



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2011

Dear Community Members,
Namaste, we hope you find this Newsletter in the best of health. As your newly elected President it gives me great pleasure to send you our latest Newsletter. For those of you who are not aware, my involvement with the Mandal (GAAL) began in 1984 when I became an EC member and have seen many changes during this time. Where we are today, as a community, represents one of the most exciting and challenging chapters in the history of the GAAL. The world has changed enormously and so have the needs of our community, therefore we must ensure that GAAL is set up to serve you all in the best way possible. We have a beautiful hall that provides many facilities, however it is a shame that significant members of our community are not taking full advantage of it. Please provide us with feedback so that we can arrange activities that are of particular interest to you.

From a financial viewpoint we still have a substantial mortgage commitment, with our primary source of revenue being from hire of the hall. Additionally, we generate income by operating the weekly Friday Social Bar (FSB). As well as from religious and cultural activities organised by the Mahila Mandal (MM), together with other active and dedicated members of our community. The sports committee, and in particular the Golf Society, have also made significant contributions to the overall GAAL fund. Please remember that as a paid up member of GAAL or as a donor towards our building project, you will receive an additional discount off our competitive hire rates.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank members of the MM for their continued support. I am very much impressed by their dedication - they are the backbone of our community. I would encourage ladies of our community to come forward and consider joining the MM and be part of something special. The same sentiment also goes to the Sports Committee (SC) who are busy providing various sports activities and bringing sports enthusiasts together. I congratulate them for their successful inaugural Awards Presentation Ceremony organised on 23rd January 2011 which attracted many community members. My special congratulations go to our Under 12's football team who have won the GAKM Football Trophy two years in succession. They are indeed GAAL's Angels!

Our Senior Citizen Club (SCC) are also doing a marvelous job by arranging delicious luncheons for senior members of our community on a monthly basis. I know that it is very much appreciated by the whole community.

Please join me in thanking all the many volunteers who have helped at Kenton Hall in one way or another, without whom we could not have achieved the success we have.

Jai Shree Krishna,
Somchand Makanji Parmar

OUTSOURCING OF KENTON HALL HIRE SERVICES

You will be aware of the hard work that EC members and other volunteers have done so far in the business of hiring and servicing events at Kenton Hall. We are required to raise funds in order to pay the mortgage and to maintain the upkeep of this very important asset.

In order that you understand this process we would firstly like to explain how this works. There are two parts that are significant to our operation:

1. The hiring process that involves the marketing, taking client phone calls, arranging and dealing with viewings, the professional handling of the hire, the keeping of detailed documentation and ensuring positive outcomes.

2. This involves staffing and management of the events that are held in the Kenton Hall itself.

Please note that there are major improvements to Kenton Hall in the pipeline that are due to be completed this year that will enhance the operation.

We are looking to appoint a **Management Service Provider** who is able to handle all aspects as outlined in point 1 above.

With this newsletter you will find further details that invite competent and well-presented persons, to put forward their interest to GAAL of becoming a Management Service Provider.

Web site, Email and email buddies

For all current updates and news please remember to email to register your email at www.gaalondon.org.uk and become an email buddy for a member not on email (this will be very valuable to an elderly member).



MAHILA MANDAL

Would you like to join the Mahila Mandal?

The Mahila Mandal (MM) was formed in January 2008, as a sub-committee of GAA London, and currently consists of 11 ladies.

The main role of the MM is to support GAAL, in promoting our culture, traditions and religion, as well as in raising funds towards our community hall. The MM achieves this by preparing delicious home cooked food available at the Friday Social Bar, as well as undertaking to cook for events such as Golf Awards Presentations and various other functions.

The MM has also organised both religious and social events for all age groups within the community, such as Bhajans and Yagna's held at our hall and day trips to Mandirs, as well as our very popular Nori-Nem event. We have also organised Easter Fayre, Fun Day, Mehfil Nights and the annual Children's Christmas Party.

A lot of time and effort is put into the planning of all events, to ensure that they are, well organised and cost effective, but most importantly - thoroughly enjoyable for all who attend.

We are proud to be able to say that events organised to date have been very successful. Feedback received from both within and outside the community, being entirely positive and encouraging, which reinforces the importance and value of the events. It is therefore an aspiration of the MM to build on this success by planning more events.

Forthcoming Events:

- Mother's Day Lunch;
- Leicester Coach trip;
- Deep Yagna;
- Nori-nem;
- Sharad Bhajans

Please look out for emails containing full details of the events once dates are confirmed.

