

# Love and Light

SSSSO (UK) - monthly update



9<sup>th</sup> May 2005

## Greetings from the South!

Dear Friends -

Sai Ram to you all, I've just been travelling across Region 6 this weekend - attending the Public Meeting in East Horsley on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> meeting the SSE children of Reading Centre to receive cheques totalling £245.00 raised by them for 'Eye to Sai'. It was heartening to hear how the monies were raised through the practise of Ceiling on Desires - well done! It was a pleasure for me to address the latest batch of cohorts on the Sathya Sai Leadership Training Programme in Reading on April 17<sup>th</sup>. I hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter and the exciting Kodai supplement. I look forward to seeing you at the Interfaith programme on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May and on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May at Ellen's Green Satsang.

Love & Light

Shobhna Patel, UK Chair

## Sathya Sai National Interfaith Forum "Music for the Soul"

Sacred Music in Religion and Spirituality

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2005, 12.00pm - 4.00pm

at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1.

Through this musical event, we hope to encourage each person to expand their definition of who we are as members of one community. The extensive programme includes a Church of England Choir, eminent speakers on sacred music, Tibetan singing bowls, the Lord's Prayer sung in Aramaic, African drumming and various other presentations to uplift inspire and stir the soul towards the heavens.

If you need any further information contact:

Rita Chudasama, Co-ordinator,

ritashitu@hotmail.com

## Every Blessing from the UK to TAISSE!

A party of thirteen delegates and guests went from the UK to Zambia, Central Africa, to attend the Inauguration of **The Africa Institute of Sathya Sai Education (TAISSE)**. Our Zonal Chair, Kishin Khubchandani and delegates from around the world including the USA and Australia also attended. On the morning of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April, the overseas guests were received with African dancing by the Boys School; the Girls School later welcomed them. Some of us went to a workshop for African teachers conducted by an American, Doris Hampton, on

awareness of AIDS and how to bring values into the situation. Others met His Worship, The Mayor of Ndola, Councillor Chanda Mushota. In the afternoon the Institute Graduation Ceremony was held in the Sathya Sai School Auditorium and the Provincial Education Officer, Mr. J.B. Chilaka, gave an address.

**The Inauguration of TAISSE took place at the Institute, Ndola, in Zambia's 'Copperbelt' on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2005.** The school and Institute are situated on a 50-acre campus, which was once 'bush'. The Guest of Honour was the Hon. S. Chilufya Kazenene, the Copperbelt Provincial Minister. The Kamfinsa Police Brass Band played the national anthem. The cutting of the ribbon and unveiling of a plaque was performed by the guest of honour this was followed by a march into the hall by the African teachers. Rev Kabonde led everyone in prayer and the UCCZ Chifubu Church Choir intermittently sang songs. The Master of Ceremonies was the Headmaster of Chawama Basic School. Victor Kanu, Director of TAISSE, addressed us on several occasions including speaking about the United Nations 'HABITAT' & TAISSE partnership in African Water Development.

'When one receives education that is based on truth and eternal values, one will be able to achieve liberation without having to go through the process of submergence in worldly life. Therefore come forward to get the benefit of such education.'

Poem recited by Sri Sathya Sai Baba

The Mayor addressed us in the evening talking very warmly of his long connection with the School and Victor and Genevieve Kanu's long, dedicated and determined work to get to where they are today. These occasions were suffused with love and happiness the experience of which none of us would have missed. Lessons were learnt by all of us on many levels.

On Sunday, meetings were held by the Zambia School Trustees, which included Som Bahanda (Chair R8 - Scotland) and Ravi Manchanda (UK Sathya Sai Schools Co-ordinator). On the morning of Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, a meeting was held between TAISSE and BISSE to discuss how they can collaborate in the future.

Som and I had the pleasure of addressing Nairobi Sai Centre en route home.

