have shown their passion to remain connected to our culture and traditions. This has also helped us improve our communication through the various media which has been key in engaging and promoting our ethos across the age groups. This has been reflected in your cooperation and attendance at all our events.

The Darji Website which is currently being updating will also provide us with a platform to reach out to a much wider audience, and capture our younger members support and will extend and build our relationship with Darji Samaj's internationally.

I wish to thank you for your enthusiasm, continued and generous support and look forward to seeing you all at our exciting Diwali gathering on the **24th October** at The Pavilion. Happy Diwali and Saal Mubarak

Pravin Jivan, President



Upcoming Events

24th October 2009: Diwali at The Pavilion 7.30pm (Fireworks - 9.00pm) - Our annual Diwali 'Bring a Dish' function is upon us. Share, exchange food, blessings and don't forget the colourful fireworks. We hope to put on a show and are looking for dances acts. If you are interested, please contact Vin Tailor on 07956 413166.

6th November: Pizza Night @ Friday Club - Please join us and enjoy freshly baked Pizza at the Pavilion. For those who do not like pizza, we will also provide pasta, garlic Bread and ice-cream. Spread the work and bring your friends and family.

19th December: Children's Christmas Party - Please join us and bring your child/ren (under 11 years of age) to our annual Christmas party. Please complete the enclosed form and register in time.

31st December: New Years Eve Party - Don't miss our end of year dinner and dance, with 3 course meal and great music. This event is always oversubscribed, so to avoid disappointment, please book in advance. For tickets, please contact Pravin Jivan on 07951 850727 or Vin Tailor on 07956 413166.

Highlights

Navratri 2009

Our Navratri event has become more successful year on year and this year was no exception with over 500 season tickets being sold this year.

The popularity of this event unfortunately led us to people being refused entry on Aatham due to hall being at full capacity.

We were also encouraged and enthused to see a large population of young people participate and enjoy at such a auspicious event.

The traditional decoration provided the ambience and the beautiful backdrops for the stage and hall entrance added that special touch. A special thank you to all our volunteers, committee members whom without, this event would not be a success. A mention to all our sponsors, Chandrakant Patel of Ashirwaad Wedding Services, Jay Shah of UNITRADE for providing free soft drinks and Thakor Bhagat and Shantilal Ambaram for donating the Prasad. In particular to Prabhudasbhai Jivan Tailor and Rukhimaniban P Tailor, Kamlaben G Fakir, Shantilal A Tailor and Mahesh H Tailor.

We would also like to mention a 'special thanks' to Anand, aged 12, son of Sunil and Bhavna Tailor and Grandson of Natubhai and Niruben Haribhai Ganda of Harrow. He showed exceptional interest, willingness and enthusiasm to help any which way he could by helping with selling or drinks, counting donations made during aarti and distribution of Prasad.

We hope he was an inspiration to many young people.

DMM UK is proud to announce that money collected from Arti thali collection has been donated to British Heart Foundation and Great Ormond Street charity funds.

Aarti Donation

The money collected through Aarti Thali is usually donated to other charities,

Last year we donated £201 to Special Baby Care Unit at Whipps Cross hospital and also £201 to help the age charity. This year we have donated £201 to British Heart Foundation and £201 to Great Ormond Hospital.

Mandal will like to thank everyone who has made this possible.

Bhajan

We had delightful devotional bhajan night to celebrate our ancestors during Sharad. This event was well attended and enjoyed by all who attended.



Sea Side trip

Another year, another coach trip - A great annual day out for our Darji community to Clacton-On-Sea with food, sight seeing, fish and chips, sun and sea!



We were privileged to include a visit to the beautiful Ram Mandir and were welcomed by Sushilaben and Kantibhai who made it worthwhile. All those who attended enjoyed the peaceful moment.

Next year, we promise an even better day out with a trip abroad a distinct possibility. Register your interest with Bharatbhai by email at bharat.t.tailor@bt.com



Marathon Man

We are delighted to announce our Secretary Mr Bharatbhai Tailor (53) of Gants Hill, has decided to run a Marathon (26.6 Miles) in May 2010, Edinburgh in aid of raising awareness and much needed funding for DMM of the UK.



Bharatbhai's wish is to be sponsored a minimum of £100 from each Darji household - this will enable and help the Mandal to decrease its debt and further improve facilities at The Pavilion. Bharatbhai and your Mandal need your support. Please complete the attached form or email bharat bhai on bharat.tailor@bt.com.

Membership

For those who attended Navratri would have been seen the benefits of using the pre-issued season cards and NEW membership cards - benefits include reduced costs at ticketed events and provide us a method of monitoring attendance at all events!

During the 10 Navratri nights, over 320 photos were taken of Annual, Life or Senior Citizen cards. For the first time we were able to validate the Membership Cards against our database and cross check the photos with the cardholder. People recognised the potential and were eager to obtain their Membership Cards. Please contact Mahesh Chikhli (see below), for any of the following:

- Check if you are a current DMM UK Member
- If you are a current DMM UK Member, and don't have a membership card
- If you are not a current DMM UK Member; and aged between 18 -60 you can become either an Annual Member (£7.00 - expires 31st March 2010) or a Life Member (£101.00)
- If you are aged over 60 (female) or 65 (male), you are automatically a Senior Citizen member and there is NO FEE - totally **FREE**. However, we do need your full name, address, and date of birth, before we can print a membership card.

