

JAN 2022

# Sangh Mail

Sanskār • Sewā • Sangathan

## HSS Sewa Special



Supporting local  
charities in 2021





# *Supporting local charities in 2021*

HSS Sewa is part of HSS (UK) working in community engagement program, on service projects and volunteering.

Late 2019 saw the beginnings of a pandemics, a crisis on the scale unseen by the modern generation. The UK felt the storm coming by February 2020 and since then, lockdowns, precautions and repeated isolation becoming a norm. The effects of this have also been felt harshly by the most vulnerable and needy in our society.

HSS Sewa decided to extend help in the community, beyond the normal Sewa activity by:

- Supporting local charities,
- Supporting events of our charity partner, Sewa UK,
- Volunteering for support of chosen charity Sewa Day (food banks, shoe box appeals and school hampers etc).

In 2021, HSS (UK) branches in 13 towns, organised events with maximum participation to support local charities or appeals.

Further, on individual level, HSS (UK) Members continued to support our charity partner Sewa UK.

Nagars (Towns) supporting in 2021:

Amersham	Belfast	Birmingham
Cambridge	Coventry	Halifax
Leamington	Leicester	Liverpool
Manchester	Newbury	Reading
Rugby		

In 2022, HSS Sewa aims to support more local charities with increased participation of its members.

Madhvi Haria  
HSS (UK) Joint Secretary

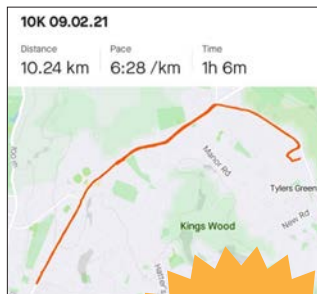
# Amersham

HSS Amersham organised a fundraiser program to raise money for our chosen charity CLIC Sargent.

The aim was to run, cycle or walk and make your contribution towards the 7475 kms distance from Amersham to Nagpur. Try to gain sponsors and donate towards a cause fighting cancer in young people at a justgiving page.

More than 50 people participated and the distance covered by individuals was recorded in a Google sheet. It took about 30 days to complete the objective of both the distance of 7500 kms and £1500.

The participants shared their pictures and smartphone screenshots of their exercises, which encouraged others.



Collecting  
for **Clc  
Sargent,**  
Amersham





## Belfast

Sewa Charity Walk

Collecting  
for  
**Sewa UK**  
**Covid Relief**

On 19 June 2021, HSS Belfast Shakha organised a family 5K walk at Castlewellan, UK to support the pandemic related relief work in India. The event was marked with the easing of Covid restrictions in Northern Ireland, and was well received by the families, with over 80 walkers completing the Cyprus Pond trail at Castlewellan, Co Down.

HSS Belfast Shakha raised £2206 through combined efforts of families, friends, and work colleagues. One of the highlights of the event was effort shown by Balganas, who went door-to-door for collecting donations. Furthermore, after the walk, the mahila Nivedita Samiti of the Belfast Shakha contributed by doing the bake sale and other traditional Indian snacks and drinks. The concluding ceremony was held at the Indian Community Centre, Belfast on 29th July 2021, where the amount was handed over by the Lord Mayor of Belfast Mrs. Kate Nicholl to Sewa UK towards the covid pandemic relief efforts in India. The Lord Mayor praised HSS (UK) on their efforts and was supportive of HSS (UK) led future activities in Belfast.



# Birmingham

## Sewa Walk-a-thon

Collecting  
for **Acorns  
Hospice,**  
Birmingham

**acorns**  
New local children's hospice

Presented to:

**Dipak Mistry**  
**Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK)**  
**Birmingham**  
for raising a fantastic

**£1,723.25**

during your sponsored walk

Thank you for your support

Signed:   
Dipak Mistry, Area Fundraiser

Date: 01 December 2021



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



**Shyam's 5km Walk for  
Acorns Hospice**

**WALK-A-THON**



**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

At:

Highfield Community Centre,  
127-129 Highfield Rd, Hall Green, B28 0HS

Support us by registering with a minimum donation of £5,  
with all money going to Acorns Hospice.

Please donate via

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hss-bham-walk](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hss-bham-walk)

**acorns**  
Your local children's hospice

Times:  
9.30am - Registration  
10.30am - Flag off  
12.00pm - Picnic (please bring your own packed lunch)



Late, Shyam Chandega was a regular HSS Swayamsevak of Birmingham Nagar and an ambassador of Acorns Hospice, honoured by City of Birmingham Lord Mayor. We are walking for all the differently abled children of Acorns Hospice, whom Shyam lived for and supported.



