

GUJARATI ARYA ASSOCIATION LEICESTER - NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 - Aug 2024



A WARM WELCOME FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Hello everyone and welcome to the first of our Gujarati Arya Association, Leicester Newsletter!

I would like to start by thanking all of those, who attended the annual general meeting on Sunday 9th June 2024. It is a great honour to have been voted in as the new president. Thank you to all who nominated and elected me. Your trust and support in me is much appreciated. I shall try my hardest to fulfil my role with the support from the committee and yourselves.

Reflecting on the months ahead, as part of my role I would like to build upon the hard work of previous committee members. It is important to acknowledge all the years of hard work, time and effort that they have contributed towards building the community we have today. Looking into the future, we want to continue evolving to ensure our community thrives and is a place for our future generations to come and enjoy. However, we cannot do this without your support. Therefore, as the new committee, we would encourage you to get in touch with any suggestions you have. Whilst I cannot promise that every idea will happen, I can promise that we will consider each proposal and try our utmost to plan events for both the older and younger members of our community.

Thank you once again, and I look forward to your continued support.

Best wishes,
Dhirajlal Mohanbhai Chauhan

In this Newsletter

President's
Message

Committee
Introduction

Religious Dates
for your diary

Upcoming
Events

Sports Update

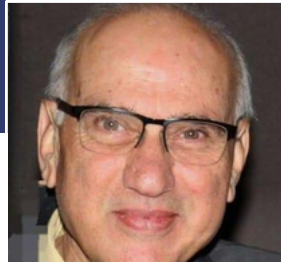
How to keep
in touch

OUR NEW TRUSTEES

The role of the trustees is to guide the incumbent executive committee, ensuring that the constitution is upheld. It is a role held by members who have a wealth of experience in various areas, and therefore are able to offer advice, as and when required.



Kishorbhai Solanki
Trustee



Pravinbhai B Parmar
Trustee



Pravinbhai M Parmar
Trustee



Bipinbhai Chauhan
Trustee



Vijaybhai Rathod
Trustee

NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Dhirajlal Mohanbhai Chauhan
President

I was an active member in our GAA Leicester sports, helping out as a trainer for our ladies rounders. Following on from this, we formed a group called Voice to encourage our youngsters & elders to take part in events. After that, I was elected as a treasurer for GAA Leicester for 4 years in total (2 years as the treasurer and then 2 years as an assistant). I then became a member of the committee for 2 years and have recently been elected as the president.



Kokiben Parmar
Vice President

I joined our Mandal over 15 years ago in various areas of GAA, from assisting in cultural events to playing rounders for Leicester Aryans. A few years later, I became a committee member & was part of the GAA Voice. I have a keen attention to detail & love the social aspect of organising events to bring our community together. My hobbies include yoga, sewing, cooking and gardening & spending quality time with my granddaughters. My aim as Vice President, is to support Dhirubhai in making sound improvements for our current community & future generations.



Amratbhai Chauhan
Secretary

I have been a member of the GAA since 2002, when I started as a committee member. I then took the post of Assistant Secretary before becoming the secretary in 2015. Over the last few years, using my organisational experience from my role within the manufacturing industry, I have helped put procedures and systems in place to help our hall and community run as efficiently as possible. In my spare time I enjoy playing pool, watching sports, DIY and maintenance & keeping active.



Tanujaben Chauhan
Assistant Secretary

I joined in 2022 as a committee member. Within the role as Ass. Secretary, I can apply my administrative, organisational & event planning skills, acquired whilst managing our own pharmacy business. Although, I'm now retired I want to introduce some health and wellbeing awareness events in addition to our cultural & social events. I am very proud that after 50 years, the GAA Leicester team continue working hard as a committee & as a community in promoting our Hindu, Gujarati culture to the next & future generations whilst continuing the legacy of our founder members.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Babubhai Rathod
Treasurer

I have been the treasurer for a number of years and am very pleased that I am continuing this role. I enjoy helping at all the community events.



Navinbhai Chauhan
Assistant Treasurer

For the previous 2 years, I was a trustee of the committee. I was a formally a pharmacist, running my own shop & dealing with finances, giving me extensive experience for this role. I am also a volunteer trustee for Age UK Leicester & an active participant in a Leicester Interfaith group. In my spare time, I also partake in learning about Hinduism and spiritualism. I believe that the committee needs to be progressive, and with this new committee, I believe that I can help for this to happen.



Hersheyben Champaneri
Cultural Secretary

I have been a committee member since 2022, previously as Ass. Cultural Secretary. Currently I'm also the secretary for the GAKM. My inspiration is my Bapuji, who was a committee member in Fiji & I've always wanted to follow in his footsteps. In my youth, I trained in Indian Classical dance & enjoy singing too. You'll often find me singing bhajans at community events! I'm passionate about keeping our culture alive, within both older and younger generations. As a business woman & beauty therapist, I love making people feel good about themselves.



