

# Love and Light

SSSSO (UK) - monthly update



9<sup>th</sup> November 2006

## 'Life is a song - sing it!'

Dear Readers,

Sai Ram,

October saw the launch of the new Ladies Wing at the wonderful programme in Dunstable (please see feature) along with a National Spiritual Satsang being held in Leicester where devotees were enthralled by soul-stirring devotional singing by Ajnish Rai, who came all the way from Darjeeling. The audience was recharged by Sai Baba's Teachings in the form of talks on their personal experiences by many ardent devotees.

I was also fortunate enough to attend the final NYP 2006 meeting on the 5th November, a meeting that was fully charged with emotions and excitement. The meeting ended with a spectacular fireworks display. When this newsletter goes out, the young adults and Council members will be just 3 days away from departing for Puttapparthi.

I pray that November will be a time of contemplating the glory of our Beloved Lord through singing at the Akhanda bhajans and then followed by His birthday with appropriate celebrations to mark the occasion.

*"The Grace of God cannot be won through the gymnastics of reason, the contortions of yoga or the denials of asceticism. Love alone can win it, Love that needs no requital, Love that knows no bargaining, Love that is paid gladly, as tribute to the All-loving, Love that is unwavering. Love alone can overcome obstacles, however many and mighty. There is no strength more effective than purity, no bliss more satisfying than love, no joy more restoring than bhakthi (devotion), no triumph more praiseworthy than surrender."*

*Divine Discourse, 23rd Feb 1971*

Love & Light

Shobhna Patel, UK Chair

## SSSSO UK Bookshop

The bookshop has a **NEW WEBSITE** and is often adding to its collection of fascinating literature.

Please visit it at:

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

## Sathya Sai Schools

### Supermarket Shopping Vouchers

Did you know we collect the various supermarket vouchers for Sathya Sai Schools? Any vouchers can be passed to our Sathya Sai Schools by forwarding them, via your Centre Chair, to your Regional Chair.  
Prabodh Mistry, Sathya Sai Schools Representative

## Service

### Stocks of Blood Nationwide:

### Supplies are at an all time low - especially from ethnic minority groups

Our Organisation has joined hands with the National Blood Service (NBS) in promoting the current NBS campaign: 'R U My Type?' to encourage more donors from everyone but especially from ethnic communities. What better way to take part in this spiritual sadhana than to hold it during GLOBAL AKHAND BHAJANS taking place on the 11th and 12th November 2006.

Our aim is to encourage 1008 donors to give blood as an offering to Swami for his 81st Birthday. All donors are encouraged to attend NBS clinics in the next two weeks before going to India. Better still if you are 18-40 weighing at least 8 stones, whilst giving blood why not give another sample and join the NBS register as a Bone Marrow Donor?

You could save someone's life and the patient could be anywhere in the world. The NBS has issued special donors cards to us with the SSSSO UK name on them so that when a donor attends a NBS clinic to donate blood it will be flagged up as a SSSSO donor. Regional Service Coordinators have sent information and donor cards to Centres and Groups. To obtain details of a NBS clinic in your area go to: [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk) and search using your post code.

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

## Free Walk-in Health Awareness Clinic

### Region 3

A 'Free Walk in Health Awareness Clinic' was organised at Manor Park in Region 3 on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2006. Newham Primary Care Trust and various volunteer doctors, dentists and other specialists supported it.

Local Member of Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Stephen Timms MP, addressed the gathering and acknowledged the work being done by the Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisation in raising awareness of various conditions. The National Blood Service and The Anthony Nolan Trust also attended the clinic, promoting the urgent need for Blood Donation and Bone Marrow donation. A Consultant gave a presentation on 'Asthma', a Consultant Cardiologist on a 'Healthy Heart', 'Diabetes' by a General Practitioner, and there were practical demonstrations given on how best to look after the back to avoid problems.

