



Leicester Maher Community Association



Communication Magazine Issue 2

Maher

PARIVAR

April 2014

Events Calender 2014

Come and join the Parivar for social, cultural, religious and festive celebrations

A Cultural Experience

A spiritual journey into our heritage

Celebration Of Sports

Recognition of sporting talent within our Samaj

Raising Aspirations

Real life success stories of ambitious individuals



Social



Sports



Cultural



Business





|| Aum vakratunda mahakaya surya koti
samaprabha nirvighnam kurume deva
sarva karyeshu sarvada ||



|| Oh, Lord Ganesh, with curved trunk and
massive body, the one whose splendour is
equal to millions of suns, please bless me so
that I do not face any obstacles in my endeav-
ours.||

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INTRODUCTION

"In this issue, you will find information of social, cultural, charitable, religious and festive work carried out by volunteers at the Maher Centre. The 2014 events calendar highlights key dates for your reference. We anticipate your support and vital attendance at our Samaj events keenly organised by volunteers.

You will also be pleasantly surprised with real life success stories included in this print. The LMCA team would like to congratulate the individuals and thank them for sharing their enriching experiences and achievements in their respective field. On this note, please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to share any information of academia, careers or personal achievements that maybe of inspiration for our Samaj. You may write in, speak to any of the volunteers or email on editor@mahercentre.com

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A Request for Tolerance

Dr Bhimabhai Odedra (Managing Trustee LMCA)

ॐ શ્રી રામ ॐ

સમાજ ને સબળ અને મજબૂત બનાવવો હોઈ તો બળપ્રદ સંકલ્પ અને તેને સિધ્ધ કરવા માટે ગંભીરતા જરૂરી છે પરંતુ જો સમાજ ને સમૃદ્ધ બનાવવો હોઈ તો નમ્રતા અને સહન-શક્તિ દરેક ક્ષેત્રે ખૂબજ અનિવાર્ય છે.

દેશ-વિદેશ માં વસતા આપણા સમાજ ના ભાઈઓ બહેન સામાજિક, ધાર્મિક, શૈક્ષણિક, ધંધાકીય અને રાજકીય ક્ષેત્રો માં ઉપરના શબ્દો ને ધ્યાન માં રાખીને બીજા પ્રગતિ-શીલ સમાજો ની હરોળ માં મુકી ઉચેરા રહેવા માટે જે પ્રયત્નો કરી રહ્યા છે તે ખુબજ પ્રસંશનીય છે.

ઈશ્વર આપણને આપણી આ "પરિવાર" પુસ્તિકા દ્વારા એક બીજા ની વધુ નજીક લાવી, આપણા માં રહેલી માનવતા તે વધારી મોટપ ઓછી કરી, મીઠપ વધારી અને મોજ માં રહેવાની પ્રેરણા આપે તેવી પ્રાર્થના સાથે સર્વે ને "જય માતાજી "

ડૉ. ભીમાભાઈ ઓડેદરા

If we want to make our Samaj stronger then we must courageously take a solemn promise to do so. However, if we want to make our Samaj progressive then we must show modesty and tolerance.

It is praise worthy to know that brothers and sisters from our Samaj have demonstrated development in many fields including culture, religion, education, business and politics.

May god bring our Samaj closer together through this Parivar publication and sweeten our relations whilst granting everyone a happy life.

Jai Mataji

Dr Bhimabhai Odedra

LMCA Committee

Class Of 2013-2014

Further to an annual general meeting on Sunday 15th September 2013, the following committee members were elected and a managing council was formed:

Trustees	
Managing	Dr Bhimabhai Odedra
	Mr Jivabhai Lakha Odedra
	Mr Jivabhai Ranavaya
	Mrs Santokben Odedra
	Mr Laxmanbhai V. Odedra
Managing Committee	
President	Mr Nagajanbhai Bapodra
Vice-President	Mr Pratapbhai Lakhabhai Odedra
Secretary	Mr Dilipbhai Ramabhai Karavadra
Vice-Secretary	Mrs Geetaben Maheshbhai Karavadra
Treasurer	Mr Sudhirbhai Punjabhai Odedra
Vice-Treasurer	Mrs Tamuben Sida
Working Committee Members	Mr Rajshibhai Modhwadia
	Mr Maheshbhai Odedra
	Mr Pratapbhai Karabhai Odedra
	Mr Lakhubhai Godhanian
	Mrs Deviben Khunti
	Mrs Pushpaben Pratapbhai Odedra
	Mrs Bhanuben Sida
	Mr Nirmalji Odedra
	Mrs Poonamben Modhwadia
Voluntary	Mr Nirmalbhai Modhwadia
	Mr Sureshbhai Sida
Centre Manager	Mr Vivekbhai Khistariya

We are here to serve our Samaj and request your blessings, guidance and continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact anyone one of us with any questions or concerns. To get in touch, you can email, visit the Maher centre or phone and leave a message with your name and contact number. In addition to this publication and circular letters; we regularly update information on our community website www.maheronline.org, facebook page on www.facebook.com/mahercentre and the Centre website on www.mahercentre.com



AGM 2014

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Maher Community Association (Leicester) UK will be held at Maher Community Centre, 15 Ravensbridge Drive, Leicester LE4 0BZ at 2.00pm on Sunday 13th July 2014 to transact the following business:

AGENDA

1. Prayers
2. Welcome by President
3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th September 2013
To be agreed and matters arising.

4. Reports and accounts

To receive and consider the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014 and the reports from the charity trustees.



5. Any other business



To deal with any matters raised at the meeting.

6. Appointment of 2014 Committee

To elect Office Bearers and Committee members for the next year.

7. To close the meeting

By order of the Board of charity trustees

Dilip Karavadra
Secretary

Dated: 06/05/2014



AGM 2014

સૂચના

મહેર કોમ્યુનીટી એસોસિએશન (લેસ્ટર) વાર્ષિક જનરલ મીટીંગ રવિવાર ૧૩ જુલાઈ ૨૦૧૪ સમય બપોરના ૨.૦૦ વાગ્યે થી રાખવા માં આવેલી છે.

મહેર કોમ્યુનીટી એસોસિએશન (લેસ્ટર) ની આ સભામાં એસોસિએશન ના ટ્રસ્ટી તથા કમિટી મેમ્બર દ્વારા નીચે દર્શાવેલ મુદ્દા ની ચર્ચા કરવામાં આવશે.

- (૧) પ્રાર્થના
- (૨) પ્રમુખ શ્રી નું ઉદબોધન
- (૩) ૧૫ સપ્ટેમ્બર ૨૦૧૩ ની જનરલ મીટીંગ ના મુદ્દાઓ ની સમીક્ષા.
- (૪) ટ્રસ્ટી શ્રી નો અહેવાલ તથા ખજાનચી નો અહેવાલ.
- (૫) વધારાની બાબતો.
- (૬) નવી કમિટી માટે ની ચૂંટણી.
- (૭) મીટીંગ નું સમાપન.

દરેક જ્ઞાતિ ભાઈ બહેનને નમ્ર વિનંતિ છે કે મીટીંગ માં જરૂર આવશો કારણકે ઘણા બધા મહત્વના નિર્ણયો લેવાના હોવાથી તેની ચર્ચા વિચારણા કરવાની છે. તમારા સાથ સહ-કારની જરૂર છે. તથા કાર્યકર્તા યુવાનો માટે સક્રિય રસ લઈ સંસ્કૃતિ અને વારસો જાળવી રાખવા માટે, તેઓ ને પ્રોત્સાહિત કરવા તમારા સાથ અને સહકાર ની અપેક્ષા રાખીએ છીએ.

અમોને આનંદ થશે આપણી જ્ઞાતિ ભાઈઓ કમિટીમાં જોડાઈ પોતાના અનુભવો અને તેમની મદદની ઓફર કરશે તો અત્યારની કમિટી દ્વારા કરવામાં આવતા કાર્યો થી સમગ્ર જ્ઞાતિ આનંદ અનુભવે છે જેમાં થોડા ઘણા માણસો સામેલ છે સક્રિય રીતે વધારેમાં કમિટી રચનાત્મક કાર્યો તરફ આગળ વધી રહેલ છે. મીટીંગ માં અગત્યના સુચનો જ્ઞાતિ અને સમાજ સફળતા તરફ આગળ વધે તે ઉપર ભાર મૂકવા માં આવશે.

આભાર

દિલીપ કારાવદરા
(સેક્રેટરી)

તા :- ૦૬/૦૫/૨૦૧૪



An Identity

Shri Parbatbhai Sundavadra



Parbatbhai Sundavadra addressing at Maher Samelan



Parbatbhai observing junior Dandia-Raas team



Parbatbhai presenting an award to his son Laxmanbhai

Parbatbhai Sundavadra commonly known as 'Parbat Atta' of Loughborough undoubtedly defines our culture, our traditions, our heritage and our values. His humble nature and modesty is incomparable, whilst his presence is that of someone commanding respect.

His dedication to our Samaj and selfless service continues to date with his journey starting in 1978 in his home town of Loughborough where he pioneered a sports tournament that took place in a local park. The sports anniversary celebrations of 2013 were a tribute to Parbatbhai to recognise his efforts in promoting sports within our community; encouraging and motivating members of all ages.

In addition to sports, Parbatbhai is a keen Dandia-Raas player and has enthusiastically coached many people here in the West. The traditional Maniyaro-Raas is a gift by Parbatbhai to our community and gratitude to him that hundreds of Maher brothers continue to cherish and enjoy such a skilful art.

On behalf of all Maher brothers and sisters, the LMCA team would like to convey their heartfelt thank you to Parbatbhai for his devotion towards our Samaj and request his continued blessings.



Parbatbhai and his family at the Maher Sports Celebration

Accounts 2012-2013

With the generosity of our Samaj and assistance of our volunteers the Leicester Association had a successful year. We are pleased to include the financial report for the year ending 31st March 2013

Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2013				
	31.3.13		31.3.12	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations-Main & Navratri	42,928		29,891	
Hall and Utensil hire	157,733		70,162	
Other receipts	928		20,977	
HMRC-GIFT AID	5,484	207,073	-	121,030
Other income				
Deposit account interest		-		1
		207,073		121,031
Expenditure				
Wages	25,512		21,472	
Rent	18,000		18,000	
Rates and water	4,102		5,544	
Insurance	5,960		5,750	
Light and heat	12,639		12,756	
Donation	3,903		-	
Telephone	586		771	
Printing, post & st	2,740		959	
Advertising	1,193		1,860	
Repairs and renewals	9,655		6,812	
Maher Supreme-Donations	11,226		16,957	
Navratri/Diwali costs	30,951		28,417	
Xmas/New Year/Valentines/Sport	1,200		3,044	
Sundry expenses	876		1,514	
Security	1,447		1,925	
Cleaning & Set up	25,656		10,925	
Membership fees	25		50	
Audio setup fees	7,000		-	
Legal fees & Professional Chrg	70	162,741	779	137,535
		44,332		(16,504)
Finance costs				
Bank charges		90		120
		44,242		(16,624)
Depreciation				
Fixtures and fittings		772		521
NET PROFIT/(LOSS)		43,470		(17,145)

Social, Cultural, Charitable and Religious Navratri 2013

Navratri is one of the greatest Hindu festivals that symbolises the triumph of good over evil. Every year, our Samaj members gather to mark and celebrate the festivities but it is worth questioning whether we are losing the religious values over commercialisation. Respected elders no doubt encourage children to participate in Navratri but are we taking the time to explain and understand the deeper meanings behind the symbolism of pooja, garba, and sacred offerings in the form of prasad?

The festival takes place at the start of the Indian harvest time and as the name implies it is celebrated over nine nights. During this period, deities in the form of Mataji are worshipped



Mataji ni Sthapna



Vigna harta Ganeshi



Mataji ni Mandvi inside a Ghumat



Mataji ni Pooja-Archana



Garba ni Sthapna



Mataji ni Aarti

Social, Cultural, Charitable and Religious Navratri 2013

as manifestations of Shakti, or cosmic energy. Images and idols of Mataji are adorned with floral garlands. Lanterns symbolising everlasting divine power are lit to combat evil spirits. The first day or pudvo is marked with an opening pooja ceremony and prayers are offered to Ganeshji to bring happiness and prosperity. The painted earthen pot or the 'Garbo' protects the flame of a lantern inside it and is placed on top of the Mandvi or the Garbi. Aarti is offered by families seeking blessings, peace, prosperity and happiness. Prasad in the form of sweets, fresh and dry fruits are offered to the Mataji and shared with devotees who attend encouraging people to share and give. The daily Raas-Garba played by devotees are symbolic to the battle and triumph of the Goddesses against demonic powers.



Diya Modhwadia as Khdoyaar Maa
receiving 1st Prize



Arjun Kuchadiya as Gandivdhari Arjun
receiving 1st Prize



Shriya Modhwadia as Khodiyar Maa
2nd Prize



Shiv Khunti as Shree Ram receiving
2nd Prize



Shreya Sundavadra as Ambaji receiving
3rd Prize



Shyam Godhania as Kanudo receiving
3rd Prize

Social, Cultural, Charitable and Religious Navratri 2013

The organisers are thankful to participants of the Aarti plate competition. Our heritage is renowned for its creativity and this was certainly evident in the entries that were of extraordinary concepts and beautifully presented. We anticipate more in this year's celebrations.



Hiral Odedra 1st Prize Thali Competition
Concept "Randal Maa"



Liluben Karavadra presenting Riya
Ranmal Odedra 1st prize



Rhea Odedra 2nd Prize Thali Competition
Concept "Laxmi Maa"



Nitaben Karavadra presenting Meera
Dhiru Modhwadia 2nd Prize



Hetal Odedra 3rd Prize Thali Competition
Concept "Kanudo"



Anitaben Karavadra Presenting Hetal
Ram Odedra 3rd Prize

Social, Cultural, Charitable and Religious Navratri 2013

Our Samaj is known for our traditional Dandia-Raas, Garba and Raasada steps. This year, the LMCA hosted a daily competition during which winners were selected for a final performance. Participants mesmerised the audience through rhythmic moves to traditional music. Once again, thank you and weldone to all who took part.