The MM are seeking ladies to join them to help cook for Friday Social Bar and organise events for our community, and would like dedicated, hard-working ladies, who have some spare time on their hands to come forward. Meetings are generally held once a month, where planning of events takes place.

If you are interested in joining, or would like further details, please contact Mina Chauhan - mina.chauhan@nhsbt.nhs.uk

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

The Senior Citizens Club (SSC) was started in summer 2010 and is run by a committee of volunteers. The SCC organizes monthly luncheons and all members of the community, young and old, are welcome to come and join in the activities organised.

The luncheon gatherings have been very successful and are usually held on the third Tuesday of each month. So far, we have had Bhajans, Gujarati Natak (on Video), health awareness lectures and yoga talk. We will continue to offer such items in the future.

Please note that these events are not just for lunch. The intention is to socialise, entertain and educate.



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For more information, please contact Rameshbhai M Solanki (tel: 020 8452 3445), Uttambhai Oza (tel: 020 8205 2526) or Jayantibhai Chauhan (tel: 020 8452 1821).

We continue to change and evolve and always try to change according to circumstances and suggestions from the community. Please look out for monthly e-mail shots giving details of the forth-coming events. Those who do not get this monthly mail shot please arrange with friends or relations to convey this information to you. If you wish to register for email invites please visit our web site at www.gaalondon.org.uk and register your email address notification.

If you would like to help in any way, please do not hesitate to talk to us. Help is always needed even for small

FRIDAY SOCIAL BAR

(AKA the Shoemaker's Arms)

A samosa walks into the bar. The barman shouted "Oi, We don't serve food in here!" (God that Ajay is so funny!).



But at Kenton Hall our MM ladies serve delicious home-cooked food, so why not make a date, to meet up with family and friends, and try out the Mochi cuisine. The food and drink is reasonably priced, and you will have the added satisfaction of knowing money from the bar goes towards the upkeep of your hall. 'A busy bar is a happy bar!'

The Kenton Hall bar is family friendly, so bring the whole family along. We have got two pool tables upstairs and in the summer the children will be able to play safely outside in the field. Food menus are emailed in advance, if you have not already registered to receive these notices, please do so on our website. We hope to see you all soon at the Mochi Bar!

GAAL NEWSLETTER MARCH 2011

BUILDING PROJECT

Some of you may be aware that the GAAL, in conjunction with Brent Council, are planning to re-develop the car parking facilities at the Hall. The Council are planning to build a day care centre for disabled children on the allotment car parking area, just beyond our rear car park.



The outcome of the lengthy negotiations over the past 18 months is that the Council have agreed to build us a fully tarmaced, drained and properly lit car park for 102 vehicles at the rear, plus limited disable spaces at the front. They will also widen the entrance road, install street lights and block pave the side access road facing the park. Once the works have been completed, part of our front, gravel car park will eventually be reverted back to grass and landscaped with trees. The new car park will belong to the GAAL, whilst part of the area at the front transfer back Brent Council.

The Council will pay for all the works in exchange for sharing part of the new car park with field users over a defined period. We have ensured that the GAAL have priority of use over all field users. We believe that this is a great opportunity for the GAAL to acquire a proper car park that will be a great asset to our community.

We had hoped that the works would have been completed by now, but this is a very complex project and it is important to ensure that the works go smoothly, hence the delay. It is anticipated that the works will commence shortly, lasting approximately 18 weeks. The GAAL apologies for the inconvenience and lack of parking whilst the works are on-going.

GAAL SPORTS

GAAL Sports had a very successful 2010 and we hope to continue that into 2011.

We have already had one very special highlight when the inaugural Sports Awards Ceremony took place in January. All those players who had represented London in football, cricket and pool in Mahasaba 2010 tournaments were invited to the event and were presented on stage with a trophy by our President. This ceremony was for all participants of all ages. It was especially a proud moment for the parents of the younger members of our community! Almost 200 people attended and we intend to hold this event every year. Please visit the website for a report and photos.



Forthcoming events include the ever-popular 5 a side football tournament in Leicester on 17th April. This always proves to be a wonderful sporting and social occasion. Last year we entered 9 teams and we hope to do likewise this year.

This Summer we will be participating in both the cricket 6 a side tournament and also taking part in 11 a side Mahasaba matches as well as friendlies with local teams.

We are intending to enter a ladies team in the Rounders tournament. So all you sporty ladies out there please come forward and register your interest!

Recently we commenced Badminton on Wednesday evenings. This has proved very popular so please feel free to come along.

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Later on in the year there will also be both Pool and Snooker tournaments.