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

## Region 6

### Satsang with Some Super Seniors!

The Region 6 Satsang held on September 17th at Park Barn, Guildford, was a relaxed and inspiring day. In the regular 'Golden Oldies' slot, where the Region's senior members talk on how they came to Swami and how their lives have been affected, Eileen Radburn shared her personal and wonderful experiences of Swami's Divinity. In the afternoon, Kumar Kathirmalai spoke of the inspiration that came from the examples of Sai Baba and Mother Teresa that were behind the concept of 'Something Beautiful for God', the charity he founded. He explained how we can all do something very small like knit or sew something with love, and how it can affect and transform the lives of others. The SSSSO UK medical camps take many of the garments overseas, for school uniforms or as baby items for the Puttapparthi Hospital. Maria Hastings-Clough showed her knitted clothes and inspired many who had not knitted for years to take up the needles again! Eileen Radburn brought material already pinned to patterns and these were enthusiastically taken for finishing at home. The day ended with the Southampton Group leading us in beautiful Devotional Songs and we closed with Aarthi.

**Philippa Malcomson, Chair, Region 6**

### British Institute of Sathya Sai Education

A new training course was held at Pegwell Bay, near Ramsgate, from 15-18th October inclusive. Called 'Compassionate Communication', it proved to be very thought provoking, in a positive way, giving the participants another perspective on communication that enhances relationships with others. Those who attended enjoyed the lightness, the laughter and the freedom to give and receive in a safe and loving environment whilst at the same time it demonstrated a considerable potential to enable understanding between people and improve relationships both within the family and with others. The course showed how to be specific in one's communication and yet at the same time caring, with no feeling of rejection, or need to go into a defensive mode if one's requests are met negatively. It also showed one how to connect to the other person's needs and feelings as well as your own. Tools were given to deepen and enhance everyday relationships. This is certainly a way forward to better understanding and happiness amongst everyone.

As one participant put it, "I really enjoyed the course. It met my needs for closeness, compassion, laughter, acceptance, belonging, celebration, harmony, respect, trust, and creativity."

This material will be incorporated as part of the SSEHV Diploma and is equivalent to 40 hours work.

**Carole Alderman, Director, BISSE**

## Youth

### National Youth Satsang with Sai Students

The youth were given a golden opportunity to listen to stories from former Prashanti students at a National Youth Satsang held on Sunday October 15th 2006 in North London. The theme for the day was 'Living with Divinity' and it certainly gave an intense flavour of life as a student in Prashanti Nilayam.

We started with melodious singing followed by several of the former Sai students speaking of their wonderful experiences with Swami, which left the audience stunned and silent throughout! The talks were not only moving but they were filled with Sai humour and revelations of the tender loving care that Swami gives to his priceless students. We were lucky to hear Navin and Kiran Patel (brothers) speaking of their times in Swami's first batch of students and they kindly showed us some rare photos of Swami going on a trip with them to the Himalayas. Included was one of a unique statue materialised from the ground that has never been seen by anyone, as it is the only photo of it in the whole world! We were also blessed to see photos of Swami in large seventies style black and yellow sunglasses posing like a model! The day was filled with laughter, love and – most of all – experiences cherished by all, of the relationship between Bhaktha and Bhagawan. Being surrounded by students who are embodiments of purity, unity and divinity created a peaceful, purifying atmosphere leaving the youth feeling they had been transported to Prashanti Nilayam. We were in a state of bliss listening to the stories and didn't want them to stop. The trip down memory lane was truly inspirational and left all who attended spiritually recharged, uplifted and amazed at the Leelas of the Lord.

**Rima Patel, Region 6 Youth Co-ordinator**

### Remembrance...

#### A Tribute to the Devoted and Determined Dr Aruna Nath, Founder of the South London Centre 1972

The passing away of Dr. Aruna Nath on the 12th September 2006 marks the end of an era of devotion, duty and dedication, demonstrated in its fullest by her noble life. That beacon of light, which has for many years been an inspiration in our lives, has now been extinguished. Fondly called Arunaji, she led the way forward in every field of activity, a leader with a big heart stopping at nothing to achieve her goals, she became a mentor to many – having immense knowledge, both professionally and spiritually. For many she has been like a mother. Dr Nath grew up in an environment of rituals, chanting and poojas, taking part whenever and wherever possible in cultural activities and devotional worship to all Gods and Goddesses; and was well versed in all the scriptures.

Please use your initiative to distribute this monthly newsletter as widely as possible to all devotees and interested parties.