Dakshaben Jadeja
1st Prize (Ladies)



Harbhambhai Odedra Presenting Rahul
Sida 1st Prize (U-16 Boys)



Karishmaben Dhiru Modhwadia 2nd
Prize (Ladies)



Mandanbhai Odedra Presenting Dhillon
Odedra 2nd Prize (U-16 Boys)



Roshniben Jaymal Keshwala 3rd Prize
(Ladies)



Devsibhai Karavadra Presenting Herschel
Karavadra 3rd Prize (U-16 Boys)

Social, Cultural, Charitable and Religious Navratri 2013



Jayeshbhai Sida Presenting Hiteshbhai Godhania 1st Prize (Gents)



Lakhansibhai Modhwadia Presenting Harbhambhai Odedra a Special Award



Rahul Modhwadia 2nd Prize (Gents)



Dilipbhai Karavadra Presenting Karanbhai a Special Award



Sudhirbhai Odedra Presenting Vinzabhai Keshwala 3rd Prize (Gents)



Prahlad Odedra "Lakdi ni Pattabaji"

Social, Cultural, Charitable and Religious Navratri 2013



Community Ladies in Traditional Clothing and Jewellery



Girls enjoying our Traditional Raasada



Pratapbhai Lakha Odedra with Under 16 Boys Raas Group



Bhanuben Karavadra and Hiriben Modhwadia with Girls Raas group



Maheshbhai Lila Karavadra and family offering Aarti



Gents offering Aarti

Social, Cultural, Charitable and Religious Navratri 2013



Boys taking part in Under-16 Best Dance Dress Competition



Ladies and Gents taking part in Best Dance Dress Competition



Thousands of Devotees playing Garba



Gents playing our traditional Maniyaro

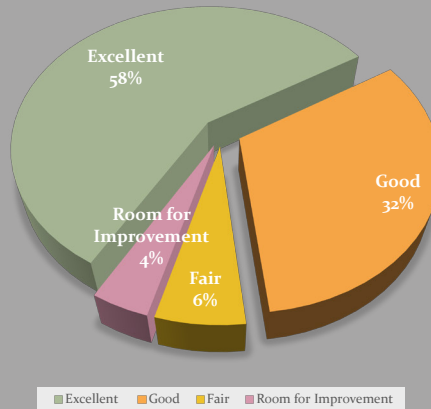


Volunteers with musicians from India

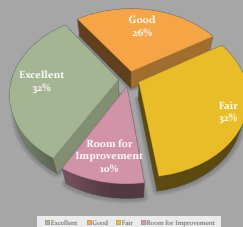
Social, Cultural, Charitable and Religious Navratri 2013

Volunteers conducted a feedback survey to find out what was successful during Navratri 2013 and what needs to be improved ahead of Navratri 2014. The team would like to thank everyone for their positive and constructive feedback. We endeavour to address improvements as pointed out by members for this year's celebrations.

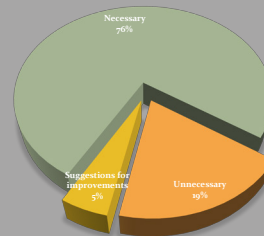
Q1. How would you rate the organisation of Navratri 2013 overall?



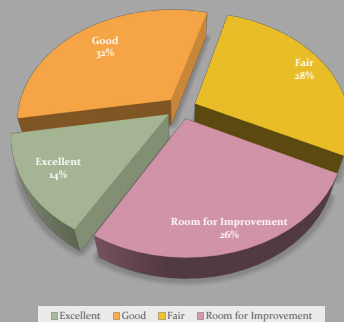
Q2. How would you rate the music overall?



Q3. What is your opinion of the new photo-membership pass and ticketing system?



Q4. What do you think of the sound system compared to previous years?



Navratri 2013 Donations List

It is the generosity of our Samaj that enable the volunteers to continue serving its members. The LMCA team would like to thank each and every member who has donated money unconditionally. We pray for your continued support in the years to come. Kindly check the printed donations list and please do inform us of any discrepancies.

MR NAGAJANBHAI JAYSUKHBHAI VISANA	£10.00
RAM BHAROSE	£10.00
MR JAYESHBHAI NATHABHAI KAR-AVADRA	£10.00
MR LAKHANSIBHAI MANGABHAI MODHWADIA	£10.00
MR BALUBHAI RANMALBHAI BOKH-IRIA	£10.00
MR RAMBHAI MODHWADIA	£10.00
MR BALUJIBHAI HAJAJIBHAI ODE-DRA	£10.00
RAM BHAROSE	£10.00
MR HARBHAMBHAI VIRAMBHAI MODHWADIA	£10.00
RAM BHAROSE	£10.00
MR DEVABHAI THEBABHAI ODEDRA	£10.00
MR SAJANBHAI DEVABHAI KESH-WALA	£10.00
MR ARJANBHAI SAMATBHAI ODE-DRA LONDON	£10.00
LEERBAI MAA NI JAY	£10.00
MR TEJMALBHAI NAGABHAI MODH-WADIA	£10.00
MR KISHANBHAI SISODIA	£10.00
LEERBAI MAA NI JAY	£10.00
LEERBAI MAA NI JAY	£10.00
MR PARBATBHAI BHIMABHAI KES-HWALA	£10.00
M/S MANJUBEN KESHWALA	£10.00
MR LAXMANBHAI RAMBHAI KESH-WALA	£10.00
RAM BHAROSE	£10.00
SAJANBHAI DEVABHAI KESHWALA	£10.00
ARJANBHAI SAMAT ODEDRA	£10.00
LIRBAIMA NI JAI	£10.00

TEJMALBHAI NAGA MODHWADYA	£10.00
KISHANBHAI SISODIYA	£10.00
LIRBAIMA NI JAI	£10.00
LIRBAIMA NI JAI	£10.00
PARBATBHAI BHIMA KESHWALA	£10.00
MANJUBEN KESHWALA	£10.00
LAXMANBHAI RAM KESHWALA	£10.00
LIRBAIMA NI JAI	£10.00
ANANDBHAI JETHA KHUNTI	£10.00
LIRBAIMA NI JAI	£10.00
RAMBHAI MERAMAN GORANIA	£10.00
PARBATBHAI SUKA KESHWALA	£10.00
RAMBHAROSE	£10.00
RAMBHAROSE	£10.00
RAMBHAROSE	£10.00
AKASHBHAI PARUL MODHWADIA	£10.00
KHODIYAR MA NI JAI	£10.00
JAYABEN VASTA ODEDRA	£10.00
NAGABHAI JIVA MODHWADIA	£10.00
MANJULABEN DEVAJI ODEDRA	£10.00
RAMBHAI MURU MODHWADIA	£10.00
RAMBHAROSE	£10.00
RAMBHAROSE	£10.00
LIRBAIMA NI JAI	£10.00
NAGABHI JIVA MODHWADIA	£10.00
BHARATBHAI MERAMANBHAI KES-HWALA	£10.00
SHAJANBHAI RAMA MODHWADIA	£10.00
NAGAJANBHAI JIVA MODHWADIA	£10.00
HOTHIBHAI DEVSHI GORANIYA	£10.00
SAVDASBHAI NOGHAN MODH-WADIA	£10.00
ATYIABHAI MIPA GODHANIA	£10.00

Navratri 2013 Donations List

RAMBHAROSE	£10.00
KHIMABHAI DEVA ODEDRA	£10.00
PRAKASHBHAI LAKHMAN MODH-WADIA	£10.00
ARBHAMBHAI LILA ODEDRA	£10.00
KANABHAI CHANA ODEDRA	£10.00
MUNJABHAI SIDI ODEDRA	£10.00
KAYURBHAI VEJA KHUNTI	£10.00
VIJAYBHAI KARSAN ODEDRA	£10.00
RAJUBHAI SISODIA (NORTHAM- TON)	£10.00
RAMBHAROSE	£10.00
JIVABHAI NAGA ODEDRA	£10.00
RANMALBHAI LAKHU ODEDRA	£10.00
RAMESHBHAI KHIMA MODHWADIA	£10.00
ARSHIBHAI DEVA ODEDRA	£10.00
MANDANBHAI MERAMAN MODH- WADIA	£10.00
MALDEBHAI NARAN KESHWALA	£10.00
MALDEBHAI DEVSHI	£10.00
MERAMANBHAI JETHA KHUNTI (BIRMINGHAM)	£10.00
KARSANJIBHAI RANMALJI ODEDRA (BIRMINGHAM)	£10.00
SURESHBHAI LAXMAN KESHWALA	£10.25
MR RAMBHAI NATHUBHAI ODEDRA	£11.00
RAMBHAI MURU MODHWADIA	£11.00
RANJITBHAI MALDE SISODIYA	£11.00
LILUBEN AVDAJI ODEDRA	£11.00
RAMBHAI GORANIA	£11.00
RAMBHAROSE	£11.00
RAM BHAROSE	£11.25
MR NAGAJANBHAI LAXMANBHAI BAPODARA	£11.25
NAGAJANBHAI BAPODRA	£11.25
BHARATBHAI NATHU ODEDRA	£11.25
MR RAMBHAI MERAMANBHAI KHUNTI	£15.00

MR RAMBHAI RAJSHIBHAI MODH- WADIA	£15.00
MR MUNJABHAI SIDIBHAI ODEDRA	£15.00
RAMBHAI RAJSHI MODHWADIA	£15.00
MUNJABHAI SIDI ODEDRA (ARTI)	£15.00
KISHORBHAI PARBAT KESHWALA	£15.00
KESHUBHAI RAMA GODHANIA	£15.00
SHIDHRAJJI BHIMAJI ODEDRA	£15.00
PRATAPBHAI KESAV GODHANIA	£15.00
MRS TAMUBEN MALDEBHAI VISANA	£20.00
MR DEVSHIBHAI RAJASHIBHAI MODHWADIA	£20.00
MR NATHABHAI MURUBHAI KARA- VADRA	£20.00
MR VAJASHIBHAI MENANDBHAI SISODIA	£20.00
MR RAMDEBHAI JIWABHAI MODH- WADIA	£20.00
MR CHHAGANBHAI OGHADBHAI BAPODRA	£20.00
MR RAJESHBHAI MALDEBHAI VISA- NA	£20.00
MR MALDEJIBHAI HAJAJIBHAI ODEDRA	£20.00
MR KARSANBHAI KHISTRIYA	£20.00
MR RAMBHAI VIRAMBHAI ODEDRA	£20.00
MR RAJABHAI KARSANBHAI MODH- WADIA	£20.00
MR SAVDASBHAI ARBHAMBHAI MODHWADIA	£20.00
MR RANABHAI SIDA INDIA	£20.00
MR DEVSHIBHAI SAMATBHAI MODHWADIA	£20.00
MR HARBHAMBHAI SAMATBHAI ODEDRA	£20.00
MR PAKASHBHAI PARBATBHAI KUCHHADIA	£20.00
RAM BHAROSE (LUCKY FOUND)	£20.00
MR LAKHABHAI DEVABHAI MODH- WADIA	£20.00
RAM BHAROSE	£20.00

Navratri 2013 Donations List

MR PARBATBHAI BHIMABHAI MODHWADIA	£20.00
MR VEJABHAI NATHUJIBHAI ODE-DRA	£20.00
MR RAMBHAI OGHADBHAI MODHWADIA	£20.00
MR KESHUBHAI KHIMABHAI KARAVADRA	£20.00
MR SAMATBHAI ARJANBHAI KARAVADRA	£20.00
MR PAKASHBHAI PARBATBHAI KUCHHADIA	£20.00
MR RAMBHAI MERAMANBHAI GORANIA	£20.00
MRS PUSHPABEN LAXMANBHAI KESHWALA PETERBORO	£20.00
MR VANRAJBHAI BHIKHUBHAI ODE-DRA LUTON	£20.00
MR MERAMANBHAI BHIMABHAI KESHWALA	£20.00
MR LAKHANSIBHAI GIGABHAI ODEDRA	£20.00
MR ARSHIBHAI ARJANBHAI GORANIA	£20.00
MR MURUBHAI GIGABHAI ODEDRA	£20.00
MR BHIMABHAI PARBATBHAI ODEDRA	£20.00
MR BALUBHAI JIVABHAI ODEDRA	£20.00
MR RAJSHIBHAI KANABHAI ODE-DRA- BAVARVAV	£20.00
MR VIRAMBHAI MUNJABHAI ODE-DRA	£20.00
MR CHHAGANBHAI DEVABHAI MODHWADIA	£20.00
MR HARBHAMBHAI DEVABHAI MODHWADIA	£20.00
MR BHIMABHAI ARSHIBHAI KUCHHADIA - PETERBOROUGH	£20.00
MR MAHESHBHAI LILABHAI KARAVADRA	£20.00
M/S RADHIKABEN, POOJABEN AND RANIBEN	£20.00
MR PRAKASHBHAI PARBATBHAI KUCHHADIA	£20.00

PRAKASHBHAI PARBAT KUCHHADIA (ARTI)	£20.00
RAMBHAROSE	£20.00
LAKHABHAI DEVA MODHWADIA (AARTI)	£20.00
RAMBHAROSE	£20.00
PARBATBHAI BHIMA MODHWADIA	£20.00
VEJABHAI NATHUJI ODEDRA	£20.00
RAMBHAI OGHAD MODHWADIA	£20.00
KESHUBHAI KHIMA KARAVADRA	£20.00
SAMATBHAI ARJAN KARAVADRA	£20.00
PRAKASHBHAI PARBAT KUCHHADIA (ARTI)	£20.00
RAMBHAI MERAMAN GORANIA	£20.00
PUSHPABEN LAXMAN KESHWALA	£20.00
VANRAJBHAI BHIKU ODEDRA	£20.00
MERAMAN BHAI BHIMA KESHWALA	£20.00
LAKHANSI BHAI GIGA ODEDRA	£20.00
ARSHIBHAI ARJAN GORANIA	£20.00
MURUBHAI GIGA ODEDRA	£20.00
BHIMABBHAI PARBAT ODEDRA	£20.00
BALUBHAI JIVA ODEDRA	£20.00
RAJSHIBHAI KANA ODEDRA	£20.00
VIRAMBHAI MUNJABHAI ODEDRA	£20.00
CHAGANBHAI DEVA MODHWADIA	£20.00
ARBHAMBHAI DEVA MODHWADIA (AARTI)	£20.00
BHIMABHAI ARSHI KUCHHADIA	£20.00
MAHESHBHAI LILA KARAVADRA (AARTI)	£20.00
RADHIKA,POOJA,RANI (AARTI)	£20.00
PRAKASHBHAI PARBAT KUCHHADIA (ARTI)	£20.00
MAHESHBHAI LILA KARAVADRA (AARTI)	£20.00
DEVSHIBHAI N KARAVADRA	£20.00
LAKHANSIBHAI VEJA KHUNTI	£20.00
KESHUBHAI RAJSHI MODHWADIA	£20.00
RAMBHAI KESHU MODHWADIA	£20.00

Navratri 2013 Donations List

MERAMANBHAI KARSHAN BOKH-IRIYA	£20.00
DILIPBHAI KHIMA ODEDRA	£20.00
MASHRIJIBHAI NATHUJI ODERDA	£20.00
LALITBHAI JIVA ODEDRA	£20.00
KARSHANBHAI KANA KARAVADRA	£20.00
ARVINDBHAI VISHA KESHWALA	£20.00
RAJESHBHAI DEVA ODEDRA	£20.00
RAMBHAI LAKHMAN GODHANIYA	£20.00
RAMESHBHAI VIRAM KARAVADRA	£20.00
MERAMANBHAI DUDA KESHWALA	£20.00
RAMBHAI KHIMA KARAVADRA	£20.00
BABUBHAI JETHA MODHWADIA	£20.00
BHARATBHAI KARA ODEDRA	£20.00
RAMBHAI MODHWADIA	£20.00
MUNJABHAI SAVDAS ODEDRA	£20.00
RAHULBHAI LILA BHOGESRA	£20.00
BATUKBHAI LAKHU KESHWALA	£20.00
MALDEBHAI KANDHA KESHWALA	£20.00
RAMBHAI RAMDE KHUNTI	£20.00
RAMBHAI PARBAT ODEDRA	£20.00
MERAMANBHAI BHIMA ODEDRA	£20.00
JETHABHAI LILA ODEDRA	£20.00
LAKHUBHAI MALDE KHUNTI	£20.00
DUDABHAI HAJA KARAVADRA	£20.00
DHIRUBHAI JETHA MODHWADIA	£20.00
HATHIYABHAI BHIMA GORANIA	£20.00
KANABHAI BHURA MODHWADIA	£20.00
ARBHAMBHAI AVDA GODHANIA (BIRMINGHAM)	£20.00
ASHISHBHAI NAGAJAN ODEDRA	£20.00
MURUBHAI VASTA RATADIA	£20.00
KANABHAI LAKHA MODHWADIA	£20.00
KISNABHAI LAKHANSHI ODEDRA	£20.00
ARBHAMBHAI MALDE KESHWALA	£20.00
ARBHAMBHAI JETHA MODHWADIA	£20.00
KHIMABHAI BHIMA MODHWADIA	£20.00
BHARATBHAI DEVA MODHWADIA	£20.00