**Carole Alderman, Director, BISSE**

sathyasaiehv@dial.pipex.com

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## Sathya Sai Human Values Network

The SSHV Network was initiated in the UK on 23 November 2004. The aims and objectives of the Network are primarily to provide a forum in which we can all share our views and ideas to enhance our understanding of the importance of human values in our everyday lives. Members are invited to post questions/ideas online based on selected topics, by logging onto the website: [www.sshvn.org.uk](http://www.sshvn.org.uk)

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## Silver 'Leicester Green Life' Award to Leicester Central Centre, Region 4

The 'Leicester Central' Centre located in the middle of the UK has been recognised by an Award for its 'positive contribution to the Environment' from the Leicester City Council. The members of the Centre have participated in numerous environmental nation-building projects in Leicestershire, over the past few years.

The City of Leicester became the UK's first 'Environmental City' in 1990. This year the City has introduced 'Leicester Green Life' Awards to recognise the environmental work of the people and organisations of Leicester.

The Silver Award to the Sri Sathya Sai Centre was in the category of 'Environmental Contribution by a Community Group'. The conservation officer stated: "The SSSSO has made a tremendous difference to three of our nature reserves".

The environmental activities undertaken by the Centre in recent years include:

Planting 300 trees on the Orchards Nature Reserve and over 400 trees at Buswells Primary School, Beaumont Leys. Laying 10 tonnes of mill waste on the path network at Watermead Ecology Park to prevent further path erosion. Post and rail fencing at Knighton Spinney Nature Reserve was cleared, allowing the public a safer access to the reserve. Removing old fencing and clearing up the area around Gartree Nature Park.

**Mukund Patel, Chair Region 4**

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## Region 6 Public Meeting

The first of the UK's Regional Public Meetings was conducted in East Horsley a few miles from Guildford, Surrey, in the centre of R6. UK Chair Shobhna Patel addressed the meeting and introduced the Speakers: Dr. Phil Heaton on the environment, Maurice Allen OBE on transformation, Rev. Rosemary Perry UK Vice-Chair on SSSSO (UK) and Sarah Miles, actress and author on 'Love'. The talks were followed by afternoon tea in a sunlit atmosphere of friendship and sharing.

**Philippa Malcomson, Chair Region 6**

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## News from Region 3

### Devotional Singing to Provide Spiritual Relief for Victims of Tsunami

A Regional 'Tsunami Relief Bhajans' was held at the SSE School in Ilford on the 16th April. The event was attended by some 400 people and included an emotional and awesome update by Dr. Upadyay on the March 2005 Sri Lanka Medical Camp.

### Region 3 Youth Symposium

A Youth Symposium was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April in Hatfield. The symposium was held to inspire the Youth to carry forward Swami's Message, through illustration of Swami's life and accomplishments. The event was well attended and included a game show to pass on knowledge of Swami's life, based on the familiar 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?' and 'The Weakest Link'. There was also a Discussion Forum to make the audience aware that Swami will leave his physical body in 16 years and the implications of that.

**Kishor Kumar, Chair R 3** [kishor.kumar@ssso.org.uk](mailto:kishor.kumar@ssso.org.uk)

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## Service Opportunities

### International Medical Camp, Russia

28th June–3rd July 2005

A team of medical volunteers General Doctors, Eye Specialists, Dentists etc are going to Russia to serve brothers and sisters in the testing conditions. We wish them a safe trip and pray to Swami to bless them with strength and guidance in this mission.

### Medical Volunteers required for future Medical Camps or at Swami's General hospital in Puttaparthi

You need to be a qualified and experienced medical practitioner willing to take 7/10 days out of your busy work schedule to serve others. Contact your Centre Chair for further information and application form.

**Bharat Handa, National Service Co-ordinator**

[ahfsl@aol.com](mailto:ahfsl@aol.com)

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## Diary Dates 2005

**UKCC Meetings:** Quarterly

**National Wing Meetings:** Quarterly

**Interfaith Days:** 28<sup>th</sup> May; 10<sup>th</sup> September; 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ellen's Green Satsang, R6:** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May

**Region 3 Satsang:** Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> June – all Regions invited

**SSE Activities:** National Teachers' Day: 17<sup>th</sup> July.

**National Sathya Sai Retreat:** 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August  
Theme: 'The Power of Love'.