From the age of five, she recalled memories of Sai Baba in His previous incarnation. She had an overwhelming desire in her young heart when she made her first of many visits to Swami with her, then, two young children, Rahul and Rajni. There she was granted an audience and received His grace and blessings. Soon after, with the help of the late Sri Seetaram, known to everyone then as 'Pita Ji', and the late Mrs. Lalita Bhatt and other close friends, the Sri Sathya Sai Centre of South London was inaugurated in 1972, and later the first shrine erected in the loft to provide a space for a variety of spiritual endeavours. Determined and with her goals in mind she stuck to her principles and ideals as she persevered with so much zeal and enthusiasm that soon her abode, 'Abbotswood', became a haven of worship and service for people from all walks of life and of varied religious beliefs throughout the country.

In the following years, visits from other Centres, from Indulal Shah and other distinguished personages from India, from world ambassadors all graced this new place of worship. Noteworthy amongst them are Venu Mukunda, Dr Samuel Sandweiss and Sister Jayanti of the Brahma Kumaris along with devotees from the Bhakti Vedanta mission. Many of us gathered together to give praises to Swami for his guidance and graces at the festive celebrations in those memorable days, at Stanley Hall, Sandown Hall, and Lanc' Franc to name but a few. It was unfortunate that our Arunaji became ill when her beloved husband Dr Nath passed away, and since then has been unwell but despite her long illness, Arunaji resigned herself to her fate, and even though not being able to continue her devotion as she would have wished, she was worried and very concerned about those she loved most – her children and her six young grandchildren who were always paramount in her thoughts and closest to her heart. She will long be remembered for her undying contribution to her community professionally and socially, for her many writings from time to time on peace and spirituality, on Vedic chants and Sai teachings that won her acclaim, everywhere she went, from Australia to America. So, it was no surprise to everyone when she was awarded the 'Heart of Gold', and the admiration of the President of India for her outstanding service. She was one of the pioneers in this country in setting up a Centre that was affiliated to the UK Sai Organisation as 'South London Centre'. She also served as the Regional Spiritual Co-ordinator for Region 1. Along with those of her children, our lives too have all been enhanced by her kind heart and may I on behalf of the Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisation UK, Region 1, offer to the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy and pray that God may keep all of you well and strong to bear this loss of one so noble, with whom so many treasured moments of love will be dearly remembered and cherished for all time.

...And in Fond Memory of Pat Hathaway,  
...Much Loved Lady of the Isle... of Light...

Pat Hathaway of the Isle of Wight (IOW) passed away to reach the Divine Lotus feet of our Lord on Friday the 27th October 2006 at the age of 89.

Pat was born on the 21st April 1917 in Southall, Middlesex. Pat grew up in Southall when it was a small country town, long before the Welfare State. She started school when she was 4yrs and all her lessons were conducted with the use of a slate and a piece of chalk. In 1931, aged 14, she started work in a sausage-making factory. Working a 49hr a week/9hr day – all for the princely sum of 62p – 50p had to be put in the family pot. She was allowed to keep 12p.

Right from a very young age she wrote poetry of a calibre well beyond her tender years. As she states in her book, she, having been lumped together with the less than brilliant children, at the bottom of her class, showed her very first proper poem, 'Sunrise on Montprian Hill' to her teacher, Miss Jago. She says that Miss Jago started to take an interest in her after that and her career took a definite turn for the better. This poem of hers, 'Love and Light' is significant for the event in her life that follows:

*"There are two things that conquereth all things  
One is Light... and one is Love.*

*Despair and darkness cannot live where there is Light,  
Love conquers all. What can withstand the glory and  
tenderness of Love?*

*How Blessed we are that we have Love."*

In 1938 she married Bill Hathaway. They moved to the Island in 1954 where they took over West Wight Garage, as it was then known, in Freshwater. These were turbulent years, and not really Pat's vocation, though many friendships were forged. Pat has always been a spiritual person, guided throughout her life by intuition and meditation, a lady of many qualities including healing through which she helped many people. 1978 was a turning point in her life. She had been subscribing to a magazine called 'Two Worlds', in which she read an inspiring article by Peggy Mason, about a holy man in India called Sai Baba. The contents of this article had a big impact, and led to many trips to India to meet, and listen to this guru. Greatly inspired by the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, she started the IOW Sai Group in 1992 to study spiritual teachings.