RAMBHAROSE	£20.00
VIPULBHAI NATHA RATIYA	£20.00
JETHABHAI LAKHA KARAVADRA	£20.00
LAKHABHAI OGHAD MODHWADIA	£20.00
NAGAJANBHAI JESA KARAVADRA	£20.00
LAKHUBHAI VIRAM ODEDRA	£20.00
BHOJABHAI PARBAT ODEDRA	£20.00
BHIMABHAI ARBHAMBHAI MODHWADIA	£20.00
MR BHIMABHAI GIGABHAI KARAVADRA	£20.50
MR ARSHIJIBHAI HAJAJIBHAI ODEDRA	£21.00
MR MERUBHAI JIVABHAI KARAVADRA	£21.00
MR RAMESHBHAI ALABHAI SISODIA	£21.00
VIVEKBHAI BHIMA KHISHTRIYA	£21.00
RAMBHAI MALDE MODHWADIA	£21.00
ARBHAMBHAI JESA KESHWALA	£21.00
JESAJIBHAI KARNAJI ODEDRA	£21.00
RAMBHAI BHIKHU ODEDRA	£21.00
LILABHAI PUNJA KARAVADRA	£21.00
RAJ NEWS OFF LICENSE (CHESTER-FIELD)	£21.00
NAGAJIBHAI CHANAJI ODEDRA	£21.00
HARBHAMBHAI HARDAS KESHWALA	£21.00
MR SANJAYBHAI DEVABHAI MODHWADIA	£25.00
MR HARBHAMBHAI DEVABHAI MODHWADIA	£25.00
MR LAKHANSIBHAI SAJANBHAI GORANIA	£25.00
MR LAXMANBHAI RAMDEBHAI MODHWADIA - NORTHAMPTON	£25.00
MR BABUBHAI ARSHIBHAI MODHWADIA	£25.00
MR GOPALBHAI DHIRUBHAI MODHWADIA	£25.00
MR HARBHAMBHAI BHOJABHAI ODEDRA	£25.00

Navratri 2013 Donations List

MR MALDEBHAI JIVABHAI ODEDRA	£25.00
MR JAIMALBHAI KESHAVBHAI KESHWALA	£25.00
MR LAKHABHAI SAMATBHAI ODEDRA	£25.00
MR KISHORBHAI HARBHAMBHAI KARAVADRA	£25.00
MR LAXMANBHAI KISHA KESHWALA	£25.00
MR PARBATBHAI MANDANBHAI ODEDRA	£25.00
MR SAMATJIBHAI SAVDASJIBHAI ODEDRA	£25.00
MR LAXMANBHAI BALUBHAI MODHWADIA - BURTON	£25.00
MR DEVSHIBHAI SUKABHAI KESHWALA	£25.00
M/S PUSHPABEN GODHANIA	£25.00
MR PARBATBHAI SUKABHAI KESHWALA	£25.00
MR KARSANBHAI KARAVADRA	£25.00
MR CHHOTUJIBHAI JIVAJIBHAI ODEDRA - PETERBOROUGH	£25.00
MR RAMAJIBHAI JIVAJIBHAI ODEDRA - PETERBOROUGH	£25.00
PUSHPABEN GORANIA	£25.00
PARBATBHAI SUKA KESHWALA	£25.00
KARSANBHAI KARAVADRA	£25.00
DEVSHIBHAI VEJA KHUNTI	£25.00
VEJABHAI SHAGAN KHUNTI	£25.00
BHURABHAI ARBHAMBHAI MODHWADIA	£25.00
KESHUBHAI LILA MODHWADIA	£25.00
KESHUJIBHAI MENANDJI ODEDRA	£25.00
LAKHMANBHAI HARBHAM KARAVADRA (NUNEATON)	£25.00
DEVABHAI RAMA KARAVADRA	£25.00
RAMBHAI MALDE GORANIA	£25.00
BALUBHAI RAMA KARAVADRA	£25.00
LAXMANBHAI BHIMA SUNDAVDRA	£25.00
KISHORBHAI ARBHAM KARAVADRA	£25.00
RAJABHAI JIVA ODEDRA	£25.00

NAGAJANBHAI PUNJA KESHWALA	£25.00
BHOJAJIBHAI HAJAJI ODEDRA	£25.00
LAKHANSHIBHAI ARJAN ODEDRA	£25.00
LAKHANSHIBHAI PARMAR	£25.00
MALDEBHAI HARDAS MODHWADIA	£25.00
NAGAJANBHAI KANA ODEDRA	£25.00
PRATAPBHAI HAJA SISODIA (NORTH-HAMTON)	£25.00
SAVDASBHAI NAGA BAPODRA	£25.00
ASHOKBHAI JIVA ODEDRA	£25.00
NATUBHAI KHUNTI (ARTI) (BIRMINGHAM)	£25.00
PARBATBHAI MERAMAN ODEDRA	£25.00
HAMIRBHAI JIVA ODEDRA	£25.00
RAMBHAI HARBHAM KARAVADRA	£25.00
JAMALBHAI VEJANAND ODEDRA	£25.00
RAMAJIBHAI PARBATJI ODEDRA	£25.25
BHIMABHAI SUMRA KHUNTI	£25.25
RAMESHBHAI KARA GODHANIA	£25.25
MURUJIBHAI PARBATJI ODEDRA	£25.25
MR ARJANBHAI VEJABHAI ODEDRA - BIRMINGHAM	£30.00
MR PUNJABHAI DEVABHAI ODEDRA	£30.00
MR LAXMANBHAI RANMALBHAI KHUNTI	£30.00
MR MALDEBHAI SAMATBHAI ODEDRA BIRM	£30.00
DEVSHIBHAI JIVA KARAVADRA	£30.00
RAMBHAI CHHAGAN KESHWALA	£30.00
RAMBHAI NATHA GAREJA	£30.00
KARNABHAI HARBHAM GORANIA	£30.00
LATE MR BHIKHUBHAI MANDANBHAI GORANIA	£50.00
MR RAJUBHAI MALDEBHAI MODHWADIA	£50.00
MR LAKHANSIBHAI NAGABHAI MODHWADIA	£50.00
LILABHAI PUNJA KHITRIYA	£50.00
PRASANTBHAI CHUNDAVDRA	£50.00

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MR BALUBHAI MASRIBHAI ODEDRA	£51.00
MR MENANADBHAI RAMDEBHAI KHUNTI	£51.00
MR MAYURJIBHAI PARBATJIBHAI ODEDRA	£51.00
MR NAGAJANBHAI SAVDASBHAI GORANIA	£51.00
MR BHURABHAI DEVABHAI ODEDRA	£51.00
MR SURESHBHAI JIVANBHAI SIDA	£51.00
JOHNSON GREEN GROCERS C/O	£51.00
MR ALKESHBHAI KHIMABHAI GORANIA DERBY	£51.00
MR PRATAPBHAI LAKHABHAI ODEDRA	£51.00
MR RAMBHAI MURUBHAI KARAVADRA	£51.00
MRS S ODEDRA	£51.00
RAMBHAI MURU KARAVADRA	£51.00
KARSHANBHAI DEVABHAI MODHWADIA	£51.00
RAMDOOT	£51.00
RAMBHAI ARBHAMBHAI MODHWADIA	£51.00
LILABHAI LAKHA KARAVADRA	£51.00
SHURESHJIBHAI LAKHMANJI ODEDRA	£51.00
CHHAGANBHAI DEVA MODHWADIA	£51.00
MANDANBHAI MERAMAN ODEDRA (NUNEATON)	£51.00
MALDEBHAI KUCHADIA (BEDWORTH)	£51.00
ARBHABHAI DEVA ODEDRA	£51.00
RAJUBHAI KARSAN KUCHHADIA	£51.00
LAKHUBHAI KHIMA GODHANIA	£51.00
BHARATBHAI MASRI ODEDRA	£51.00
ARBHAMBHAI PARBAT GODHANIYA	£51.00
BHIKHUJIBHAI DEVAJI ODEDRA	£51.00
LAKHANSHIBHAI KARSAN ODEDRA	£51.00
PRAVINBHAI MALDE MODHWADIA	£51.00
SUBHASHBHAI GIGA KHUNTI	£51.00

RANMALBHAI KACHRA MODHWADIA	£51.00
VAJUBHAI ARJAN ODEDRA	£51.00
KESHUBHAI BALU ODEDRA	£51.00
PRATAPBHAI PUNJA KHUNTI	£51.00
LAXMANBHAI KISA KESHWALA	£51.00
KESHUBHAI MURU ODEDRA	£51.00
RAMBHAI KHUNTI	£51.00
SAJANBHAI SAVA ODEDRA	£51.25
NAGAJANBHAI VEJANAND ODEDRA	£51.25
MR JETHABHAI CHHAGANBHAI MODHWADIA - PAID \$100	£56.00
MR RAMBHAI DEVSHIBHAI ODEDRA	£60.00
DEV CUT LTD, C/O RAJSHIBHAI H MODHWADIA	£101.00
MR AUM UMESHBHAI MODHWADIA	£101.00
MR NAGAJANBHAI LAKHAMANBHAI BAPODARA	£101.00
MR HAMIRBHAI MEPABHAI MODHWADIA	£101.00
ARJANBHAI ARSHIBHAI ODEDRA	£101.00
VIJAYBHAI KHIMA ODEDRA	£101.00
NATHABHAI MERAMAN ODEDRA	£101.00
SAYABHAI MERAMAN ODEDRA	£101.00
MOHANBHAI ALLA MODHWADIA	£101.00
MALDEBHAI MERAMAN GORANIA	£101.00
NISHA LOCAL BEAUMONT LEYS	£101.00
MANDANBHAI BHOJA ODEDRA	£101.00
RAMBHAI MALDE SISODIA	£101.00
RANMALBHAI VIRAM KESHWALA (TANZANIYA)	£101.00
JAYMALBHAI VARSA GORANIA	£101.00
VEJABHAI ARJAN MODHWADIA (BUILDER)	£111.00
JAY LIRAL SUPERSTORE	£111.00
LAKHABHAI DEVA MODHWADIA	£111.00
RAJSHIBHAI RAMA KARAVADRA	£111.00
MALDEBHAI SANGAN ODEDRA	£111.00

Navratri 2013 Donations List

MURUBHAI NAGA MODHWADIA	£111.00
LAKHAMAN VEJANAND ODEDRA	£111.00
HARISHBHAI SAVDAS MODHWADIA	£125.00
MR JIWABHAI LAKHABHAI ODEDRA	£151.00
MANDANBHAI KHIMA ODEDRA	£151.00
GAJUBHAI MENAND KHUNTI	£151.00
KK GARMET KANABHAI GODHANIYA	£151.00
KINJAL FASHION LTD	£151.00
ANSTY LANE BAR AND GRILL C/O RAMBHAI BHURABHAI MODHWADIA & RAMESHBHAI BHIMABHAI MODHWADIA	£201.00
ASHOKBHAI DEVSHBHAI ODEDRA	£201.00
PUSHPABEN GODHANIA	£251.00
RAM BUILDING LEICESTER	£301.00
DR. BHIMABHAI ARJAN ODEDRA	£501.00
Total Donations	£12,161.25



INCOME		EXPENSE	
TICKET SALES	£9,010.00	MUSIC GROUP FEE	£4,375.00
SHOP SALES	£3,175.12	VISAS AND AIR TICKETS FOR GROUP	£4,309.33
AARTI	£1,000.00	HOUSE RENT FOR GROUP	£650.00
SHARAD POONAM TICKET SALES	£1,205.00	FOOD FOR GROUP	£408.00
NAVRATRI DONATION	£12,161.25	GROUP TRANSPORT (AIRPORT AND DAILY)	£370.00
ADVERT ISING INCOME	£2,250.00	SECURITY	£1,950.25
DAYRO (MAHER HALL)	£620.00	CLEANING (GWS)	£2,890.00
DAYRO (MANDIR)	£300.00	TROPHYS	£600.00
		SHOP STOCK	£1,880.89
		PRASAD	£337.37
TOTAL	£29,721.37	TOTAL	£17,770.84



Sharad Poonam Geetaben Mahesh Karavadra



fering preparing and serving kheer under the moonlight as prasad, threading a needle under the moonlight that is said to improve the eyesight, and observing the moon as a reflection in a vessel filled with boiling milk.

This year's celebrations will take place at the Maher Centre on 11/10/2014 Please visit our community website for details of the event nearer the time.

Sharad Poonam is a Hindu occasion that is celebrated with great joy and excitement all over the world. In some parts of India, Sharad Poonam is considered to be the birthday of Goddess Laxmi who bestows her blessings on devotees who do not sleep during the night of the full moon.

The night of the celebration takes place during the Hindu lunar month of Ashwin (September – October) and to mark the occasion, devotees stay awake throughout the night. People engage themselves through games, singing and by playing Raas-Garba under the moonlight. It is believed that the moon and the earth are as close as they can be on this night and the moon rays are considered to have healing properties that nourish the body and the soul.

This dazzling night is further associated with Radha-Krishna's divine love expressed through Maha-Raas in Vrindavan. Religious scriptures note Krishnabhawan's invitation to Gopis for Maha-Raas with him and upon their arrival; every Gopi was blessed with an incarnation of the Lord.

It is said that devotees who observe a fast on this day is bestowed with a life of virtuous health, wealth and prosperity. In addition to Raas-Garba, there are many rituals and this includes of-



Decoration of sharad poonam 2013
at Maher Centre



Decoration of sharad poonam 2013
at Maher Centre



Sneh Milan

Santokben Odedra

The Annual Sneh Milan event to celebrate Diwali 2013 took place on Sunday 10th November 2013. The function saw a variety of unique performances, from people of all ages, the youngest performer being 3 years old. The community members had the opportunity to wish each other for the year ahead, seek blessings from the elders and to remember the departed souls of the community who will be dearly missed. It was noted how all ages contributed to make this event memorable for the community members attending.

To begin the auspicious event, children between the ages of 3 and 11 confidently sang religious mantras and bhajans which they had learnt by heart. The first batch of students from the Gitaji class demonstrated the lessons they learnt in the form of a play; the play was beautifully delivered and was centred around Lord Krishna and Arjun's chariot and how different human body elements relate to the divine soul, mind, ego, intellect, senses and life path.

The traditional Maniyaro and Raas performed by the Junior Maher Raas Group and the Maher Girls Raas Group respectively added to the evening's entertaining and overall fun. Overall, the whole event was excellently threaded together by Rekhaben Pande's live singing, which added more prosperity to the celebrations; and she sang songs from all decades and therefore accommodating the tastes of all the community members.