The Golf Society continues to grow from strength to strength - please see the 2011 Calendar and photos of our past events on our website.

So please remember Ladies and Gents, boys and girls...sport is not only a great way to keep fit but also to socialise and make friends with other members of our community. We hope to see you soon.

For further contact details, please visit our website.

PANTO

Following on from the tremendous success of Cinderella in 2009, the 2010 panto was our very own Mochi interpretation of another Disney classic....**Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.**

In a strange twist of fate it was ironic that whilst Snow White was being performed in Kenton Hall, the fields and surrounding areas were engulfed in snow! Despite the very bad weather the attendance at all three shows were almost at full capacity. We thank all those who supported us as they battled through the elements.

A huge thank you to all those that took part in 2010 for giving up their personal time so near to Christmas. Our community has different strengths and no one should doubt themselves if they want to put themselves forward whether it be acting or back stage. You can do it!

Being involved in the Panto, in whatever capacity, really is great fun and a wonderful way of getting involved with others in our community. One of the best aspects is the new people that you get to know and the friendships that are formed along the way.

We will commence preparations for Pantomime 2011 in September. Details on who to contact will be sent then.

Photos from both Cinderella and Snow White can be viewed on our website.

INVITATION TO TENDER

FOR KENTON HALL HIRE SERVICE

Kenton Hall is a medium sized venue with a capacity of 350 people. It has its own car park, bar, stage and kitchen facilities. Since 2007, when it was acquired, it has been successfully managed and hired out by hard-working dedicated volunteers from within the community. Kenton Hall really is the epicentre of our community.

Kenton Hall has become a very popular place to host events. Typical events that have been held there include weddings, dinner and dances, religious functions and stage performances. In addition to holding events on behalf of our community, it has also hosted numerous events for other communities.

However, there is now a pressing need to build on this, and engage a highly motivated and articulate individual, operating through an independent entity, to support this function.

What we require...

We are looking to outsource certain responsibilities with regards to the bookings at Kenton Hall and are looking to appoint a Management Service Provider (MSP).

The primary function of the MSP shall be to market and manage the hiring of Kenton Hall in accordance with direction from GAAL Executive Committee.

In order to do this effectively it is of paramount importance that the MSP is able to:

- Receive and handle all enquiries from potential clients seven days a week.
- Conduct viewings of Kenton Hall in a professional manner.
- Manage all the necessary booking documentation.
- Understand all aspects of the products that GAAL can provide.
- Market Kenton Hall in an effective manner for the purpose of increasing revenue for the GAAL.
- Produce and maintain marketing materials for Kenton Hall.
- Efficiently maintain a calendar of bookings.

What we will pay...

The MSP will be paid on the basis of a set level of commission based on revenue earned through bookings.

What to do next and by when...

If you or anybody you know is interested in providing this service and would like further information, then please contact in writing the Secretary, Mr Narendra Morar.

Letter: Narendra Morar, 144 Princes Ave, Kingsbury, London NW9 9JE

Please also send a brief email by which we can acknowledge receipt and contact you and send future correspondence.

Email: narendra@kentonhall.co.uk

Please ensure that you receive an email acknowledgement of receipt.

Closing date for registering your interest is 10th April 2011.

BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

The newly elected members at the BGM held on 5th December 2010 are as follows:

PRESIDENT

Somchand Mankanji Parmar

VICE PRESIDENT

Kamlesh Rameshbhai Chauhan

SECRETARY

Narendra Bhikhabhai Morar

ASST SECRETARY

Bharat Mohanbhai Chauhan

TREASURER

Ashvin Gopalbhai Chauhan

ASST TREASURER -

Narendra Dullabhbhai Chauhan

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Ajay Mohanbhai Chauhan

Ashok Ratilal Parmar

Balwant Dullabhbhai Chauhan

Jagdish Bhikhabhai Morar

Kantibhai Vallabhbhai Chauhan

Pankaj Mulchandbhai Solanki

Pradip Chhaganlal Parmar

Rameshbhai Naginbhai Chauhan

Satish Ramanbhai Umeria

Shailesh Natubhai Solanki

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Ichhubhai Raghobhai Parmar

Manesh Thakorabhai Chauhan

Ramesh Mulchand Parmar

Anil Parsottambhai Pardiwalla

Vasantiben Parmar

We would like to request all members to attend future BGMs, which provides an excellent opportunity for you to express your views to the Committee who are ultimately here to serve you.

Your voice counts, and we need to hear it, as we are always seeking ways to serve you better and run our Mandal more effectively. Your participation in all GAAL events is highly valued.