

## Family Day Out

This year's National Family Day Out was held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. It's usually held at Kingsbury Park in the Midlands and this was the first year at Wickstead Park in Kettering which is great news for us as it's so local!

Considering the unpredictable weather, the turnout was very good although trying to fight against the wind proved very challenging particularly when trying to put up the gazebos and lighting the BBQs!

People descended from all over the country and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The day kicked off around 10am. As usual, food and drink was in plentiful supply, it just kept coming! To help digest all of the over indulgence, a few games of football, cricket, tennis and even golf were played.

In the afternoon, some of the younger members walked down to the amusements whilst the "elders" sat and you guessed it, ate and drank some more!

Things began to wind down in the late afternoon and eventually finished around 7pm when the last of the revellers finally left. All in all, it was a terrific day and we hope see you all again next year!



## Well Done Meera!

A very well done to Meera has been voted Northampton School's Badminton County Association squad girl of the year for the second year in a row!

She is the first Indian girl in the history of Northamptonshire County badminton to win it two years in a row and she also won the under 11 girl's singles tournament for the second year running. She also makes history as the only Indian girl to win it two years in a row.

Not content with all of that, Meera was voted the parent's support association squad girl of the year. Next year she will be competing at under 13 level which brings new challenges for her to face. Let's hope she keeps it up!



**Don't forget, Badminton Club takes place every Thursday at the Hindu Community Centre from 7.15pm to 8.45pm. Cost: £3 for adults, £1.50 for fewer than 16s**



## Wellingborough branch newsletter

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All written correspondence to: Dhirubhai Mistry, 83 Midland Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1LU

### Branch AGM

This year's Branch AGM was held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May at the Hindu Community Centre in Wellingborough.

It was disappointing to see the low level of attendance. However, thank you to all of those who did attend. The new committee is shown on the right.

### Diary Dates

- 13/7/08 Jagran Raat
- 16/7/08 Jaya Parvati Vrat begins
- 18/7/08 Guru Purnima
- 30/8/08 SPA (UK) Sports day at Loughborough University

- President
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer
- Custodian Trustee/Youth/Sports
- Assistant Youth/Sports
- Mahila Representative
- Assistant Mahila Rep
- Committee Member
- Committee Member
- Committee Member
- Committee Member
- Newsletter Editor
- Webmaster

- Bhupendrabhai Mistry
- Chirubhai Mistry
- Narashbhai Lad
- Kalpanaben Mistry
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- Neelaben Mistry
- Shardaben Mistry
- Ishwarbhai Mistry
- Bhanuben Lad
- Hansaben Mistry
- Rakhiben Mistry
- Satishbhai Mistry
- Nimishbhai Lad

## Sports Day 2008

This year's Sports Day is on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August at Loughborough University. If you would like to participate, please contact Nanubhai on 01604 784864 ASAP.

Kajal is hoping to enter a netball team this year and needs volunteers. Doesn't matter on your ability! If you are interested, call her as soon as possible as she is trying to arrange some practice sessions. Her telephone number is 01933 380878.

Leicester Branch is arranging an *After Sports Day Party*. It's open to all branches and tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis. Full details are attached on a separate poster. If you want tickets, please advise Nanubhai ASAP.

## Waendel Walk

Held on 10<sup>th</sup> May, the turnout this year was fantastic not only from our branch but also from our friends at Birmingham, Leicester and Rugby. The total number representing SPA (UK) was 47.

- 10 km - 16 from Wellingborough, 10 from Leicester and 1 from Rugby
- 15 km - 3 from Wellingborough and 5 from Birmingham
- 25 km - 7 from Wellingborough, 4 from Birmingham and 1 from Rugby

### 10km

This year we had a big turnout with 27 people taking part. The ages ranged from 7 to 71 and at least half the group had only walked 5km last year! So, would they cope with the extra distance, walk through stinging nettles, side step and shimmy around fresh "cow pats", avoid treading on sheep "poo" and be able to climb "Mount Everest" (i.e. the big steep hill at Great Doddington)? Well much to the surprise of some, they all managed this incredible challenge comfortably and finished in reasonable time with no incidents along the way.

