

# Navjivan Vadil Kendra

(Monthly Newsletter)

Registered Charity No. 1121930

**Newsletter:** Issue 5. Vol-10 (October, 2011)

Thursday Meetings at: Sattavis Patidar Centre, Forty Avenue, Wembley, MIDDX HA9 9PE



[www.nvk.org.uk](http://www.nvk.org.uk)

## **Honorary Patron:**

Manick Choraria

## **President:**

Pranlal V Parekh  
020 8902 7126

## **Vice President:**

Mahendra P Kothary  
020 8907 7188

## **Secretary:**

Jayant U Doshi  
32 Adelaide Close  
STANMORE  
HA7 3EN  
020 8954 1859

## **Treasurer:**

Baburai T Shah  
020 8440 9968

## **Joint Treasurer:**

Himatlal Mehta  
020 8427 2379

## **Webmaster :**

Madhusinh Rawji

## **Trip Organiser :**

Vinod Parekh

## **Entertainment :**

Jasuben Sheth

## **Committee:**

Indrakant Bakhai  
Navnitlal Shah  
Pragna Mandalia  
Bhadra Sheth  
Chandulal Parekh  
Dr Vinod Kapashi  
Co-op  
Shashikant Malde  
Praful G Shah

## Lunch

Celebrating a special birthday, or wedding anniversary! Or in memory of some one dear! Then **Sponsor** a lunch for **£225.00**.

## Guest Members:

As we have enough members, we normally do not encourage any outsiders to come to our Thursday gathering. Only **existing members** can bring **guests from out of town**.

Guest fee is £5.00

## Surendra D Mehta – A Tribute

It was in February 2001 that I first met Surendra at the first meeting called to start bridge in Navnat Bhavan. Before that I only saw him at every annual general meeting. Soon after bridge became a regular activity, Surendra was faced with a demand he did not agree with and would not accept. It was then that I talked to him and he accepted my line of reasoning and changed his mind. From that day onwards we built a relationship of mutual respect and trust.

Over the next ten years or more, we worked in four organisations – Navnat Bridge Club, Navnat Yuva Vadil Mandal, Harrow Elders Group and Navjivan Vadil Kendra – and during that period we took advice and consulted each other over many matters. We discussed many issues, agreed and disagreed many times, but each one persisted with their viewpoint when they felt so, and gracefully accepted other's viewpoint when they felt it was right. I cannot recollect a single incident when we left the issue unresolved.

When Navjivan Vadil Kendra was formed on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2007, he was one of the founding members. He totally believed and dedicated himself to the objectives of NVK. When asked to take a post, he made it very clear that he was not interested. Over the years, NVK members might have noticed that except making the weekly announcements he rarely did any physical work and that was because of his health. But his contribution to NVK was known most to the committee – but even more to me. What he did was most invaluable, and putting that into words here I am likely to not do justice to the reality.

The committee decided to create the post of Public Relations Officer, and Surendra was appointed to this post. The standard he set over the years was so good that any one following in his footsteps will find it difficult to match his meticulous and methodical way of working. All the members know him for his weekly announcements which were set out very methodically and did not ignore even minor points of instruction or advice to members. He also informed members of any programs being planned by other organisations, and which might be of interest to our members. And then the announcements were circulated to all members by email with the addition of some jokes, some interesting You Tube links, some quiz, some information on health or other issues - and members found the emails of immense value and a mine of information and pleasure. Also the announcements gave me immense help in writing the monthly newsletter.

However, for me he was a great mentor and advisor. I would send him at least 5 to 10 emails daily, and he would respond to each within the hour. We discussed possible future programs. We discussed planned programs and he kept reminding me about every small detail to ensure that the program was perfect. We would go and see the place before planning a day trip. He would check the weather forecast few days before the event. He would go over small details on every trip, program or plan – things which I may never have thought about. He would check and correct mistakes on the newsletter.

He kept very extensive records of all members – address, contact numbers, email, doctor's details, nearest relatives, date of birth etc. He also maintained a very accurate list of those on waiting list. He sent out emails as and when required or asked to do so. He was perfect and accurate in everything he did. He kept in touch with councillors, mayors and politicians and helped to improve our image. He loved bridge and over ten years taught to hundreds of people. If they all are now enjoying this wonderful game than it is thanks to him.