When she accompanied a group of devotees to India to see Swami physically, the whole group was afforded a divine interview with Swami. During this interview Swami asked Pat – the usual divine question – "Where are you all from?" to which Pat replied that the group was from the Isle of Wight in the UK. Swami then, with a smile on his face, said, "It is Isle of LIGHT!" This inspired her and the group further, to start an annual Satsang that was usually held during the late summer,



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attracting many devotees from the mainland. The first IOW Sai Satsang was held during the summer of 1990. This helped make many enduring friendships all bonded with love and the common purpose of spiritual wisdom. At the age of 76 years, Pat wrote a book, an autobiography entitled, 'Thank you for the Privilege', in which the thread running through the whole book was her spirituality which shines out; it is a gripping book, well written. It has a vivid description of the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and their impact on her life. When I came to know her about 12 years ago, meeting her at a Sai Satsang, I immediately felt that I was talking to my 'mother' – a tremendous feeling of having known her for a long time completely engulfed me. As time went by, our relationship changed from friendship to that of a loving mother and her son. I never missed the annual IOW Sai Satsang after that, and we regularly kept in touch with each other on the phone.

When I last spoke to her at the IOW Sai Satsang in 2005, she was very ill and was constantly referring to "... reaching the Lotus feet of Swami soon". She felt that very soon she would leave the physical world. With tears in my eyes I asked her permission to make a request to her. When she was ready, I asked her whether she would allow me the privilege to be her son in my next birth.

She could not stop her tears welling up and she looked at me straight in the face and said, "You have never asked me for anything during all these years we have known each other, and today you have asked me something for which I am overwhelmed with emotions. But I am sorry this may not happen. Please excuse me for this."

I felt a bit sad and lovingly asked for an explanation and she reluctantly explained, "This is something I have never spoken to anyone about but the time has now come for me to talk about this. When I met Swami last, He told me that this was my last birth in this world and I will have no more births." She then confessed to me that she was looking forward to the day that she would leave this world. I was virtually taken aback but I understood how she felt. I continued to keep in touch but the frequency was low due to her ailment and her inability to speak to me every time I called her from London.

But today we have lost Pat, a genuine embodiment of love and compassion – who has reached and merged at the lotus feet of our beloved Lord. I will remember her for a very long time as a very loving 'mother'. She leaves behind her daughter Betty, three grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Pat was very much loved, and will be keenly missed by all her friends and relatives. May her soul rest in eternal peace!

A particular poem, she wrote for her husband, when he was 60, entitled 'Cranford Woods' is about a local beauty spot in Southall that is long gone:

*Cranford Woods and dusky evening filled;  
With sight and smell of bluebells wet with dew.  
The golden future lay ahead – no hint of war to cloud  
our dreams, we were so young  
And all our love so tender and so new.  
How arrogant were we in our youth  
We'd beat the world we had no fears  
But love alone stood firm throughout  
Those mad impetuous years.  
Now take my hand my dearest  
And we'll turn another page  
Ahead the lovely quiet years  
And this Golden Age".*

Both these tributes were written by:

**Rajes Selvakumar, Region 1 Spiritual Co-ordinator**

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### Pearls From the Prashanti Professor

In a 'Question and Answer' session with Professor Anil Kumar on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2005, a devotee posed the following question to him: "I am very much worried about scandals and conspiracies about Swami."

Professor Kumar replied: "Swami can take care of Himself. (Laughter) Don't worry. You be worried about the scandals that are being spread about you, and the conspiracies that might arise any time. Somebody asked, "Swami, people write so many things against you, and broadcast and telecast so many things. What shall we do?" Baba said, "You hear so many bad things because you have ears. You are helpless." When some fellow goes on digging into your ears, helplessly you have to hear, praying that the fellow will eventually run away. Baba said, "As you have ears to hear, I gave you feet to get away from that place." (Laughter) God gave you ears to hear, so you are complaining that you have to hear all the nonsense. But know that you are given feet also to run away from there! Ed.

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### Diary Dates

**NOBC:** Sunday 4 February 2007

**National Retreat:** 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> August 2007

**National Wing Meeting Dates:**

11<sup>th</sup> March 2007, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2007,

9<sup>th</sup> September 2007, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2007

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### God Speed, Dear Pilgrims!