Older members of the community very sportingly contributed to the performances. It was noted how a group of Mer ladies decided to come together spontaneously to sing traditional Raas (Raasro) and dance on the community centre hall floor; this reminded to those attending the event of by gone days and how this particular dance was performed by Mer Women after hard days labour in each villages

– this uniquely provided a traditional touch to the event. The dance presentation by Subhash Gorania was very inspiring for the younger members of the community; he engaged their eye balls attention through a performance full of energy and vigour. It demonstrated technical understanding of a difficult dance routine, tactical in executing some special moves, mental alertness and physical fitness necessary to perform at the top of his chosen profession. Last but by no means least, a performance by Popatbhai, rendered a heart-touching tribute to the soldiers of India who had made ultimate sacrifice while serving the country.

Overall, the large number of attendees, the performers and the volunteers made the event all the more memorable and it must be stressed that the ever ready as well as positive spirit of the whole community bought life to the Sneh Milan of 2013.

It is expected by all that Diwali Sneh Milan for 2014 will surpass this event in contents, delivery and therefore in entertainment.



Guests enjoying the evening's entertainment



Volunteers serving the evening buffet dinner



Sneh Milan Santokben Odedra



Children from Gitaji class presenting a play during Sneh Milan



Subhash Odedra performing a classical dance at Sneh Milan



Children singing devotional songs



Guests encouraging young children to invoke an interest in our culture



Children enjoying a positive interaction



Guests enjoying evening dinner



Community elders enjoying the congregation



Ladies enjoying "Raasada"



Sneh Milan Santokben Odedra



Dr Bhimabhai Odedra presenting
Bhurabhai Modhwadia a special award



Nagajanhai Bapodara presenting a
Special award to Laxmanbhai Odedra



Boys Dandia Raas group performing our traditional Maniyaro Raas: mesmerising
the audience every time!



Girls Raas group performing a traditional Raasado: captivating the audience
everytime!



Charitable Fund Raising Pratapbhai L Odedra



Hardasbhai Modhwadia (President of Ahmedabad Maher Samaj) being presented a cheque of £7503

The Maher Community (Leicester) Association take part in many fundraising activities. In 2013, community members generously donated money to support the Ahmedabad Maher Samaj who are looking to develop facilities for families from Saurashtrra who travel to Ahemdabad for medical treatment.

With growing cases of major medical needs to include cancer and heart conditions; it becomes financially and emotionally strenuous for families who are not able to afford long distance journeys, medical fees and accommodation for treatment. We thank the generosity of all donors and the donation of £7503 will go towards building of suitable accommodation for our samaj members pray you will continue to provide support.

DEVRAJ GADHVI DAIRO PROGRAMME COLLECTION	2005
Mr AVDABHAI LILABHAI KARAVADRA	1001
Mr LAXMANBHAI VEJANAND ODEDRA	601
Mr HAMIRBHAI NATHU KHUNTI	551
Mr KESHUBHAI LILABHAI MODHWADIA	508
Dr BHIMABHAI ARJAN ODEDRA	501

Late Mr HARBHAMBHAI MURU MALANI FAMILY	501
Mr PRATAP LAKHABHAI ODEDRA	160
Mr NAGAJANBHAI BAPODRA	151
Mr RAMBHAI NATHU ODEDRA	120
Mr MALDEBHAI SANGAN ODEDRA & BHARAT KARAVADRA	101
Mr RAJUBHAI ODEDRA & RAMESHBHAI KARAVADRA	101
Mr GAJUBHAI KESHWALA	101
SHREE HINDU MANDIR MANAGMENT COMMITTEE	101
Mr VIVEKBAHI H MODHWADIA	101
Mr BALUBHAI ODEDRA	101
Mr KANABHAI GODHANIYA	101
Mr PRATAPBAHI [UNJA KHUNTI	101
Mr MALDEBHAI SAVDAS ODEDRA (SLOUGH)	251
Mr MALDEBHAI NATHU ODEDRA	50
Mr BHIMABHAI SUMRA KHUNTI	30
Mr DEVSHIBHAI M KESHWALA	25
RAMESHBHAI M ODEDRA	10
JAIDEV KHUNTI	10
KESHAV GODHANIYA	20
LAKHU ODEDRA	20
MURUJI P ODEDRA	20
POPAT KESHWALA	20
LILU RAM	10
NAUGHAN KESHAWALA	10
MANJUBEN KESHU ODEDRA	10
NITA ODEDRA	20
HOTHI GORANIYA	20
RAM MODHWADIA	10
DINABEN	20
LAXMAN ODEDRA	20
HAMIR GODHANIYA	20
Total	7503



Holi

Geetaben Mahesh Karavadra

Holi marks the tale of a young prince called Prahlad who was a devotee of Lord Vishnu. Though he was the son of a Demon King called Hiranyakans; Prahlad worshipped Lord Vishnu unconditionally and against his father's wish. Hiranyakans became angered by the fact his son was a devotee of Lord Vishnu who he considered as his enemy.

The day came when Hiranyakans decided to sentence Prahlad to death but failed every time as Lord Vishnu protected his humble devotee. In frustration, Hiranyakans summoned his sister Holika who was blessed by Lord Brahma with a magical saree that protected her from burning. Hiranyakans ordered his sister to take Prahlad in her lap and burn him alive. Whilst sitting on a high bonfire with fearless Prahlad in her lap smiling and reciting Narayan Narayan; Holika ordered the guards to light the fire. The fire was lit but the flames started burning Holika without any harm to Prahlad. Holika started screaming and claiming Lord Brahma's blessings as fake. At this point, Lord Brahma appeared in front of the bonfire and told the burning Holika that his blessings were for her to protect the innocent and not to cause harm to anyone. Hiranyakans was eventually slayed by Lord Vishnu in his incarnation as Narsinh-Bhagwan. Hindu's all over the world mark the occasion by lighting bonfires and playing with coloured powder to celebrate the victory of good over evil and prahlad's devotion.

The Holi celebrations of 2013 at the Maher centre were certainly one of the best in the UK. Following months of discussions and planning, the event became a reality for the first time at the Maher Centre. There were many volunteers who helped make the celebrations a great success in particular Laxmanbhai Odedra who helped source the wood and stacked

it into a very high bonfire in the cold. The hard work and effort was paid off as hundreds of

Community members attended to enjoy and make the event very colourful, share prashad and learn about the significance of Holi. It certainly was a challenge the volunteers succeeded to given the health and safety requirements of this country!

Due to its popular demand, this year's Holi was even bigger and much more exciting. The event was held on Sunday 16th March 2014 from 5pm onwards. The ceremony started with a pooja kindly sponsored by Rambhai and Hiraben Odedra. Many of our Samaj members attended with friends and families to have fun, play with colour, enjoy music, and share prashad. There was also a vendor for food and drinks. In India, people continue celebrations for 3 days after Holi referred to as Pudva; marking the event with traditional Raasada and Maniyaro.

Thank you to all who attended and made the celebrations a success. We hope you will join us at next year's celebrations. Please visit our community website for more photographs of the event.



Manav and Rahul Celebrating Holi



Holi

Geetaben Mahesh Karavadra



Volunteers stacking wood for Holi fire



Volunteers preparing powder colours for guests



Holi ready for ceremonial pooja



Rambhai and Hiraben Odedra taking part in ceremonial pooja



Holika fire



Guests playing with colours





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Gitaji and Gujarati Classes

Jivabhai Odedra

The talk of starting something to teach values of Gitaji was in air for a while but that changed on first Sunday in May 2013, it became a reality. The target was set for the present team by a mother who felt that actions speak louder than words. Since then there have been Gitaji Classes taking place at the Maher Centre every Sunday. The initial plan was to run the sessions only for ten weeks but sessions ran for 18 weeks at request of parents and children. The first batch of 14 participants will remain a unique group of children as far as future of Gitaji Studies is concerned. For young children, the whole experience has been fun-filled as well as educational. The classes have served to expand the children's knowledge of ancient scriptures and legends associated with them; this in turn no doubt has set them off well equipped on life's journey ahead and secure in knowledge that they will have company of each other no matter what obstacles as well as challenges await them. For the coaches the real joy is in seeing these children becoming friends and learning about each other; as they learn to become confident decision makers about life choices, no doubt they will have their own network to rely on.

As for the actual teachings, each session begins and ends with the children chanting the Gayatri and Ganapati Mantras. Initially only a handful of children knew these ancient chants but within the first six weeks all of them had memorised Gayatri and Ganapati Mantras; the youngest being 3 years old went on to memorise the story Of Lord Ganesh and presented to rest of the group. Amongst many life building skills the children are taught to overcome shyness when presenting themselves to older groups; they are taught the concept of 'oneness'; the children are taught the qualities that make them a better human being; they are taught through role plays and stories the importance of Truth and

Justice, two of the sacred values associated with the ancient Mers. All lessons are borrowed from the Gitaji in a way to make it easy for the children to understand and absorb. It is refreshing when parents tell us that their child is confident whether with young or old and is able to maintain conversations. The ancient Mers were not rich but were acknowledged by their rivals for maintaining conversations of value while sharing food. It is reassuring to hear parents talk to each other about the positive change they see in the children's manners and behaviour as a result of this intervention based on Gitaji. As well as their knowledge, the children's improved self-esteem and confidence are other outcomes.



Gitaji Class 2014



Children from Gitaji Class performing a play on Sneh Milan



Gitaji and Gujarati Classes

Jivabhai Odedra

The children very comfortably ask questions to improve their understanding of our religion and the world we live in; and when set tasks are confidently able to present their stories and learnings – hence improved presentation skills. They are taught the importance of focusing on a particular god or subject while maintaining correct postures and breathing.

One particular play is how Body, Mind, Intellect, ego, Divine Soul and Sense organs interact; they recognise that:

during the waking state a human being uses body, senses, mind, ego, intellect and Soul;

during the dreaming state while sleeping a human being can only have use of mind, ego, intellect and Soul

during the deep sleep state a human being uses only the Soul;

Hence the children learn that the divine Soul is omnipresent, ageless and eternal.

Once the Gitaji course is completed, the children are encouraged to move onto the Gujarati classes. Through these classes the children continue to improve the confidence in speaking Gujarati. The children are confident in having a conversation in Gujarati without hesitation or fear of being wrong. Furthermore, within a period of 4 months, children, who could not read or write the language, are able to write the alphabet, construct basic words and read simple passages. These classes have allowed the children to expand the basic speaking skills, their vocabulary of Gujarati and become confident in using the Gujarati language.

These activities provide the children with a foundation to build their knowledge on and almost all of them will have Gitaji as a companion; what could be greater gift to our chil-

dren;

Not only do both activities expand the children's knowledge and personality but also give the children the opportunity to interact with each other; however, they are in fact best ambassadors for recruiting the next batch of participants; and that will be our lasting legacy.



For it is not important what we created and how we lived when it comes to considering who we are leaving behind; who are the leaders we left behind are more important; we learnt stories of Ganesh, Krishna and Ram etc. And no doubt these children will continue to share these stories long after we are gone adding their own style on each story.

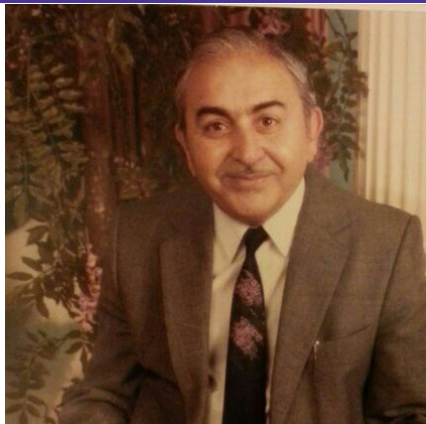
(Amongst many individuals special thanks are due to Vanrajibhai Sisodiya, Krishnaben Modhwadia, Santokben Odedra and Rajubhai Gorania)

These sessions take place every Sunday 10am - 12pm at the Leicester Maher Centre. If you would like to enrol your child into these sessions please contact Jivabhai Odedra on: 07718511124



An Act of Kindness

Nathabhai Sisodia



Mr Nathabhai Sisodia donated 51 lakh to Maher Gnati Bhavan Haridwar in Memory of his late wife Mrs Hiribai Sisodia who sadly passed away on Janmasthanmi in 2010. Hiribai was a very spiritual person who dedicated a lot of her time to her faith and this is a fitting tribute to her life. The LMCA would like to congratulate Nathabhai for his generosity.



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Mental Health

Dharini Bhimabhai Odedra

Dear All

In recent times our community has mourned the tragic loss of loved ones as a result of suicide and self harm.

Whilst our condolences and thoughts go out to their family along with prayers for a more peaceful and rested soul... a question that crosses most of our minds is 'what' distress and despair the person must have experienced in their final months, days or hours for them to have reached such a crisis point and decision.



Our community is facing the same stresses and strains that impacts the rest of the country; financial struggle, unemployment, family and relationship difficulties, culture clash and adapting to a new lifestyle or environment. Apart from this, there is also the matter of mental health and well-being. Britain is seeing a large influx of people experiencing mental illness, which affects all sub communities.

As a community we need to accept that for many, evolving times mean evolving difficulties. As a community we possibly need to increase our vigilance to spot anyone that may be struggling or demonstrating worrying signs and/or a change in character. We also need to educate ourselves with the support available, so that instead of suffering in silence a distressed person is encouraged to access help and support services or visit their GP and seek help, speak about their problems openly and confidentially without feeling judged or embarrassed.

The following are national services that can be contacted. Each offer Gujarati and Hindi language support:

Samaritans	0116 2700007
Sane	0845 7678000
Rethink	0800 272127
Mind	0300 123 3393

You can contact these services if you are worried about someone and want advice. If you are experiencing crisis yourself, then please do not suffer in silence.

Remember that you can also speak to your GP if you are experiencing thoughts of self harm or suicide and are feeling overwhelmed.

Wishing ALL a healthy, content and positive year ahead.

Children's Christmas Party 2013

Tamuben Sida

The 2013 Children's Christmas party was a huge success. We had an attendance of nearly 350 including parents, almost doubling the number for 2012. This goes to show that this event is becoming a family favourite. The children enjoyed bouncy castles, face painting, mahendi painting, musical chairs, disco, candy floss and various other activities including a visit from our very own Santa Clause who gave out lots of goodies. Both parents and children enjoyed a buffet meal during the event. Feedback for the event was very positive and all are looking forward to Christmas 2014.

A big thank you goes out to the following people who donated money towards the event:-

£100 Rajshibhai Harbhambhai Modhwadia

£100 Nagajanbhai Bapodara

£51 Pratapbhai Lakhabhai Odedra

£51 Dilipbhai Rambhai Karavadra

£51 Laxmanbhai Odedra

£51 Geetaben Mahesh Karavadra

£51 Sudhirbhai Odedra

£51 Vivekbhai Khistariya

£20 Hiraben Rambhai Odedra

£10 Jignashaben Balubhai Odedra

3 cases of chocolates' donated by Sureshbhai Jivanbhai Sida

2 cases of chocolates donated by Pratapbhai Kara Odedra

Finally a huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers who made this event possible.