Some of the kids in the group now want a bigger challenge next year and are considering doing the 15km walk next year. So, watch out you 25km walkers, the kids could beat you to the 42km walk.

Report by Harish Mistry

### 15km

Eight people took part in the 15km walk. The day started off well with the weather being sunny and as the day went on, the temperature increased. This was the first time I had taken part and I found that it was good fun just walking through fields and enjoying the local scenery that I have not paid much attention to in the past. From the start of the walk, this little dog, we don't know who it belonged to, followed us all the way to the Earls Barton check point ... it didn't help because all of us are scared of dogs!

Report by Kajal Prajapati

### 25km

As usual, one of our participants started early at 7am and no guessing who it was .. yes, our resident speedy Gorzales alias Dhirubhai. The rest of us started at 8.45am and split into small groups, chatting with each other and exchanging niceties with local and international walkers. Along the way, we came across a Spanish group from Barcelona and the only word in Spanish that I know is hola (hello) which I said and next, unbeknown to me, our multi-lingual walker Vinay, started chatting in Spanish to them! Like last year we stopped for a pub lunch at the Stag's Head in Great Doddington. Worry not Vinay, next year you will be able buy a beer at the bar! We set off after lunch to finish the last 4km. Sorry to say Satish did not see his Dutch lady friend from last year!

I'd like to thank all the participants for taking part and making it very memorable. Overall everybody had a great time and next year we hope to win the biggest team award as we were runners up this year.

Final point from me - if a 7 year old and a 71 year old can give one day for charity, I am sure there are many more younger and fitter Samaj members who can do likewise ... let's see more of you next year!

Report by Nanubhai Mistry



## Shree Bhuvaneshwari Ma Chandi Path Samuh Havan

Shree Bhuvaneshwari Ma Chandi Path Samuh Havan Pujan, organised by our Samaj took place on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May at the Hindu Community Centre in Wellingborough. It was a beautiful day and the weather was dry and sunny. The preparation of the venue and Maha Farshad started at 6am.

Over 250 people attended and 19 Yajmans took part in the Havan. The main Yajmans of the day were Vishal and Poonam Patel from Wellingborough.

The Pooja ceremony was conducted by Shastri Shree Lahabshankerbhai Joshi from Shree Bhuvaneshwari Mandir Gondal. The Pooja began with the arrival of the Yajmans from 8.30am. The hall was prepared for the function by volunteers and members of the committee and Maha Bhajan Prasad was prepared by our Mahila members and Mandir volunteers who also donated some of the cost as did some of the committee members.

The Samuh Havan Pujan began at 9am and followed by Chandi Path and Havan. Throughout the event committee members and volunteers were on hand to meet the need of the Yajmans and the public.

His Divine Holiness Acharya Shree Ganeshyaji Maharaj arrived at 10am after visiting the Mandir.

The Havan Pujan included the Thal and Aarti and finished at 1.15pm. This was followed by a short discourse by His Divine Holiness Acharya Shree Ganeshyaji Maharaj. He praised our Samaj on the work it was doing and the dedication shown towards religious events. He also praised the charity work our Samaj was doing for the less fortunate. He then gave a blessing to all the devotees.

The money raised from this event will go towards the chosen charity for this year which is Alzheimer's Society.

It is sad to comment once again that we were disappointed with the lack of attendance from our Samaj members. The committee would like to thank all the members of the community who gave donations and helped throughout the day to make this function very successful.



## Shree Prajapati Education Foundation

A ray of hope...

Shree Prajapati Education Foundation (SPEF) is a registered charity organisation committed to the upliftment of the Prajapati community from discrimination and poverty by encouraging excellence in student education. It is the mandate of SPEF to provide equal opportunities for both males and females within the Prajapati (South Gujarat) community. Since the time SPEF was founded in 2002, they have supported between two and five new students every year. To continue to support new students from their entry into university to their completion, they require a few more families to come forward to support these needy students.

For more details, visit <http://www.prajapatieducationfoundation.org>