Since February this year, around 160 young men and women, in equal numbers, ranging in age from 16 to 35 have applied themselves with great determination and dedication to following a spiritual path. They have instilled into themselves meditation techniques, taken up fasting one day a week for both physical well-being and as a saving of resources, explored scriptures, attended workshops and generally stretched themselves in order to grow inwardly. 'Love and Light' wishes you all a safe peaceful journey to Prashanti, a joyful stay there and a return to your daily lives, transformed and renewed with bliss! Ed.

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## 'Giving Wings to Our Hearts'

'National Ladies Day' and new 'National Ladies Wing Launch' Near Dunstable, Bedfordshire

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2006

National Ladies Day was celebrated in a geographically central location near Dunstable, Bedfordshire, on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> October, with the theme, 'Giving Wings to Our Hearts'. This occasion was chosen to launch a new Ladies Wing for the country that will take proper shape at the beginning of 2007. A candle lighting ceremony took place for this, with the 'Inaugural Light' being lit by the National Chairperson, Shobhna Patel, and the flame passed from candle to candle round all the participants was then symbolically returned to Swami's presiding picture.

Nearly 80 lady delegates attended the occasion, sitting at tables of eight that were each looked after by a wonderful 'Table Angel'. Each table was named after a quality such as 'Grace' or 'Compassion'. Delegates moved in a highly organised fashion to different tables through the day for the purpose of making new friends from different areas. Many more ladies were present at the function in different capacities that include filming, as sound technicians, and as singers, musicians and photographers. A team under the guiding skills of Subita Mahtani, Region 2 Vice Chair, offered stylish, tasty food made from fresh seasonal ingredients.

The day was primarily about thanking women of the Organisation in the UK for all that they do and for giving spiritual nourishment and inspiration to them. Karen Singh calmly and professionally held the day together with her introductions. The National Chairperson, Shobhna Patel, opened the day with some thoughtful words, quotations, insights and gratitude.

The Planning Group for the event decorated the hall in celebratory fashion with white tablecloths for each table, with a little cotton gift bag at each place (all kindly made to commission by the Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust at Prashanti). Napkins became lotus blossoms with Origami folding and small creative gifts kept coming to the delegates to be collected in their little bags. Helium balloons created an uplifting feeling of joy, pleasure and childish excitement! The innovative flower arrangements, the abundant decorative bunches of home grown grapes and sprays of richly coloured berries along the stage front and the shrine, all reflected the rural Autumnal theme through their rich, warm, vibrant colours. A magnificent Bonsai tree, having the same 80 years physical age as Swami, also graced the stage with its living presence.

Keynote Speaker for the morning session was human rights campaigner, community activist, politician and author of several books, Zerbanoo Gifford. In interviews with Sai Baba he has encouraged her to work with women and inspire them. Zerbanoo holds the 'Nehru Centenary Award' for her international work, and has dedicated her NESTA fellowship to connecting influential and inspiring women worldwide. In a talk entitled, 'What makes a Woman Inspirational', she spoke in a spirited way with intelligence, insight and humour, of her own experiences, the challenges she has faced; and of the positive qualities she has discovered and identified through interviewing a variety of highly influential women worldwide.

Keynote speaker for the afternoon session was Sandra Levy. She and her husband Aimé, a former UK President and Central Coordinator for the UK and Ireland, first heard of Sathya Sai Baba in 1983. Her talk was entitled, 'A Walk in the Forest' and took everyone on a fascinating imaginary expedition with an archetypal family. It was illustrated with wonderful images. This connected the audience with what is truly feminine (beyond gender) and humankind's relationship with Nature and Divinity. One of her most powerful themes was 'encouragement'. Sandra pointed out that the French word 'coeur' – meaning 'heart' – is the root meaning in the word 'courage'. She allied this with the theme of the day. Later, Rianne Lengui, originally from the Netherlands, recited three of her own very inspired poems on the subject of the 'Divine Feminine'. The programme included two meditations – one about finding stillness and silence deep within, led by Jeannie Cranfield, and the other involving sound, was led by Bahnoon Karim Agnew. In the latter, the opening verse from the Quran ('Al – Fatiha') and the Lord's Prayer in its original Aramaic, were sung to a spellbound audience. National Vice-Chair, Rosemary Perry, narrated an illustrated presentation she had put together on 'Inspiring Women from British History' and towards the close there was another heartening film shown, made by Anita Devi. There were many opportunities throughout the day for sacredness, great humour, profound sisterly sharings and the joyous singing of interfaith chants and devotional songs.