Volunteers engaging children in face-painting



Children having henna patterns created on their hands



Children being entertained by DJ



Children enjoying fresh cotton candy



Children's Christmas Party 2013

Tamuben Sida



Parents and volunteers enjoying round of musical chairs



Santa and his Elves visiting the children



Children enjoying round of musical chairs



Children having fun on bouncy castle



Children enjoying buffet



Volunteers preparing food



Children with Santa and his Elves



New Years Eve Celebration

To mark the end of 2013, LMCA volunteers worked tremendously hard to organise New Years Eve celebrations. This year's event included:

- DJ
- 3 course table served meal
- Complimentary raffle prizes
- Photographer
- Live singer
- Mimicry artist

Hundreds of guests attended the event to celebrate the start of 2014. Thank you to all who supported the event and helped make it a success. Please visit our community website for more information about forth coming events.



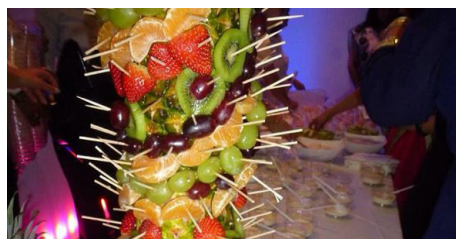
Table decoration



Entrance decoration



Venue layout



Fruit tree for desert



Guests enjoying the evening



Youngsters having fun on dance floor

Leicester Mercury Business Awards 2014

About 650 people celebrated the cream of Leicestershire business at a glamorous event in the city last week. The Leicester Mercury Business Awards 2014 was the biggest celebration of its kind ever seen in the county. Awards were given to 12 companies at the ceremony, held at the Maher Centre.

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Leicester Mercury Business Awards 2014



PICTURES: ANDY BAKER AND BETH WALSH

Cream of the crop's biggest celebration

About 650 people celebrated the cream of Leicestershire business at a glamorous event in the city last week.

The Leicester Mercury Business Awards 2014 was the biggest celebration of its kind ever seen in the county.

Awards were given to 12 companies at the ceremony, held at the Maher Centre, in Ravensbridge Drive, on Thursday.

This year, marked the 21st anniversary of the ceremony and it was the second business awards event run by the Mercury since it took over the running of the annual celebration of top-performing companies in 2013.

The event was sponsored by Baker Tilly, De Montfort University and Fresh Cartwright. Mercury managing director David Simms said: "It was a great night and a fantastic celebration of Leicestershire entrepreneurship, which highlighted the fact the economy

THE LARGEST SHOWCASE OF OUR BEST-PERFORMING FIRMS HAS HELPED CREATE A FEEL-GOOD FACTOR IN THE COUNTY. BUSINESS EDITOR IAN GRIFFIN REPORTS

has a bright future. What came across strongly from the event was, after a difficult few years, county companies are now more upbeat about their future than ever."

Ben Lawrence, managing partner at Baker Tilly in Leicester, said: "I think the fact that we could see some new growing, emerging businesses coming through was very good. It's something we haven't seen for the past few years."

Jimmy Mark, of Samworth Brothers, which sponsored the Company of the Year category, said: "The scale and quality of the award ceremony very appropriately reflected the diverse and vibrant nature of businesses in Leicestershire."

"I was impressed by the quality of the entries and the overall standard of the companies who attended."

"As a judge, it was important the Company of the Year was not just performing well in terms of sales and profit, but also had a number of other attributes including innovation and staff management."

About 170 businesses entered the awards, the highest-ever number. This was whittled down to 33 finalists.

The event was co-hosted by TV personality Paul Ross and Anne Davies, of BBC East Midlands. Today, Entertainment was provided by impressionist Kevin Connolly from the BBC's Dead Ringers.

To see more pictures and order them, go to: www.thisisphotosales.co.uk/leicestershire

Leicester Mercury
BUSINESS AWARDS 2014

In association with: champions

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY
LEICESTER

Fresh Cartwright

BAKER TILLY
38

Congratulations to all the winners of the Leicester Mercury Business Awards 2014

Bij Calendar 2013-2014

The generosity of our Samaj is clearly evident as per the below list but devotion of our Samaj can be observed during the Bij celebrations that take place at our community centre in Leicester. We request all our Samaj members (Leicester and beyond) to join as at the monthly occasions to celebrate Mataji's teachings and seek her continued blessings.

Day	Date	Hindu Months	Prashad Sponsored by
Thursday	15/11/2012	Kartik Sud	Karajibhai Odedra Family Leicester
Friday	14/12/2012	Magsar Sud	Leicester Maher Community Association
Sunday	13/01/2013	Posh Sud	Bhimabhai Karavadra Family P'boro
Tuesday	12/02/2013	Maha Sud	Pratapbhai L Odedra Family Leicester
Wednesday	13/03/2013	Falgun Sud	Maniben Kuchadia Family Leicester
Friday	12/04/2013	Chaitra Sud	LMCA on Behalf of Late Samatbhai Karavadra
Saturday	11/05/2013	Vaishakh Sud	Rajabhai Khunti Family Birmingham
Monday	10/06/2013	Jeth Sud	Leicester Maher Community Association
Wednesday	10/07/2013	Asadh Sud	Bhojabibhai Odedra Family Leicester
Thursday	08/08/2013	Shravan Sud	Whole of Matra Family c/o Maheshbhai Odedra
Saturday	07/09/2013	Bhadarva Sud	Rajubhai Bhoja Odedra Family Leicester
Sunday	06/10/2013	Asho Sud	Navratri Celebration
Tuesday	5/11/2013	Kartik Sud	Bhaves and Vanita Godhniya Family Leicester
Wednesday	4/12/2013	Magsar Sud	Devabhai Karavadra Family Leicester
Thursday	02/01/2014	Posh Sud	Dr Sarmanbhai Bapodra Family Leicester
Saturday	01/02/2014	Maha Sud	Rambahi Nathu Odedra Family Leicester
Monday	03/03/2014	Falgun Sud	Chaganbhai Deva Modhwadia family leice.
Tuesday	01/04/2014	Chaitra Sud	Late Samatbhai karavadra Family Leicester
Thursday	01/05/2014	Vaishakh Sud	
Friday	30/05/2014	Jeth Sud	Jaydev and Deviben Khunti Family leicester
Sunday	29/06/2014	Asadh Sud	Bhimabhai Modhwadia Family Leicester
Monday	28/07/2014	Shravan Sud	
Wednesday	27/08/2014	Bhadarva Sud	Nitaben Ajaybhai Karavadra
Friday	26/09/2014	Asho Sud	Navratri Celebration



Shree Lirbai Mataji

By A Maher Sister

Lirbai Mataji's place of birth: Modhvada

Lirbai Mataji's mother and father: Lakhiben and Luna Bhagat

Lirbai Mataji's gurus (preceptors): Jivan Bhagat and Sonbai Ma

Village of Lirbai Mataji's in-laws (sasru): Keshav

Lirbai Mataji's husband: Vajsi Bhagat

Lirbai Mataji's sons: Punjo and Pato

It is Mataji's grace and blessings that this tradition is still being followed with great faith. We must thank dear Lord for making us who we are, giving us this precious life on earth as human beings.

Lirbai Mataji took this rare opportunity to realise God. It was not a straight-forward path, there were tough times but Mataji remained incredibly tolerant, sacrifices were made, kept faith strong in order to get through the physical journey here on earth as she already had spiritual strength to communicate with God through meditation.

We can put Mataji's teachings into practice by being compassionate towards the less fortunate, help and serve others with unconditional love.



Lirbai Mataji ni Murti in Leicester Maher Centre

Luna Bhagat and Lakhiben practiced the right conduct with the proper knowledge of culture, spirituality, charity and hospitality. These virtues were passed on to Lirbai Mataji and have been followed by generations. Prayers are still being held on every 'Bij' day. Bhajan are sang through the night after Bij mata's prayers are performed. Devotees of all different castes attend this event. Prashad (food) is served.



*લીરબાઇ માતાજી ની મૂર્તિ (મોઢવાડા)
Lirbai mataji ni murti in Modhvada*

Events Calendar 2013-2014

Date	Event	Details
06/07/2013	UK Maher Sports Celebrations	An evening event to celebrate sports personalities within the Maher Community.
07/07/2013	Cricket Tournament Group Stages	Annual cricket tournament held in Loughborough.
28/07/2013	Cricket Tournament Semis and Final	Annual cricket tournament held in Loughborough.
07/09/2013 To 08/09/2013	Sports Tournament	Annual sports tournament held in Leicester
15/09/2013	AGM	To approve accounts of year ended 31st March 2013 and elect a new committee.
27/09/2013	EGM	To elect trustees and implement changes to constitution.
05/10/2013 To 13/10/2103	Navratri	A nine night festival celebrated at the Maher Centre.
19/10/2013	Sharad Purnima	This annual event was open to all communities and attended by hundreds of people.
01/11/2013	Diwali and Sneh Milan	Annual celebration held at our centre.
14/12/2013	Children's Christmas Party	Celebration organised for children under 16 years of age.
31/12/2013	New Years Evening	Annual celebration at our community centre.
16/03/2014	Holi	Annual festival of colours open to all communities.
19/04/2014	108 Hanuman Chalisa	This event is kindly sponsored by Devabhai Karavadra and Balubhai Karavadra.
01/06/2014	Social Sunday	To show respect to our elders, getting them to interact and capturing their stories on videos
15/06/2014	AGM	To approve accounts of year ended 31st March 2014 and elect a new committee
17/08/2014	Janmastami	To celebrate Krishna Bhagwan's birthday for the first time at The Maher Centre from 5:30pm onwards.
20/09/2014	Sports Tournament	To take place in Northampton
25/09/2014 to 03/10/2014	Navratri	A nine night festival celebrated at the Maher Centre.



Events Calendar 2013-2014

11/10/2014	Sharad Poonam	Raas-Garba open to all community.
01/11/2014	Diwali Sneh Milan	Annual celebration to be held at our centre.
15/11/2014	Singles Event	To provide a platform to increase marriages within the community
13/12/2014	Children's Christmas Party	Celebration organised for children under 16 years of age.
31/12/2014	New years	Annual celebration at our community centre. Look out for details of the event!

વડીલો નું સામાજિક મિલન

પ્રથમ વાર આપણા મહેર સેન્ટર માં વડીલો માટે સામાજિક મિલન નું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું છે તો આપ સર્વ વડીલો આવી અમારું પ્રોત્સાહન વધરવા નમ્ર વિનંતી. આ આયોજન માં ભાગ લેવા ની ઈચ્છા ધરાવતા હોય અને વાહન ની સુવિધા ના હોઈ તો અમારો નીચે ના ફોન ઉપર સંપર્ક સાધવા વિનંતી છે.
ફોન : ૦૧૧૬ ૨૪૨૫૩૬૦ તા : ૦૧/૦૬/૨૦૧૪ સમય ૧:૩૦ થી સંધ્યા ના ૬:૦૦ વાગ્યા સુધી.

જન્માષ્ટમી

સહર્ષ સર્વો ને જણાવતા અમને આનંદ થાય છે કે આ વર્ષે આપણા સમાજ ના સેન્ટર માં જન્માષ્ટમી ની ઉજવણી નું આયોજન કરવા માં આવ્યું છે તો તમામ જ્ઞાતિ બંધુઓ અને બજી જ્ઞાતિ ના લોકો ને અમારું ભાવ ભર્યું આમંત્રણ. તા : ૧૭/૦૮/૨૦૧૪ સમય સંધ્યા ના ૫:૩૦ વાગ્યા થી.

Gitaji Satsang 1st Year Anniversary

Sunday 4th May 2014, marked a very special occasion. It was exactly a year since Gitaji classes commenced at the Leicester Maher Community Centre. The occasion was celebrated by holding an afternoon of Satsang where current students were joined by parents and members of the community from Leicestershire. The afternoon was filled with spiritual discussion where the children were able to show their understanding of the Srimad Bhagwad Gita. The Parents were able to see how the Spiritual teachings are simplified by teachers to ensure that they are understandable for the young children who participate in the classes.

The positive feedback and blessings received from parents and community members has given us the energy to continue in our endeavours. We hope to bring many more such events in the future.

On behalf of the Gitaji Volunteers - Karishma Modhwadia



A Question of Sport

Pratapbhai Lakha Odedra

In 2013, we celebrated 40th anniversary of Maher Sports and 25th anniversary of Maher Cricket Tournaments. To mark the occasions, we held a sports celebration evening at our community centre on Saturday 6th July 2013. It was an evening to recognise sporting achievement of individuals in the community and to remember those who actively played sports but are sadly no longer with us.

The celebrations were led by Keshubhai Odedra from Birmingham (President of The UK Maher Samaj) and ably supported by volunteers of the Leicester Association. Various individuals were honoured for their achievements within the field of sports and these included:

- Parbatbhai Sundavadra of Loughborough for initiating the sports tournaments back in 1978
- Sureshbhai Keshwala of Leicester for achievements in cricket
- Sonia Odedra of Leicester for being the first Maher female to achieve the highest standard representing England Lion Academy and is on the verge of making her England debut
- Laxmanbhai Sundavadra who is a referee on the panel of International Badminton Association and refereed at London 2012 Olympics
- Krishna Godhanja who has been bestowed with the title of A Master which is the highest possible honour in martial arts

It was an honour to be in the company of great sports personalities of our Samaj and celebrate their accomplishments.

This year's annual sports tournament was held at Soar Valley College in Leicester. It was pleasing to see that there are many individuals who play sports and encourage others to do the same. We would like to thank elders of the community for showing support and promoting healthy competitions amongst young people. The results are as follows:





A Question of Sport Pratapbhai Lakha Odedra

Football:

Men: Luton beat Leicester
U15: Leicester
U11: Leicester

Badminton

Men singles:
Dinesh Keshwala
beat Hitesh Godhaniya

Men Doubles:
Krishna Keshwala and
Dinesh Keshwala beat Hitesh
Godhaniya and Suresh Sida

Women Singles:
Mira Modhvadia
beat Reema Odedra

Mixed Doubles:
Sudhir Odedra and
Reema Odedra beat Kiran
Keshwala and Vikram Goraniya

Volleyball:

Leicester Youth

Table Tennis:

Dipak Kuchhadia beat
Kishor Modhwadia

Pool:

Vikram Goraniya

Nav Kakri:

Ram Odedra

A sport that is enjoyed by all in our community is no doubt cricket. Cricket was started in 1988 by Jivabhai Odedra and Vejabhai Sisodia of Leicester. The first tournament for Mahers took place in Victoria Park in Leicester and facilitated a platform for various cricket loving individuals. The stars of the first tournament were Sureshbhai Keshwala who had only just arrived into UK from India and Uday Sisodia who was only 14 years old at the time and had just arrived back

from West Indies tour for Middlesex Colts. I am proud to say that cricket has still continued and tournaments have been hosted by other cities very successfully with Maher Stars Cricket Club being major winners over the years.

To mark the 25th anniversary of Maher Cricket Tournaments; 2013 tournament was held in Loughborough. The group stages took place on Sunday 7th July and the finals on Sunday 28th July 2013 respectively. There were 10 teams who entered the healthy competition and were fortunate enough to play under good weather. In the first round of semi-finals, Luton team managed to beat Maher Warriors team from Leicester to reach the finals. In the second round of semi-finals, Maher Stars team from Leicester managed to beat Fatana team also from Leicester. The final was comfortably taken by Maher Stars beating their opponents from Luton. For Maher Stars, this was a victory for a record 18th time!