Special guests: Rita & Robert Bruce.

**SSEHV National Day:** 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Isle of Wight Satsang, Ryde:** 18<sup>th</sup> September

**BISSE Activities:** Values Alive Events:

31<sup>st</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Broadstairs, Kent

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## With the Divine Presence in the Kodai Hills...

It is often said that Prashanti Nilayam is Swami's office, Brindavan (at Whitefield, near Bangalore) his home, and KodaiKANal his playground. In a manner of speaking this is so, particularly where KodaiKANal is concerned, for it is here that one gets a glimpse of our dearest Sai of the 1940s, especially where divine leelas are concerned. It all lasts only for a short time but what extra-ordinary weeks they are for those blessed to enjoy divine proximity there!

KodaiKANal is a hill station in South India. Located at an altitude of about 2500 metres, it is roughly three hundred and fifty kilometres to the southwest of Chennai (formerly Madras), and close to the ancient temple cities of Madurai and Palani.

Our journey began on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, Sai Baba was due to leave at 11.00am from Puttaparthi, and we had just arrived in Bangalore and bought tickets to fly to Madurai. (Alternatively one can travel by taxi with the journey taking around 12 hours.)

### Divine Delay

For some reason our plane was delayed for several hours in Chennai. Once we landed in Madurai, the plane suddenly stopped and was waiting. We looked out of the window and lo and behold! We saw our Divine Lord coming off the plane and into an awaiting car. It was like a royal entourage, with a band playing, various VIPs greeting Sai Baba with flowers and garlands to the happy cheers of "Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Ji Ki Jai".

We started the long 3-hour ascent in our taxi up the mountain to reach KodaiKANal. On the way we saw Swami's car in front of us. His party had stopped for Tiffin. We continued and arrived in KodaiKANal by nightfall.

### Peaceful Paradise in the Clouds

Darshan in 'Kodai' is quite unlike anything ever seen or ever experienced, one can almost sympathise with the gods in heaven, for not being able to relish this gift of grace bestowed upon us mere mortals.

On the first morning, there were only around 300 devotees gathered outside his house. Swami emerged from his balcony looking relaxed and rested. His countenance was glowing like a hundred suns.

As the cart came forward, he sternly refused it, preferring to walk down the long slope towards his devotees, stopping to take letters and offer soothing words of solace. As he took each step, one could see broken hearts being mended and yearning hearts quenched by the nectar of each look. His comforting smile gave hope and joy to all around. On the way down he would often stop to materialise a trinket symbolising his infinite love and benediction for some lucky recipient. Sometimes he stopped to blow kisses to the awaiting devotees making our hearts flutter like butterflies dancing around the morning dew.

### Special Invitation...

For me, I was taken aback when one fine morning Sai Baba decided to stop his cart in front of me. He paused and enquired lovingly like a mother about his Youth back in the UK. I took the opportunity to inform him that they were yearning to have his Darshan once again. Swami's face lit up like a proud mother and **he commanded that we bring the Youth in 2006 and then he stressed not to bring them in this year of 2005**, as it is the 80th Birthday and he did not want them inconvenienced. He continued talking, saying that the UK Youth should come back in November 2006 to celebrate his 81st Birthday. Sai Baba had heard and accepted the loving prayers and yearnings of his Youth back in the United Kingdom. Swami has thus waved the chequered flag and given the go ahead for -

### National UK Youth Pilgrimage 2: 'The Return Home'

This is very good news for all of our UK Sai Youth. We must continue to make Sai Baba happy with our hard efforts through our Spiritual Practice and Service programmes for 2005. Let us strive together to make Swami happy, for as the Vedas declare: *'...to please the Lord is the greatest and highest spiritual practice of them all'*.

With Love from Shitu and Rita



'...In an English Country Garden...'

Desperately seeking learned experts and teachers proficient in Taize chants, Maypole dancing and Traditional Medieval English Music.

Shitu Chudasama, National Youth Co-ordinator  
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