Arvinbhai Chauhan
Assistant Cultural Secretary

For many years, I have helped as part of the Leicester Committee, especially with our religious and cultural events. I also enjoy helping behind the scenes in the kitchen, to assist the Mahila Mandal.



Jagdishbhai Gopal
Store Keeper

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Binduben Chauhan

My journey with GAA started 20 years ago, playing five a side ladies football. That's when my passion to support our samaj started. I became a committee member & GAA Voice member soon after. From my background within the NHS, I have strong organisational skills & look forward to helping with all the events we have planned.



Hemaben Parmar

I have been a member for 3 years, with an active role in the Cultural team. I want to be involved by bringing in opportunities that would open a wider participation from female & younger members. I have worked within the Fashion & Textiles industry for 25 years as a project & team manager. I love working as part of a group & individual projects too.



Vinodbhai Ghadiali

I have been supporting the community for over 40 years. My involvement began as secretary in 1982. After a break, I returned as Vice President before becoming the GAA president in 2022. Professionally, I have worked in the local government & for the BBC. My hobbies include reading, writing & acting. I like to help people by getting involved in community work.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



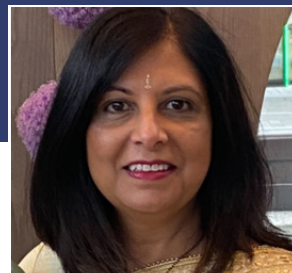
Prabhaben Gopal

I have been helping the GAA committee for 5 years, starting as a co-op member & then moving onto the cultural team as a committee member. I enjoy helping with cultural events & love using my creative skills. I am dedicated to giving my time and knowledge to help our community.



Pravinbhai Parmar

I have been a part of the committee for the last 3 years. My reason for wanting to help, is to continue to bring the community together through all the various events. As a former IT Technician, I'm happy to help with any IT services I can. Outside of this, I enjoy music.



Pratibhaben Parmar

I joined the GAA Cultural Team in 2022, to follow in the footsteps of my mother, mother-in-law & wider family. They inspired me to help our community, specifically to engage future generations to continue with our culture. I'm passionate about health & wellness, and helping people learn new things. I would like to make a positive impact on the lives of others every day.



**Mukeshbhai
Bulsara**



**Kishorbhai
Chauhan**



Dipakbhai Parmar

CO-OP MEMBERS



Rashmikaben Jethwa

My background is in childcare, working in a special needs school as a teaching assistant. I have been in the committee for over two years and enjoy helping organise events for the community. My hobbies are gardening, cooking, decorating things for festivals, flowers arranging and making garlands for weddings and festivals. I enjoy spending time with my family and grandchildren.



Sharmilaben Chavda

I want to join GAA Leicester to help contribute to the community that I have known and been a part of for many years. I am eager to bring my energy and enthusiasm to the team. I am excited & enthusiastic about the prospect of working alongside like-minded individuals who share the enthusiasm for our heritage & community spirit. My hobbies are music, travel and hiking.

CO-OP MEMBERS



Meenaben Chouhan

I've joined Leicester GAA because I wanted to be part of the team who dedicate their own precious time and efforts volunteering, to help to bring our community together. I also value the hard work & dedication shown by the committee over the years. I feel like it is now my turn to give back. Volunteering will make me feel like I belong, build relationships with elderly and young people, expand my knowledge and social skills and have fun with it along the way. Volunteering for the community will definitely improve my physical and mental health.



Mukeshbhai Chouhan

Joining GAA was always at the back of my mind. Working full time and away from home stopped me from joining earlier, but now seems to be the right time even as a Co-op member. There are lots of benefits from volunteering: learning new skills, meeting new people, giving ideas, boosting confidence and encouraging mental wellbeing. I want to give something back to my community that has served me well for many many years and in doing so, gain experience from new and past members.



Monica Chauhan

I first joined the committee in 2007, before taking a break & returning as the Marketing & Media co-op member in this AGM. I am excited about helping the new committee with all the upcoming events they have planned and am looking forward to seeing new faces of our community through these.