Alongside the annual Maher Cricket Tournaments, the sports team have also been coordinating Boxer Cup 8-a-side cricket tournament. This tournament is in memory of Nagaji Masriji Odedra who sadly passed away unexpectedly. Nagaji was a cricket loving individual and played skilfully at tournaments. The 4th year of the Boxer Cup was played on Sunday 26th May 2013. The finals were intense between Maher Stars and Maher Warriors of Leicester. Once again, the victory was taken by Maher Stars!

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A Question of Sport

Pratapbhai Lakha Odedra

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On this note, we proudly congratulate 6 children from Leicester who have been selected to play cricket for Leicestershire county. They are:

Boys

- Yuvraj Jiva Odedra in under 16s category
- Prahlad Pratap Odedra in under 11s category
- Jaidev Dheeru Modhwadia in under 10s category
- Parth Bharat Sindhal in under 10s category

Girls

- Bijal Pratap Odedra in under 15s and under 17s category
- Maya Dheeru Modhwadia in under 15s and under 17s category





A Question of Sport Pratapbhai Lakha Odedra

In 2014 we would like to create a sports booklet to mark the anniversary celebrations and achievements within the community. We had lots of information but still there are lots sporting achievements in the community. We request you all to submit any sporting achievement you have gained. Please forward any relevant information and photographs together with your details to sports@mahercentre.com The information can also include any charity fund raising you have done in terms of marathons, cycling, mountain climbing etc.



Maher Foundation

Jaymalbhai Odedra

Future strength and welfare of our community lies in a strong foundation within our youths. With that in mind, Maher Foundation (MF), a zero administration expense non-profit charity organization was created in 2007 and registered in UK in 2008 to enhance education. Our focus has been to provide grants for Maher students in India that are financially constrained. To date the foundation has supported 40 students including those in high schools and universities of which 31 chose degree courses in the following:

- 11 Engineering,
- 9 Medicine,
- 4 Computers
- 2 each in Accounting and Ayurvedic medicine
- 1 each in Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Bio medicine.

With dedicated volunteering efforts, we closely monitor the recipients by frequent communications and academic guidance along with on going monitoring of their academic records and performance. When a student gets off track, we pull all possible strings to get him or her back on track. Our aim is to make sure that a student in MF system graduates with sound performance. In year 2012 MF reached a milestone with five graduates from college, followed by five more in 2013. MF is proud of the following graduates:

- Hiran Parbat Mander, B. Pharm & now doing masters,
- Dr. Jignesh Lila Modhwadia, MBBS,
- Nilesh Lila Odedra, B.Sc. Computers Science,
- Jayendra Veja Parmar, B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering,
- Dilip Abha Ratiya , B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering,
- Dr. Arun Ranmal Keshwala MBBS,
- Arjun Vasta Modhwadia, B.Sc. Electronics and Communications Engineering,
- Niraj Ajay Modhwadia, B.Sc. Computer Engineering,
- Bhavesh Narmad Odedra, B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering,
- Dr. Kajal Haja Kuchhadia Dental medicine

MF achievements have been possible by donations from fellow Mahers. Thank you donors!! To date MF has granted over thirty nine lakhs rupees (>Rs. 39,00,000.). Total grants will amount to over fifty five lakhs rupees (>Rs. 55,00,000.) by the time current students graduates and if we do not take any more new students. The Trust's affairs are mostly conducted from abroad.

We will find ways to support more new students and like to encourage them to enhance performance, get admission in best colleges in India, and contact us if assistance or guidance is needed. We guide students to choose fields that are projected to be in demand and encourage those that could go further for masters or doctorates. MF will support dedicated students that are willing to help themselves and remains committed to help excel Maher community through education.

With best wishes,



Maher Foundation

Jaymalbhai Odedra

Trustees, Maher Foundation, Trustees, 19 The Oval, Leicester, LE2 5JB, UK
www.maherfoundation.org, info@maherfoundation.org

Current Trustees

Trustees in India: Dr. Jiten A. Vadher, Khimabhai S. Ranavaya, and
Dr. Rajendra A. Godhania

Trustees in UK: Jaimal V. Odedra, Babu H. Odedra, Khusboo S. Odedra, Nita H. Odedra,
and Vimalji Nathaji Odedra

Trustee in North America:

Dr. Rambhai Gangji Sisodiya

MAHER FOUNDATION 2012 GRADUATES
CONGRATULATIONS!! WELL DONE.



Dr. Jignesh Lila Modhwadia
MBBS



Hiren Parbat Manderia
B. Pharm



Jayendra Veja Parmar
B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering



Nilesh Lila Odedra
B.Sc. Computers Science



Dilip Abha Ratiya
B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering



Dr. Arun Ranmal Keshwala
MBBS



Dr. Arun Ranmal Keshwala
MBBS



Niraj Ajay Modhwadia
B.Sc. Computer Engineering



Bhavesh Narmad Odedra
B.Sc. Computer Engineering



Bhavesh Narmad Odedra
B.Sc. Computer Engineering



A 24hrs service

- Independent owned funeral directors
- 24hr services
- Personal professional services
- Private viewing in our chapel of rest
- Home visit
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- Floral tribute
- Horse & carriage services
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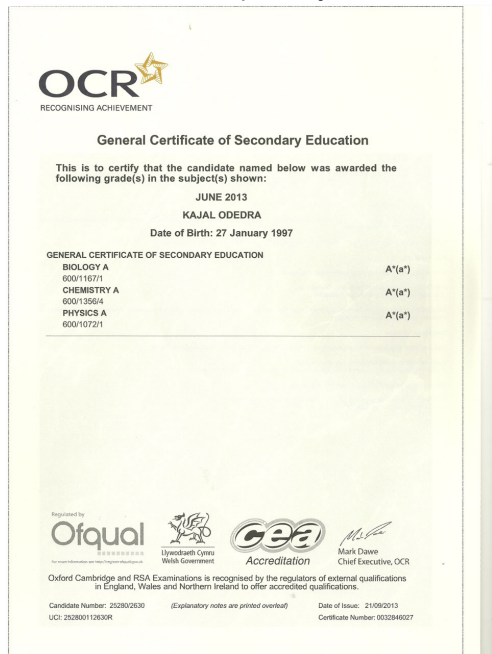
GCSE Champion Kajal Odedra

Kajal is the daughter of proud parents Devabhai and Deviben Odedra in Leicester. Kajal's recent outstanding achievements in her end of year 11 exams are evident of her dedication to education and motivation by her parents. Certainly opening the results envelop on results day can be the most stressful experience for students and their parents but for Kajal and her parents it was a moment of triumph. Kajal achieved the following results for her General Certificate of Secondary Education at Beauchamp College in Oadby, Leicester:

1. Mathematics A*
2. Further Mathematics A*
3. English Language A*
4. English Literature A*
5. Biology A*
6. Chemistry A*
7. Physics A*
8. Economics A
9. Food Technology A*
10. Religious Studies A*
11. History A*
12. French A*
13. Communication A*
14. Individual Needs A*

Kajal's ultimate aim was to make her parent's proud and her motivation factor was her parent's continued encouragement and support. Devabhai and Deviben prioritised Kajal's education through a long, daily journey to and back from school as well as additional tuition classes; they made sure nothing came in the way of Kajal's education. This is something we can all learn from as the barrier to learning for young people is not often provisions at school or money; it is the subtle presence of encouragement, time and guidance from parents.

Kajal is now studying Advance Levels (A Levels) at Beauchamp College. Like Kajal, there are hundreds of high-achieving young people in our Samaj and would like to hear from you. Please do inform us of any achievements to include academic, vocational or simply in a field that you are proud of.



An International Venture

Krishna Khunti

Name: Krishna Khunti

Current Location: Mumbai, India / From London, UK

Twitter: @krishnakhunti

Instagram: britinbom

Roots in India: Mother from Porbandar, India and Father from Uganda, Africa

Work background: After having worked in various roles, industries and countries; diving in and exposing myself to many different environments, I've worked in various industries and roles ranging from Investment Banking, Luxury Retail to Broadcast Media where I produced and presented Zee Radio's Breakfast show.

What do you currently do for a living?

"I really enjoy multi-tasking and being continuously challenged, so at any one given time I'm working on at least three projects. Currently I'm:

- *The Head of HR & Communications and launching a CSR division for a E-Commerce fast growing company
- *Presenting Emirates Airlines Show - 'Araam Se Suno'
- *Working with an NGO called 'Aasha' - Corp India - Mentoring, and running an internship programme for girls (who live in a shelter home for orphans and children from extremely poor families in Dharavi).
- *Running regular meditation/ Om healing classes
- *Freelance Voice Over artist "

"Born and raised in the United Kingdom, (with most of my years spent in the



dynamic and multicultural city of London). The

time came after graduating with my degree in Politics, Philosophy and History from the University of London; amidst a quarter life crisis, suitcase in hand and with the love and blessings of my amazing parents and family, I decided to venture off my island and into the world unknown. Renouncing familiarity; my first stop was the other extreme side of the world; Tokyo, Japan, where I lived and taught English for almost a year, followed by realising my dream of teaching street children for six months in the vibrant city of Mumbai, India.

Most of my experience has been hands on and it helped that I started working and simultaneously studied for my degree, so I continued to gain work experience whilst getting academic qualifications. And in today's day and age work experience is so important - Even the shortest internship or voluntary stint can make a huge difference! I interned at the Cabinet Office, and also worked with the UN Youth Organisation as their Press and Communication Officer for a year.



An International Venture

Krishna Khunti

Are there any projects you are working on at the moment that are interesting?

"All of the projects I'm working on are so different and interesting. I particularly enjoy leading people in the NGO and Corporate space to break away discrimination, hierarchy, class and caste - to bring about more genuine respect and development. "

What do you enjoy the most about what you do?

"I really enjoy variety in the work I do and am driven by people and ideas. I thrive on feeling the pulse of life, am fascinated by the world we live in and the people that fill it - so I tend to find most if not all of the activities I part-take in thoroughly enjoyable!"

What are the challenges of what you do?

"I can sometimes be over-stretched as I'm committed to many different projects and roles. Another challenge is that working in India, and being from the UK, I have to adjust, adapt and use my background to my advantage."

What advice do you have for readers who might be interested in pursuing what you do?

"Don't sit around waiting for the perfect role to come to you, start paving the way towards your perfect life. Think of all the things you love doing and see how you can incorporate them into your world now! Opportunities are all around, in all parts of the world. Before I volunteered in India, I actually started by volunteering in the UK. I worked with homeless people through a



Soup Kitchen and also helped out at Hospices. For the media broadcasting work, I worked for years in different roles before I got paid - It's important to get the experience first and see if it's something you really want to do.

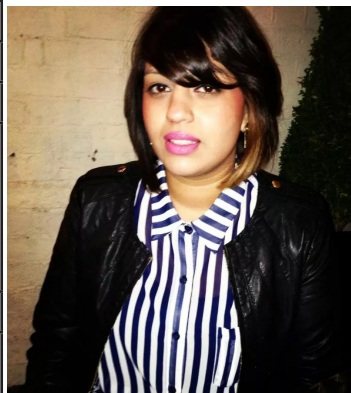
Start making your perfect life come to life this very instance - There really is no time like the present!"



In The Life of a Prison Officer

Preety Ram

Name	Preety Ram (Modhvadia)
Age	28
Location	Leicester
Roots in India	Dad – born in Uganda, then moved back to Modhvada, India before relocating to Leicester in 1984 Mum from Thoyana
Educational background	Ba Hons in criminal justice
What do you currently do for a living? Career	Currently working as a Prisoner Custody Officer



I am currently working as a Prisoner Custody Officer at HMP Rye Hill in Rugby. I first joined the service in December 2007. After completing my studies, I was applying for jobs in the Criminal Justice field and I applied for this role not really knowing what it entailed. When I found out I had been successful after applications, psychometric tests and an interview I was chuffed to bits, although I was quite unsure about working in a prison. The prison I work at is what is known as a category B training prison. Categories of prisons in the UK go from category A which is high security to D which is low security/open prison. We hold up to 620 adult male sentenced prisoners who are serving sentences of 5 years and over up to life sentences. I work with prisoners who have been convicted of anything from petty persistent burglaries to murderers and rapists.

From day one I knew it would be a challenge and I loved the thought of having that challenge to rise up to! I've always been interested in working with criminals – think it stemmed from watching *The Bill* on a weekly basis with my dad!

My training for the job consisted of 12 weeks classroom based training with a week's worth of personal protection and control and restraint training. Not being anywhere near as big as some of these prisoners, my fear was that if something was

to kick off, I would have no chance at all in protecting myself or anyone else. The training however taught me techniques to use when psychically controlling and restraining someone which doesn't require strength and size to be successful. This filled me with confidence, as well as the fact we are provided with PPE when appropriate (very similar to the riot gear the police wear).

As a front line officer on the landings of the prison I am required to work long hours (which go surprisingly quick) and potentially put myself in the line of danger every day, which is something that I thrive on; the feeling and satisfaction from getting through each day safely and without incident!

Prison life is nothing like what is shown on the television; you get to build up a rapport with prisoners and 9 times out of 10 they are well behaved. They realise that we are not there to judge them, the courts have already done that, we are just there to make sure they abide by the law and prison rules and that they are safe. My family are very supportive of what I do, and understand that some days can be stressful and I can be late home at times as I do not do a "normal" 9 to 5 job! I still don't think they fully understand the extent of what I do!



In The Life of a Prison Officer Preeti Ram

Are there any projects you are working on at the moment that are interesting?

After 5 years of working on the front line, I am now based in what is called the offender management unit in the prison. Here I am responsible for liaising quite closely with the prisoners and determining their plan for the whole of their sentence. This includes delving deep in to the reasons for their offending, and establishing if there are any courses or interventions suitable for them to enable them to lower their risk to the public on release and lower the risk of reoffending.

What do you enjoy the most about what you do?

I enjoy working in a close knit environment, having the support from other staff - you end up creating a close bond, as no one else seems to quite understand what we do! I enjoy enquiring into the mind of the prisoners, finding out what makes them tick, and what led them to offending. It is satisfying to see a prisoner go through his journey and doing well and achieving things that they may never have got the opportunity to do in the community.

I love the fact that no two days are ever the same in my job and it always keeps me on my toes. One day I may be cutting down a noose or splitting up a fight and the next day I could be working on the landings playing bingo with the guys. I'm very happy working in the service. I've had every opportunity to do different things, and every encouragement to progress my career. There's a lot on offer here. You're always on the go, whatever role you're in, and there's a real buzz to it – and you're doing something that matters. If you join the service the one thing you can be guaranteed of is you'll never be bored.

As for being a woman, I think it's better in a male prison because we're not as confrontational as some men can be. Men seem to

back down when they're talking to us and we can talk to them and be a bit more of a calming influence then men.

What are the challenges of what you do? Why?

The most challenging aspects in the role as a Prison Officer is when someone invades personal space of yours and is shouting at you, waving his arms, spitting at you, swearing at you; I find that very challenging. All you have to do in that instance is step back, ask what the problem is, listen to the problems and try to solve them. You have to be mindful of the frustrations they have and all be it they have done some horrible things, my main priority is to maintain a degree of duty of care to them, I am not there to judge!

What advice do you have for readers who might be interested in pursuing what you do?