Please remember: Please keep your membership card(s) safe, as replacement card will be charged at £5.00 each. **Annual Membership runs from 1st of April to 31st of March each year.**

Directory

To ensure the DMM UK database is maintained and accurate we need to have correct and most up to date latest details for each and every Darji community member. Therefore it is vital that you notify us of **ANY** changes; such as:

- Head of the family
- Address
- Home phone number
- Family members moving out to a new address
- Addition to the family, such as births or marriages.

Where possible, please inform us of your email address to enable us to communicate information effectively. If you would like to check or confirm your details please contact Mahesh Chikhli, 5 Whistler Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 5TU, email maresh@chikhli.co.uk

Special Gratitude

DMM UK would like to thank the following:

- Mr Chandrakantbhai & Mrs Kunjuben Patel for the decoration around the hall. They have provided us their services free of charge for the last two years.
- Mr J.Shah of Unitrade Wholesale (UK) Ltd for water & snacks.
- All committee members & families for their hard work in make this another great event for the DMMUK
- All Volunteers for helping to make the Navratri nights successful



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We wish everyone Happy Diwali and
Prosperous New Year.



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Kamuben Gulabdas Fakirbhai
Nimlala Madhusudan Bulsara
Pravina Bharatkumar Darji
Tanuja & Sanjay, Hemant & Bhaviti, Sangeeta
Simran, Siyana
Grand Children and Great Grand Children



A warm Diwali wish for everyone

May the warmth and splendour, that are a
part of this auspicious occasion, fill lives with
happiness and bright cheer, and bring to you
all joy and prosperity, for the whole year.

From:
Shantaben Gulabdas Bhikha
Jay Prakash Bhikha and family
Hasmukh Bhikha and family
Pradip Bhikha and family
Atul Bhikha and family





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Diwali Greetings from

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Mrs Tara, Mr Mukesh and Mitul Kapadia

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In Loving Memory



Late Mr Trikambhai Gandabhai Chikhliya
&
Late Mrs Naniben Trikambhai Chikhliya



Late Mr Ambaram Trikambhai Chikhliya
&
Late Mrs Lalitaben Ambaram Chikhliya



Late Mrs Dhangauriben Thakordas Chikhliya



Late Mr Chunibhai Trikambhai Chikhliya



Late Mr Rajeshbhai Trikambhai Chikhliya



Late Mr Shankarlal Bhulabhai



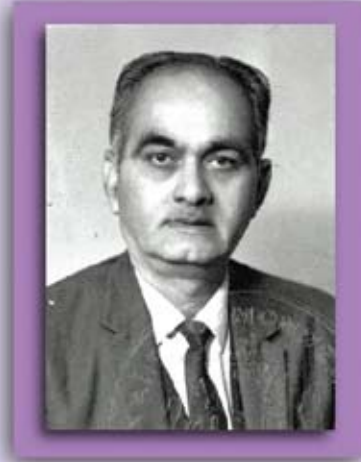
Late Mr Ishvarlal Dullabh Bulsara



Late Mr Dinesh Trikambhai Chikhliya

**Forever in the Hearts of
Chikhliya Family**

In loving memory of our Father
Babubhai Govindji Tailor
Born in Vanzna : 15th June 1915
Passed away in London: 22nd June 1990



In 1968, when the Darji Mandal was restarted, our father was the first President. He would have been very pleased at the way the Mandal has evolved over the last 40 years.

He would be especially proud of the rapid progress and professionalism of today's Mandal

Happy Diwali to all Darjis and Congratulations to the hardworking team who have made The Darji Mitra Mandal the pride of our community

Obituaries

DMMUK would like to send their condolences and sympathies to the families of the following community members who rest in peace.

Name

Mr Dineshbhai Trikambhai Chikilia, Hendon, London
Mrs NanduBen Dayaram Tailor, Upton Park, London
Mr Ratilal Maneklal Tailor, Eldoret, Kenya
Mr Ramlal Vithalbhai Tailor, London
Mr Thakorrbhai Bhikabhai Tailor, Palmers Green, London
Mrs Padmaben Thakorrbhai Jinabhai Tailor, Kenton
Mr Vinesh Nipul Bhagubhai, Uxbridge, Middlesex
Mr Babubhai Jivanji Bhagalia, London
Mr Ishwarbhai Vallabh Tailor, Bounds Green, London

Date passed away

1st October 2009
8th September 2009
1st September 2009
27th July 2009
15th June 2009
24th May 2009
7th May 2009
3rd May 2009
20th February 2009

If you would like the name of your beloved family member to be included under obituaries in the Darji Voice, please forward all the details to Thakorrbhai Bhagat (thakor333@yahoo.co.uk). This is open to all the members of the Darji community in the UK. If you wish to place memorials in the future issues, please contact Thakorrbhai Bhagat for details.

Gujarati Edition

It is with great regret that we are unable to bring you the Gujarati Edition of Darji Voice due to sudden loss of our Gujarati editor, late Mr Dineshbhai Trikamlal Chikhliia.

DMMUK acknowledges his hard work and time spent for Mandal. His humour and inspiration will be greatly missed.

We promise to resume Gujarati part in our next edition.