MAHILA MANDAL COMMITTEE



Induben Rathod
President



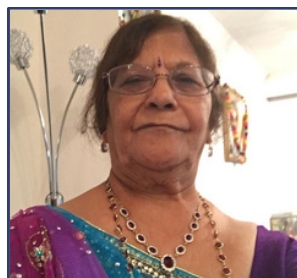
Meenaben Chauhan
Vice President



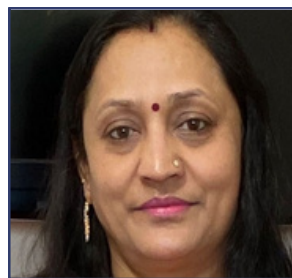
Ushaben Chohan
Secretary



Dakshaben Parmar



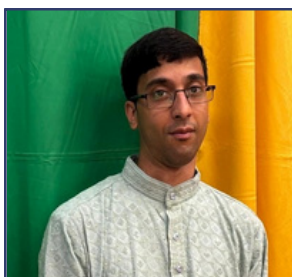
Madhuben Champaneri



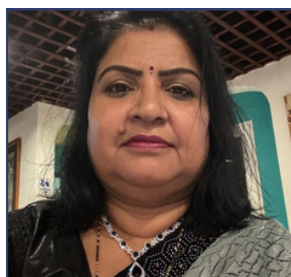
Heenaben Chauhan



Jayshreeben Chauhan



Bhavinbhai Chauhan



Gitaben Chauhan



Jagdishbhai Chauhan



Committee update

We kicked off the first event for the community with our **Nori Nom celebrations**. The committee and co-op members made delicious Vardhu and over 500 rotis for the community, It was wonderful to see everyone and we thank all our members for their support.

Last month, our committee members also took time out of their weekend to tackle the gardening duties around our car park. There was plenty of weeding and pruning to be done!

Finally, our Cultural Team have lots of events organised for the next few months. Please see our 'Upcoming Events' page to ensure you mark them in your diaries!

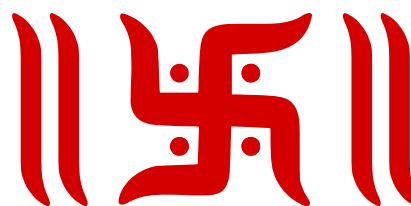


Community News

Let's celebrate the successes of our community! Have you or your family member celebrated any achievements over the last few months? These can be anything from educational, sports, charity or even musical!

We would love to share these with the rest of our community and celebrate all our members of all ages.

To send us the details and a photograph (if you wish), contact Monica by emailing gaaeventsleicester@gmail.com



Janmastami - Mon 26th Aug

Shravan End - Mon 2nd Sept

Ganesh Chaturti - Sat 7th Sept

Navratri - Thurs 3rd - Fri 11th Oct

Aatham - Fri 11th Oct

Dussehra - Sat 12th Oct

Sharad Poonam - Wed 16th Oct

Dhanteras - Tues 29th Oct

Kali Chaudas - Wed 30th Oct

Diwali - Thurs 31st Oct

Bestu Varas - Sat 2nd Nov



SPORTS UPDATE

Cricket

Aryans Cricket Club Leicester has had an eventful season so far, displaying both determination and skill on the field. Competing in Division 4 of the Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket League, the team has put in a solid performance, with a mix of victories and closely contested matches.

The batting line-up has been consistent, with several players contributing crucial runs at key times and in crucial games. The bowlers have also played a significant role, delivering tight spells and taking important wickets. The team's fielding has been sharp, often proving decisive in close encounters. Despite a few setbacks, Aryans Cricket Club has remained competitive, with their teamwork and spirit evident throughout the season. As the campaign progresses, the club is well-positioned to build on their successes of the last three seasons, and aim for a strong finish in the remaining fixtures. Overall, the season has been promising, with the team showing great potential for further achievements.



**DO YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY?
PERHAPS YOU HAVE A SKILL THAT MAY BE PERFECT
TO SHARE AND HELP OUR OTHER MEMBERS?**

We are looking for members to help with events, hall maintenance, sports and much more.

Your time would be on a voluntary case by case basis. No regular commitment required!

If you would like to join our GAA Volunteer Group, please contact gaaeventsleicester@gmail.com



Upcoming Events



SEPT
15
11AM - 5PM
SENIOR CITIZEN
GATHERING

SEPT
27
6.30PM - 8.30PM
SHRADDH
BHAJANS

SEPT
29
11AM - 3PM
MACMILLIAN
CHAI NASTO

OCT
3-12
EVERY EVENING
NAVRATRI

OCT
5
1 - 3PM
KIDS GARBA &
AARTI COMPETITION

OCT
11
9AM
AATHEM
HAVAN

OCT
12
EVENING
KIDS NAVRATRI FANCY
DRESS COMPETITION

NOV
2
4PM - 6PM
BESTU VARAS
GATHERING

DEC
TBC
KIDS CHRISTMAS
PARTY





STAY UP TO DATE WITH ALL THE GAA LEICESTER NEWS!



Subscribe to our Patrika by email. Please contact **gaaeventsleicester@gmail.com** to be added to our mailing list



Subscribe to our **GAA Leicester WhatsApp channel!**

To subscribe, scan the **QR code below** with your mobile phone camera. This will bring up a link to a WhatsApp link. Click on this to subscribe to our GAA Leicester Channel.

By subscribing to our channel, you will receive any information on upcoming events. births, deaths, marriages and the Leicester Patrika.



Follow all our updates on our **GAA Leicester Facebook Group**



To contact us directly, please telephone on 0116 266 8967



DONATE



If you would like to support any of our events by donating money or gifts, please get in touch with our team. Your donations are very appreciated.