**Rosemary Perry, National Vice Chair and Chair of the National Ladies Day 2006 Planning Group**

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## 'Towards World Peace – The Divine Blueprint' National Spiritual Day, 'The Athena', Leicester, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2006

For those devotees yearning to hear the glory of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and his divine teachings, it was a long awaited day that was organised by the Spiritual Wing in conjunction with ex-students of the Sri Sathya Sai College in Puttaparthi who now live in the UK. It was an all-day programme held in a beautifully refurbished Art Deco cinema, 'The Athena', now a conference centre in the heart of Leicester. For some 450 devotees, it was a taste of divine bliss and a journey of deep spiritual upliftment in the company of like minded aspirants, all listening to motivating and inspiring spiritual speeches and scintillating devotional songs.

The intention or the divine purpose of this programme was, "To enable Sai devotees to share in Bhagawan's glory, thereby spiritually uplifting them, so that we and the devotees can progressively become His message through our actions". The stage was simple but beautifully arranged with Swami's chair set amidst three simple white arches against the backdrop of soaring black curtain covered in cosmic twinkling starlight with a giant screen continuously showing the divine drama of our Lord, as well as the day's activities, on the stage. The day commenced with the chanting of the Vedas followed by universal and multi-faith prayers. A team of comperes explained the day's events and introduced the speakers eloquently and humorously and added a touch of class to the programme.

Shobhna Patel, the Chairperson for the SSSSO (UK) opened the National Spiritual Day by welcoming all the devotees present there with her simple but eloquent talk. This was followed by an experiential talk given by Giridhar, an ex-student of the Sathya Sai College on 'Sri Sathya Sai Avatar – Incarnation of Love & His Mission of Compassion'. His talk further confirmed the love and compassion the Lord has for HIS devotees all the time. Then we had Mrs Karunes Rathnasingham – a former National SSE Coordinator who spoke of 'The Supreme Teacher for All Ages'. She spoke humbly of her experiences in staging the hitherto popular Sai Mahima Dance & Drama programmes in the divine presence of Swami at Prashanti. It revealed the depth of love Swami has for his children and their future.

This was followed by a very inspiring talk by Ishver Patel the Central Coordinator for the UK and Ireland who spoke on 'From I to We to Sai'. The talk had deep

thinking messages for all, especially in relation to Swami's omnipresence and omniscience.

Professor Keith Critchlow, who designed the Super Speciality Hospital in Puttaparthi spoke of many interesting features of this hospital and how Swami assisted and inspired him to complete it. He also gave us insight into the simple geometric forms that underpin sacred architecture.

Then we had soft drinks and an excellent meal served in a pack by the hard working volunteers for lunch. This break also afforded us an opportunity to browse through the books in the Sai bookstall and visit the exhibition floor to view many beautiful exhibits painstakingly arranged by the Region 4 volunteers. This was followed by some very warm and heart rending devotional songs sung by an ex-student of Sri Sathya Sai college in Puttaparthi, Ajnish Rai brought specially for the event from Darjeeling. Every experience he narrated and every devotional song sung by Ajnish was done with tremendous 'Sai-Love' that was quite overwhelming. The love and the humility that emanated were so intense and deep that they touched everyone's heart. He also explained the significance of devotional singing in a very humble manner befitting a Sai student. Dr Upadhyay, member of the International Medical Committee, speaking on 'Love in Action', encompassed some miraculous experiences witnessed in overseas medical camps during his heart-warming talk. Carole Alderman, Director of the British Institute of Sathya Sai Education, spoke next on 'Face to face with Divinity', where she related her very personal experiences of being with Sai Baba sharing with us the great learning, humour and insight that abounded in those meetings and the grace she recognised that had been showered upon her in various incidents. Finally Ajit Popat rendered an eloquent talk on, 'Sri Sathya Sai: His Divine Mission and Our Role in It', where we heard beautiful experiences of Ajit with Swami. He made a very emotional call for unity in diversity and urged the devotees to serve mankind by seeing the divine in all His creations. Kiran Patel, the National Spiritual Co-ordinator gave the vote of thanks – who warmly thanked individually and collectively all those who worked hard to make this a memorable day.

**Rajes Selvakumar, Region 1 Spiritual Co-ordinator**