Challenge yourself with something extraordinary – go and become a prison officer! You'll make a difference to the lives of criminals for sure... take a risk and be brave!

Follow your dreams and do what you feel is best for you. Some jobs may not be socially "acceptable" in society or our community but that does not mean it is wrong!

Where can readers find out more?

To find out more info in pursuing a career in the prison service you can look at www.justice.gov.uk or www.how2become.com/prison-officer

Any other information / anything else you want to say...

I love my job, even though there are days where I never want to go back! I have a love/hate relationship with it!



Mission to Mars

Vanrajbhai Odedra

Name	Vanraj Odedra
Location	Biggleswade,Beds
Contact email	Odedra.van@gmail.com
Roots in India	Fatana (father) and Gorana (mother)



Tell us a bit about yourself...

I was born in Lugazi, Uganda and came to UK in 1972 with my family as one of the refugees from the mass expulsion of Ugandan Asians by Idi Amin! My family initially settled in Nelson, Lancashire and then moved down to Luton where majority of my family members are now settled.

Educational background

I completed my school (8 GCSEs) and college (4 A levels) in Burnley and then went on to study at Nottingham University where I graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Work background

After graduation, I started working as a graduate engineer with British Aerospace in Stevenage and have now been with the same company for over 33 years (even though the company has changed its name and ownership about 10 times since then!). Our company is now part of the biggest European Aerospace consortium recently renamed as "AIRBUS Defence and Space" (formally EADS, Astrium). The company has over 18,000 employees mainly spread across UK, Germany, France and Spain but also with smaller branches in rest of Europe and USA. The company is engaged in all sectors of Aerospace business (Airbus planes, Satellites, Launchers, ground systems, Secure Communication equipment and Services). Our segment of the company is focussed on Space elements and is engaged on most of the international Space projects from commercial

and military satellites and ground systems to the massive Ariane launchers. We are also a leading participant on most of the exotic Earth Navigation and Science Exploration programmes including the International Space Station (ISS) for the European Space Agency (ESA). After a brief spell as a trainee graduate engineer, I was fortunate enough to progress my career within the company based in Stevenage in a variety of different roles on a number of satellite projects (Thermal, Mechanical, propulsion, Materials, Systems and test engineering). This broad experience allowed me progress my career and was able to see most of the satellite projects from initial design to their final delivery in orbit (cradle to grave). It is worth noting that a complex satellite programme can take up to 10 years from initial design, build and Test before it is ready for launch! It involves 100's of specialist engineers across all range of disciplines (Systems, Mechanical, Electrical, Propulsion, RF Comms, Software, Thermal etc) to deliver 1 satellite successfully. After integration, we have to perform extensive testing in simulated space conditions in special test facilities to make sure the satellite does not have any design or build weakness before launch. After all, we only get one shot to get it right and failure is not an option in our line of work!

What do you currently do for a living?

Prior to my new project (Mission to Mars), I was the Systems Engineering Manager (later promoted to programme manager) on a secure military satellite programme called Skynet 5. This



Mission to Mars

Vanrajbhai Odedra

was one of the biggest UK defence programme awarded (over £1.2 billion) for 4 satellites and supporting ground control systems. They were designed to provide secure voice and data communications for the UK MoD, NATO and other Allied countries. Each satellite was designed for a lifetime of 15 years with high grade encryption and with special anti jamming features including nuclear hardened technology. These satellites are now fully operational at different orbital slots and provide complete secure communications services to the UK and NATO armed forces across the world! As a project manager, I was privileged to manage a transnational team of over 150 engineers and supporting project staff based in Stevenage, Portsmouth and Toulouse (France). After delivering the last Skynet 5D satellite in 2013, I was asked to take on a completely different challenge to manage the Exo Mars Rover project for the European Space Agency (ESA). Exo Mars programme is an ambitious pan European programme in collaboration with the Russians (who are responsible for the launcher and the landing systems) to deliver the 1st European Rover to Mars. The overall programme budget is in excess of €1.5 billion and is funded by participating EU countries through the European Space Agency (ESA). First element of the mission will be in 2016 to place a data relay orbiter around Mars orbit to allow future communications from the Rover back to earth and also to demonstrate some of the complex decent and landing technologies which will be required for the main Rover mission in 2018. The team in UK is responsible for all the overall system design and development of the Rover vehicle. The Rover is essentially a mobile laboratory packed with a number of Instruments, sensors and housekeeping electronics but will weigh just 300Kg! It will be equipped with high resolution cameras, a drill and a number scientific instruments and experiments from partici-

pating Space companies and universities across Europe, Canada and USA. This is a programme which involves some of the best scientists and Engineers to work together to deliver its mission goals. One of the key mission goals is to search the Martian geological and chemical environment to establish if there is any sign of life (past or present) and take samples of the Martial soil using a Drill down to 2 metres. It is hoped that samples at this depth would have preserved any signs of past life. As some of my Maher colleagues keep on teasing me that it will definitely find Martian Odedras as they seem to be everywhere else in the world!

The Mars mission will also demonstrate the highly autonomous locomotion and mobility functions of the Rover and identify surface hazards for future human exploration missions.

The biggest challenge facing our engineers is to design a Rover which is light and compact due to very tight volume and weight limits imposed by the launcher.

Incidentally, gravity on Mars is only a 3rd of that on Earth so it would be a good place for anyone wanting to lose weight fast!

The Rover will also have to survive the very harsh Martian environment with temperatures as cold as -1300C and withstand the dust storms which are quite frequent on the red planet. In addition, it will have to keep all the experiments and instruments from freezing and working with limited electrical power available from the solar panels and the battery. Another unique challenge will be to build the complete Rover in a sterile clean room facility with strict controls on microbial and particulate contamination.

These measures are necessary to avoid any false results from the instruments due to contamination carried from earth and to respect the International Planetary Protection agreements (not to contaminate other planets).



Mission to Mars

Vanrajbhai Odedra

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Anyone entering our purpose built clean room during build will have to wear special gowns with face masks, gloves and over shoes. It will feel and look more like a surgical theatre in a good hospital!

The Engineering team in Stevenage is responsible for the overall technical performance of the Rover Vehicle including management of all interfaces between the Rover and its instruments. The complex autonomous and navigation software will be developed by the team in Stevenage. The management team will be responsible for nearly 30 equipment subcontracts for the communication, locomotion, on board computing, solar panels, battery, thermal control and mechanisms) which will be delivered from a number of European, Canadian and US companies. The Rover will receive high

level instructions from earth (once every day) and with the use of its high resolution cameras and sensors together with the on board visual localisation, path planning and navigation algorithms and software it will navigate autonomously and safely to the required destination without any intervention from Earth!

The Rover has a sophisticated locomotion and suspension system with 6 flexible wheels, each one being individually steerable. It will be able perform point turns, climb over Martian rocks when necessary and travel up to 70 meters per hour. Whilst not quite as fast as a Ferrari, it has to perform all of these actions including analysis of the samples, send data back to earth and then hibernate during the night to preserve its power ...all autonomously!

You have to realise that Mars is over 100 million kilometres from earth and a signal can take up to 20 minutes to reach us. Furthermore, the Rover and its science data will only be sent back to earth via the 2016 relay orbiter twice a day in 15 minute slots! Therefore, it is essential that the Rover and the suite of instruments are able to operate autonomously and safely with very little contact from ground.

Other interesting fact is that after launch, the Rover will take nearly 9 months to reach Mars with very little contact from ground. It will have to survive the mechanical and thermal loads from the launcher as well as the high radiation and temperature extremes of space during its journey and after landing. All of these parameters have to be analysed in detail as they drive the overall complexity of the design and ultimately the cost and schedule aspects of the project. The design not only has to meet the specified performance but has to be engineered to fit within the allocated budget. Most importantly, the programme has to be delivered on time to meet the 2018 launch slot as missing this





Mission to Mars

Vanrajbhai Odedra

slot would mean that the next launch opportunity would not be until 2020! This would incur huge overspend on the project. As our company keeps reminding us that successful means “on cost, on quality on time delivery”!

How did you get in to it? What qualifications did you gain? Where from? When did you start?

To be honest, I ended up in the space Industry by chance. Although I was interested in space as a youngster following the Apollo missions to the moon, I did not at the time have any particular aspirations or ambition to become what someone might call a Rocket scientist! I never thought that one day I would play a part in mankind's continued quest for better understanding of our outer space and the various planets in our galaxy and beyond and have fun doing it!

Whilst at school in Lancashire, I was fortunate to meet a retired Air Force by the name of Phillip Baldwin who took me under his “wings” and became my mentor. Phillip helped me improve my “Ugandan English” at first and then pushed me to work hard at school and college. Without his support, I would probably have ended up working in one the cotton mills in Burnley...if there are any left now!

Unlike these days, where there is a lot of education information and career guidance available to children, I ended up studying Mechanical Engineering at University on my college tutor's advice because I enjoyed Maths and Physics. After graduation, I was fortunate enough to receive an offer from GEC in Rugby (heavy turbines) and one from British Aerospace (Satellites) in Stevenage. I accepted the offer from BAe just to be closer to my family who were now settled in Luton. To be honest, I am for ever grateful to my college tutor for advising me to go to University and study Engineering

as I have had a great career in Space industry. I have been fortunate to work with some of the smartest Engineers and Scientists in Europe, USA, Russia and India and had the pleasure of travelling across the world and being paid for the privilege! There is never dull moment in my job with the variety of technical, programmatic and management challenges faced on a daily basis and it can be very stressful with demanding goals but we work as an integrated team to get through them. Most the space projects are of long duration as they are usually one-offs often requiring new design and with new technologies to be mastered so an integrated and harmonious team spirit is essential in the “camp”. The team almost becomes an extended family during the course of the project as we spend more time with each other when working abroad than we do with our loved ones!

Are there any projects you are working on at the moment that are interesting?

Mars Rover is by far the most interesting and high profile Space project in the UK. It attracts huge interest from industry, academia, government departments and the media. Hardly a week goes by without some article, interview or video clip on TV on this project! Later this month, Vince Cable (Business secretary) along with other VIPs will unveil our new Mars Yard in Stevenage which our team will be using to test the early prototypes of the Rover on representative Mars terrain! Next year, we will start the development and build of the Rover in a dedicated Bio clean facility in Stevenage. We plan to deliver it to our partners in Italy in early 2017 for an extensive test campaign before it is shipped to Russia in early 2018 for the launch!



Mission to Mars

Vanrajbhai Odedra

What do you enjoy the most about what you do? Why?

The biggest buzz of the job comes from knowing that you are responsible for managing a team of professionals who will be delivering the 1st European Mission to Mars (only the Americans have achieved this feat so far). The transnational team of young Engineers and Scientists on this project are highly talented and passionate to deliver this project. The UK government has recently invested huge amount of funding on this project to ensure that UK Space industry is able take the lead in this field and able to develop the necessary skills and experience to exploit future opportunities. Currently, the UK Space industry is one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy and it is expected to continue this growth for the foreseeable future. It will provide highly skilled and rewarding job opportunities for the future generation of young engineers and scientists. I hope that our Maher youngsters will take up some of these opportunities and become future "Rocket Scientists"!

What advice do you have for readers who might be interested in pursuing what you do?

I would strongly advice our youngsters to study the "STEM" (Science, Technology, Maths, and Engineering) based subjects at school and to follow it up with a degree in either Engineering or Science. Whilst we as a community have strong representation in medicine, law, accounting, business etc, unfortunately, this does not appear to be the case in Engineering or Science. It would be great to see more of our youngsters taking an interest in these subjects as

these can lead to fantastic career opportunities in future. The Space sector is now attracting a lot of international interest and investment as it is seen as the next frontier for mankind to explore for key resources and minerals and for eventual human habitation. Space tourism is also now attracting a lot of interest and who knows, if this will eventually lead to regular intergalactic flights by Virgin!

I was recently invited to join the UK Space Exploration and Advisory Committee which is responsible for coordinating and advising UK Space Agency and the government on space related topics including the longer term strategy to adopt for the UK. One of its remit is to promote engineering and science in schools to ensure UK Space Industry is able to attract and develop the future engineers and scientists to support this growing sector.

Where can readers find out more?

One of main reasons writing this article is with the hope that it will generate more interest in Space from our youngsters and inspire some of them to follow a career in it. If anyone is interested in a career in Space Industry, there are plenty of opportunities in the UK and in Europe and USA in a variety of disciplines including Mechanical, Electrical, Propulsion, Software, Systems Engineering, Integration and Test and Management to name few!

If anyone is interested to find out more about career opportunities in our industry, I would be more than happy to help them.

They can contact me on my email :odedra.van@gmail.com

Or they can log on to ESA website: www.esa.int or on our company website at :www.astrium.eads.net



Mission to Mars

Vanrajbhai Odedra

A career in Engineering may not give you instant monetary rewards but it will provide you with a highly stimulating and rewarding career where you will be able to apply your learned skills, often in a team environment to provide practical solutions to technical problems.

A career in Space will allow you to work with eminent scientists and Engineers

around the world working on cutting edge technologies to provide the solutions for future space exploration.

I also hope one day we will see a Maher astronaut on a space mission!

How a satellite is built and tested



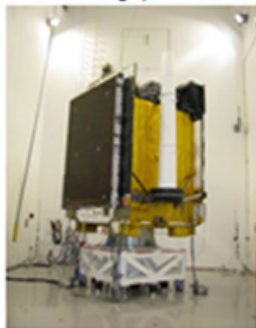
Satellite propulsion system
The fuel is highly toxic and carcinogenic!



One of the panels showing bulk of communication equipments



Final Integration and with double inspection!



Ready to start 9 months of testing (shake rattle and roll plus Thermal Vacuum tests)

After 2 years in Toulouse (France) the satellite is ready for launch!



A Musicians Choice

Swaati Khunti

Name	Swaati Khunti
Location	London
Contact email	SwaatiOfficial@gmail.com
Roots in India...	Porbandar - Bhakarla
Educational background	Music BA Honours (Brunel University London)
Career	Singer-Songwriter

Swaati was musically inclined from the very beginning; her talent was discovered at the age of 4, when it appeared that she was naturally gifted in playing melodies on her keyboard after just having heard them a few times (and not been formally taught). Her parents connected her to music. They have always been very music-oriented & extremely fond of old Bollywood classics, and that same passion got passed down to swaati.

Thereafter, she went onto having professional piano, violin and guitar lessons, in her high school years.

After which she also went to India for three months where she completed an intensive course in the 1st year of North Indian classical music, (with a world renowned teacher Tulika Ghosh).

More recently she graduated with a BA Honors in Music, The completion of her degree marked a momentous culmination of all of her years of hard work.

Since Graduating, Swaati has gone on to becoming an independent Singer-Songwriter, collaborating with various established music producers. She Sings & Writes songs in both Gujarati & English, Being the First British Female Singer to get her Gujarati Songs played on the BBC Radio. Since her Debut Release in 2012, she has continuously been supported by the BBC, with getting

Regular Radio Play on both BBC Asian Network & BBC Radio 1. She was also chosen to perform her songs at the World Famous BBC Maida Vale Studios where as the likes of bands such as "The Beatles" have performed.

She hasn't just made it onto Radio, but is also on TV with two music videos being played on B4U, SONY & Zee TV in UK, Canada & Africa, and also VH1 & MTV in India. Through Zee TV & Mayor of London she also got to perform at "Diwali On Trafalgar Square" in front of an audience of thousands.