NVK has lost a very good and dedicated volunteer – but I have lost my right arm. May his soul rest in peace....Om Shanti Shanti Shanti.

**OUR CONDOLENCES :** Our member Magan Bhana Patel passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> September after short illness. We convey our condolences to the family. May his soul rest in peace....Om Shanti Shanti Shanti.

**NEW MEMBER :** Praful G Shah has been co-opted to the committee.

## National Sewa Day – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011.

*Sewa, literally translated means “to serve” and Sewa Day was started in this country with the aim of doing something for the local community, to give our Sewa wherever it was needed. The whole idea of “Sewa Day” was to give service to the community – not by donating or collecting money – but by giving some time and effort to serve the community. Thousands of volunteers all over the country, and perhaps in other countries also, give their time to do “Sewa” on this occasion. This will be our (Hindu community) contribution to the local community.*

*National Sewa Day was started in 2010 when we participated and visited some care homes and entertained the residents. For our second Sewa Day we decided to invite guests from care homes, and others who deserved to be entertained and looked after for a day as part of our Sewa. We had 16 residents from Birchwood Care Home, 10 from a shelter accommodation and other 10 brought in by our members. These were accompanied by their carers, relatives and managers. We had guests of different races – but the common theme was that they were lonely, disabled and unable to go out.*

*We had chair yoga which fascinated our guests and they participated with joy. We had dance performance by a professional dancer, game of pass the parcel where all the guests participated. This was followed by lunch which our guests appreciated and enjoyed. After lunch we had another classical dance and than ras garba performed by our own members. This was followed by tea and biscuits. Each guest was given a token gift. It was a great day and the happiness and smiles on our guests were good enough reward for our efforts.*

*All the volunteers worked well. Some of the guests were so touched and overjoyed that it brought tears of joy in their eyes. Our Pragnaben Mandalia put in a lot of effort to make this a very successful day. And she was helped by many of our members - and we thank all the volunteers for making this a successful day. The day made our guests very happy and they were touched by our hospitality and entertainment. In appreciation we received following donations for which we thank them.*

1. **£11.25** from Kundanben J Malde.
2. **£50.00** from Joan Wrigley

***The donations are a reflection of the joy and pleasure they derived on this day.***

***Chas :*** Chas for the month of September has been sponsored by Shardaben Surendra Modi.

***Biscuits :*** Home made biscuits were donated by Ella and Kanta Shah on the Sewa Day.

### *Donation :*

- **£51.00** from Jaswanti Mehta on the occasion of the birth of granddaughter Devina to Vinesh & Priti. Our best best wishes for a healthy happy life.
- **£25.00** from an anonymous donor.

### *September Programs :*

1. 1<sup>st</sup> September - closed because of Paryushan.
2. 8<sup>th</sup> September - Hasmukh Shah demonstrated his memory and vast knowledge of old Bollywood films and songs. Members were amazed by his knowledge and memory.
3. 15<sup>th</sup> September – Tributes were paid to late Surendra D Mehta and programs for the day were cancelled.
4. 22<sup>nd</sup> September – Our contribution to National Sewa Day.
5. 29<sup>th</sup> September – Role play program where members displayed their talents.

### *Forthcoming Programs :*

- 6<sup>th</sup> October – Ras Garba to celebrate Navratri.
- 13<sup>th</sup> October – Program of folk songs and other Gujarati songs by Dhyani & Raju Barot.
- 20<sup>th</sup> October – Bingo
- 27<sup>th</sup> October – closed for New Year

***1<sup>st</sup> November Tuesday – Gala Diwali Party :*** We are having a gala Diwali Party on 1<sup>st</sup> November with sit down dinner and music program. Members need to buy tickets in advance for a token £1.00 charge (which is to monitor numbers) and guests have to buy tickets in advance for £10.00. Please contact Vinod Parekh (tel 020855375592) to get your tickets.

***Membership 2012 –*** Existing members can now apply for 2012 membership. The form is on the web site and is being sent by email. Fees are still maintained at **£65.00** per annum. Current members must apply by 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011 BUT cheques will be banked in January 2012.