Tabloids such as "The Eastern Eye", "The Times of India" & B4U Glitz Magazine have also shown a keen interest in Swaati's Musical Journey and have published full spread articles on her.

At present Swaati is working on her third Music Video, and continuous to write more songs, in both Gujarati & English.

For Swaati, Music has never been a Hobby, it's been a way of Life, and she has shown this from the very start & continuous to show us that you can be successful in MUSIC.





A Musicians Choice Swaati Khunti

Swaati Says..

"The Musical Path is a very difficult path to walk on, however its such a magical feeling when you hear your songs on the radio and see yourself on TV, and see that your music is being appreciated. It makes it all worth the tremendous hard work that goes into it.

Its not as easy as some may think, A lot of determination, Endurance & Patience is required in order to become successful in this field. But Above all, support from the family is required, and I am so grateful that I have had an abundance of support from my parents since the very start. They are my biggest fans!"



**You can find out more about
Swaati and hear her music via www.Swaati.co.uk**

You are welcome to follow and get in touch with her via Facebook/Swaati ,
Twitter@SwaatiOfficial and www.Soundcloud.com/Swaati

"Please don't hesitate to contact me for any advise in this field, I'd be happy to help!"

**"I say Don't be afraid to Study what You Love....
If Your Parents disagree, tell them to come and speak to me..."**

Featured in "Eastern Eye"



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Entertainment

25

Swaati's going Astray to express her sound

THE UP-AND-COMING SINGER-SONGWRITER ON HER MUSIC

by ASIAD NAZIR

THERE are some newcomers who instantly capture your attention with their material, and singer/songwriter Swaati has done exactly that with her debut single *Astray*.

world' and it's interesting. However, I have been fortunate to have some experienced mentor figures around me who surround me with their guidance and support.

What is the blindest challenge you have faced

aspiration is the ocean. Sitting by the ocean reminds me of the beauty around us.

Who are your musical heroes?

The late great singers Mohd Rafi and Jagjit Singh. Their voices echo bundles of emotion.



An Achievement To Aim For Hena Ranawayaya

Name	Hena Rana (Ranawayaya)
Location	Auckland, New Zealand
Contact email	Hena.rana@beca.com
Roots in India	Born in Porbander
Educational background	<p>Bachelor of Engineering – Chemical Engineering (London South Bank University)</p> <p>Post Graduate Diploma – Information Systems (University of West London).</p> <p>Program for Leadership development – Harvard</p> <p>Technical Director for Advisory Services at Beca</p>



Hena is a qualified Lean Six Sigma Master Black belt. She has worked on streamlining and leading improvement projects for engineering and construction processes and work practices for US Government Defence projects.

More recently, she has been leading and implementing improvement programmes for companies and government agencies in New Zealand. She has also been involved in the management and development of process solutions.

Hena has a very strong background in project, programme and risk management, engineering, process improvement, business process re-design, Lean Six Sigma strategy development and change management.

graduated from London Southbank university with a degree in Chemical Engineering and a Post Graduate in Information Systems from University of West London.

After I completed my studies I got a job working for a firm in Teddington for two/three years before moving to San Francisco in 2000. I worked for a large Engineering construction firm and met my husband Sanjay Ranawayaya (Rana) in 2006. We married and decided to live in New Zealand for a while, as the Ranawayaya family have been based in Fiji and New Zealand since World War 1.

In 2012, I received the New Zealand Prime Minister's Business Scholarship and was accepted into Harvard Business School on one of the executive programmes.

Here is a link to the announcement: <http://beehive.govt.nz/release/pm%E2%80%99s-business-scholarships-announced-1>



An Achievement To Aim For

Hena Ranavaya

Ten of New Zealand's brightest business minds have been given the opportunity to study at some of the world's top international institutions after receiving Prime Minister's Business Scholarships.

Prime Minister John Key says the scholarships will enable the recipients to increase their business knowledge and gain invaluable skills which will have many positive flow-on effects for New Zealand businesses.

"I am very pleased to be able to give these outstanding people the opportunity to study at some of the world's very best learning institutions.

"It will allow them to fine tune their skills and increase their business knowledge which will in turn help our companies become more productive and competitive."

The scholarships, which were launched in 2010, allow the recipients to study at prestigious international institutions including Stanford Business School, London Business School and the INSEAD Business School.

The study programmes range from 5 days, to blocks over several months. Recipients will receive up to \$54,000 to cover half of the cost of their course and expenses. Economic Development Minister Steven Joyce says the calibre of this year's applicants was extremely high.

"These scholarships recognise the skills, achievements and potential of some of New Zealand's up and coming business

leaders. The calibre of this year's recipients has been incredibly high and the study they undertake will have many positive flow-on effects for Kiwi businesses," says Mr Joyce.

Tell us a bit about yourself...

"When I'm not working, I love to read, cook and spend time with my three year old son Kayan."

Are there any projects you are working on at the moment that are/is interesting?
"Currently at Harvard having the most surreal experience of my life."

What do you enjoy the most about what you do? Why?

"Meeting a diverse set of people and understanding how the business world works."

What are the challenges of what you do? Why?

"Being female in a male dominated industry. (Engineering has always been this way)."

What advice do you have for readers who might be interested in pursuing what you do?

"Don't give up. Believe in yourself and surround yourself with people that believe in you."

Words of wisdom / encouragement

"Be yourself, be honest and believe in your own abilities to get things done."

Where can readers find out more?

"My linkedin profile: nz.linkedin.com/in/henakhunti/"

A Dream Job

Anjana Odedra

Name:	Anjana Odedra
Location:	Delhi
Roots in India:	Dad from Tukda and Mum from Modhwada
Education:	BA Hons in Fashion and Textiles Management
Work Background:	After graduating i joined Next as a trainee buyer, 5 and a half years later i am working in Delhi as a Product Manager



*Anjana Odedra with her
fashion designer*

What do you currently do for a living?

I am working from Next's sourcing office in Delhi where I head up the design and development out of India for Children's Clothing and Women's Accessories.

Are there any current Projects that you are working on that are interesting?

My design team and I are currently working on a project to design vintage inspired party dresses

What do you enjoy the most about what you do and why?

Designing is by far the best part of my job, so its usually the start of each season when we work on the new collections that I enjoy the most. Researching trends, sourcing new fabrics, developing new designs is just some of the things i have to do. Being in India allows me to work on the design from the initial concept through to the finished garment. You not only see your design from paper to the finished garment but also get to be involved in the process of creating it yourself. India has such a rich heritage of traditional arts and crafts that can be applied to fashion, I love learning about the different techniques and skills so we can apply them to our designs. The fact that no 2 days in this job are the same is also a bonus...One day I may be in the market sourcing new fabrics for a design, another day I might be in the factory working with the pattern cutters to fit the garment or sitting with the beaders to choose the beads and sequins for a particular embellishment.

What are the challenges of what you do?

The biggest challenge is living in India which is ironic because when I moved to India I thought that would be the easy part...I am Indian after all, I speak Hindi, I eat spicy food, I watch Bollywood films...how hard could this be right?! WRONG! Everything from registering for electricity to ordering a pizza, requires a vigorous process involving several different departments and a dozen people each more inefficient than the last where the outcome is usually "computer say's no"



A Dream Job

Anjana Odedra

What advice do you have for readers who might be interested in a career in what you do?

There is the common misconception that working in the fashion industry is glamorous, that you get paid lots of money to travel the world and design clothes that you would want to buy. Whilst there are several glamorous elements to the job the reality is that the fashion industry is very competitive and ruthless so be prepared to work hard.



Buying isn't just about choosing nice clothes, the business side is just as important as the design. You will be analysing sales, budgets and profitability in order to plan your ranges so you must be comfortable with numbers.

Unless you know someone in the industry be prepared to start at the bottom and work your way up... the first month of my graduate job was spent photocopying, cutting endless swatches of fabric and tidying the racking (which is a glorified storage cupboard) sweating in the dark trying not to trip and fall in 4 inch heels and skirt.

As a trainee you will spend a lot of time running around chasing samples, making labels, printing copying and generally doing all the jobs everyone is either too busy to do or doesn't want to do. Be prepared to put in the work and do it with a smile on your face.

A summer work placement or sandwich degree course offering a year in industry will really set you apart from other candidates when applying for a job. The experience will not only give you the hands on skills you need for the job, It will also give you a taste of the reality so you can see if its really what you want to do! Where can readers find out more:

[http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2010/apr/29/top-tips-career-fashion-](http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2010/apr/29/top-tips-career-fashion)
<http://www.glamour.com/fashion/2012/08/how-to-get-a-job-in-the-fashion-industry-glamour-september-2012>



Politics

Lakshmi-Raj Modhwadia

Name	Lakshmi-Raj Modhwadia
Location	London
Tell us a bit about yourself	MSc candidate in International Relations of the Americas at UCL, a member of the Conservative Party and an executive assistant at a specialist finance firm.
Educational background	<p>- International Baccalaureate at college - English, French, History, Maths, Biology, Italian.</p> <p>-BA History and Politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London).</p> <p>-MSc International Relations of the Americas at UCL (University College London) -</p>



What do you currently do for a living?

"Alongside my masters, I work as an assistant in a specialist finance firm in Central London. A lot of people think Finance/Politics are two completely different fields but I'd like to use the knowledge I gain from working in finance and apply it to a career in politics in the future. In politics, stewardship of the economy is a big discussion point, so working in this sector is providing me with a fantastic understanding of some topical economic issues.

I am also a member of the Conservative Party, so I work with my local Conservative Party association, providing support in the run-up to the election.

Having also stood as the Conservative Party candidate in the council elections in 2011, I have extensive experience of working on a political campaign and I really enjoy this part of politics- it's the most hands-on bit!

Work background

"During my undergraduate degree, I interned at the European Parliament in Brussels with a Conservative MEP, Emma McClarkin. I also interned in the UK parliament with a Conservative MP, Greg Hands. I was primarily involved in casework but at the European Parliament, I attended numerous networking events on behalf of the MEP I worked for and trade meetings, in which I learned about the economic relationship between the UK and the EU.

In addition to this, I interned at the Sunday Times newspaper in London (I applied for this after writing articles for the Leicester Mercury newspaper)."



Politics

Lakshmi-Raj Modhwadia

How did you get in to your line of work?

"At school, from a young age, I always enjoyed debating; it was the opportunity to challenge someone's viewpoint in a constructive manner, that particularly appealed to me. Regardless of what we

Were debating about, the debating itself was more important, as a life-long skill that I would end up using in every part of my life. Debating also helps you to become more confident about public speaking, which is why I believe every child should be thoroughly trained in it. It also endows you with analytical skills, the ability to think quickly, in order to challenge your opponent, and the ability to capture your argument in a few, concise but powerful words, without waffling. This is very important because politicians often use "sound-bites" in election campaigns - for instance, Ronald Reagan's most famous one was "It's morning in America, again".

Also, as a teenager, I would watch Prime Minister's Question time religiously! It was a "fun" and accessible way for any teenager to engage in politics. So I combined my interests in Politics and debating by getting involved in Party Politics."

Are there any projects you are working on at the moment that are interesting?

"Two years ago, I founded my own company/organisation, which is called Debater and which has grown tremendously over the past few years (www.debater.org.uk). We work with debating societies from universities and colleges across the UK, to encourage learning through debate. I have a team of 15 writers who produce some brilliant material for us. We are currently working on a project entitled, "The Parliamentary Series", for which I interview a different politician in Westminster each month. Last month, I interviewed Zac Goldsmith (Conservative MP for Richmond Park and North Kingston) and Andrew Mitchell (Conservative MP for Sutton Coldfield) who was recently mired in the Plebgate Scandal.



This month, I am interviewing Norman Baker, a Liberal Democrat MP who was recently promoted in the Home Office and Peter Lilley, a Conservative MP who was highly regarded in the Thatcher government. Alongside this, we are working on a project in India, carrying out interviews with Indian politicians ahead of the election this year, in order to try and promote transparency. I am also trying to lobby the government to introduce more "debate" into secondary school education, which will hopefully encourage more bilateral, discussion-focused learning as opposed to the traditional learning method of regurgitating everything your teacher says.

To combine my interests in Politics and Finance, I am also currently involved in a project with a colleague about the "Criminalisation of Corporate Conduct" in London.

Next month, I will be travelling to New York and Washington to interview US senators for my Master's thesis, which is about US economic policy toward India. I will be using case studies such as Tata and Harley-Davidson.

In addition to this, I am an art collector and recently set up a virtual art auction website with a friend, and we also exhibit at trade events."



Politics

Lakshmi-Raj Modhwadia

What do you enjoy the most about what you do? Why?

“Going to Westminster to interview politicians is probably the best bit! I get to probe them about a whole range of topical issues. The other part I really enjoy is attending events - I am a member of the Conservative Friends of Russia and I attend their events/seminars/discussions once a month. This is a great way to meet people from a range of backgrounds and who all want to make a difference, by involving themselves in policy discussions and international relations.”

What advice do you have for readers who might be interested in pursuing what you do?

“If you want to get involved in party politics

or stand in an election, then join your local party and start working with the local association. Each party is different, but the Conservatives hold exciting events where you can meet others like yourself or get involved in policy-making and discussions etc.

If you want to get into finance, you don't necessarily require a degree in Economics or a finance-based subject, you just need to be good at Math! So start interning so that you have a fantastic CV once you have graduated.”

Where can readers find out more?

Contact me: lux.modh@gmail.com.





Mauritius

Suresh Sida

Mauritius is a fascinating, world-in-one-island slice of paradise. Its very name conjures up images of tropical luxury and stupendous extravagance. While many destinations are famed for cobalt-blue seas, white sandy beaches and luxury hotels, you may eventually find yourself wishing for something to do besides sunbathing and swimming as it's often hard to know what to do next in Mauritius.



The capital Port Louis, situated on the coast is worth a visit. With bustling shopping streets and a modern business district, complete with sky scrapers, makes Port Louis the commercial hub of Mauritius. It also offers an enticing range of restaurants, bars and café's and cinemas showing bollywood and hollywood films. Port Louis can be a good place to feel the pulse of the country and to get an alternative slant on the island's rarefied world of resorts and private beaches. Most interest lies amongst the bustle and chaos of the streets, the tangle of ethnic quarters and some wonderfully preserved colonial buildings.



Ganga Talav is also a place of interest. It's said that water from the river Ganges was transported to Mauritius and into the Ganga Talav. Surrounded by temples and statues of Gods, it's a relaxing and peaceful place to spend a few hours and is often likened to a modern version of Haridwar.



My personal experience of Mauritius is of beautiful sandy beaches, clear blue water, outstanding international cuisine, lush landscapes and luxurious hotels. It's a destination that I will be visiting again since I was last there in 2006 with my family.





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At The Maher Community Centre



**15 Ravensbridge Drive
Leicester
LE4 OBZ**

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aged 16 and
under.**

**On Saturday 13th
December 2014
from 3pm until
7pm**



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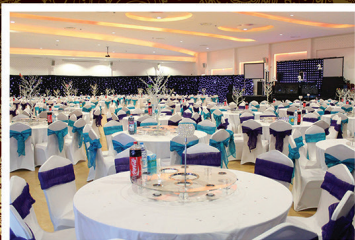
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