**acorns**  
New local children's hospice

Ref: 5570309

Orchard Court Alexander Road  
Wythall Birmingham  
B97 4JH  
Tel: 01564 822000  
Fax: 01564 822005  
www.acorns.org.uk

Mr Dipak Mistry  
Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK)  
6 Larnham Close  
Guthrie  
B82 9PA

01 December 2021

Dear Dipak

I am writing to say thank you for your wonderful donation of £1,723.25. This amount is enough to fund over 45 hours of care for a child in our hospice and we are so incredibly grateful to everyone who took part in your charity walk and also to the generous people who donated too. I loved sitting with you on the day and also meeting Shyam's parents at the cheque presentation. Please do get in touch when you start to organise your next fundraiser so that I can support you where possible.

Your ongoing support will help us to deliver specialist care for children with life limiting and life threatening conditions as well as providing support for their families over the festive period.

I mention only on local children's hospice at Christmas, and to turn Acorns rely on local people like you. Without your support, our wonderful nurses and care staff couldn't provide the support, fun and laughter of our hospice 365 days of the year, including Christmas Day.

We hope that you have a wonderful Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

  
Dipak Mistry  
Area Fundraiser  
Tel: 01782 210025, Email: [dipak.mistry@acorns.org.uk](mailto:dipak.mistry@acorns.org.uk)



Thank you!



Collecting for  
**Cambourne  
Village College,**  
Cambridge

## Cambridge

Ramanujan Shakha – Sewa walk

Cambridge Ramanujan Shakha, a branch of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh UK, organised a walk as their annual sewa (service) project to raise money for an Arts Facility at Cambourne Village College. Twenty people from all age groups took part in a 10K walk to raise funds for the project. Each person paid a small amount to take part in the walk, and some also raised sponsorship from their friends and colleagues. Employees of Morrisons- Cambourne- sponsored Ms Seema Achal and contributed £118. We had an enjoyable and invigorating walk whilst raising £294 for our local secondary school.

Cambourne Village College has been the location of Cambridge Ramanujan Shakha activities since 2016, and we wanted to give something back by raising money for new seating facilities in the Performance Hall. A few members of the shakha met with Mrs Claire Coates, the Principal of the school, to present her with the cheque. She expressed her gratitude on behalf of the school. We look forward to the completion of these new facilities which should be an asset for the whole community in Cambourne and surrounding areas.

# Coventry

Sewa Walk-a-thon

On the 19th September 2021 Coventry Nagar organised their own Sewa Walkathon. Over 80 people participated in raising funds for The Ambulance Staff Charity (TASC).

All participants had the option to either walk, cycle or run 10KM at the War Memorial Park Coventry.

We were greeted by Lucy from the Ambulance Staff Charity who thanked Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh Coventry for the donation raised.

In total Coventry Nagar raised £1,306!

Collecting  
for **The  
Ambulance  
Staff Charity,**  
Coventry







## Huddersfield

### Raise Monies For Hospice

Huddersfield shakha carried out their very 1st fund raising event on 20th June at Savile Park in Halifax to support "Forget me not Children's Hospice". Yoga was first undertaken to celebrate International Yoga Day & after that the Charity walk around the park was completed. We raised £101 on the day.



Collecting for  
**Forget me  
not Children's  
Hospice,**  
Huddersfield





Collecting  
for **Myton  
Hospice,**  
Leamington

## Leamington HALF MARATHON

On Sunday 11th July, Leamington Shakha and Balgokulam took part in the local half marathon and a walk to raise funds for our brilliant local charity of the year - Myton Hospice. The hospice supported and cared for our two warrior sevikas, Preetiben and Shampaben, who sadly lost in their fight against cancer last year.

Four of our swayamsevaks (Vikas ji, Pritesh ji, Chitta ji and Rajnikanth ji) ran an impressive 21km in the half marathon, with the support of months of training; the cheering voices of the entire Shakha and Balgokulam Parivaar; and of course, the promise of a Leamington Nagar picnic party at the end!

Whilst they were running, 46 people from Leamington Nagar took part in a charity walk from Myton Hospice to Jephson gardens, organised by Sewa Pramukh Shrishail ji. We enjoyed a day of sangathan, food, and cricket!

Although the initial target was £1000, donations for Myton Hospice have now exceeded £1700! We hope to continue to support Myton Hospice so that they can continue to provide this excellent care to others in their final moments.





# Leicester

Raised £630 for LOROS

Collecting  
for **LOROS**  
**Hospice,**  
Leicester



LOROS Hospice is a local charity and every year they care for over 2,500 people across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

Leicester nagar planned a Mandir walk on Sunday 8th August 2021 in the aim to raise funds for LOROS, a local charity based within Leicestershire serving as a hospice. Despite the severe, rainy weather on the day of the walk, 40 people participated in the two walks (a longer route covering 11 Mandirs, and a shorter route stopping at 8 Mandirs). The rain and clouds cleared up towards the afternoon - a very possible result of the numerous visits made to the Mandirs, which followed a meet up in the park between the two groups. Our efforts also encouraged unexpected donations from two of the Mandirs we had visited, for our worthy cause.









Collecting  
for  
**SEWA UK**

## Manchester

HSS Sewa raises over £2,000 for Sewa UK

The second wave of Covid-19 pandemic severely affected both rural and Urban parts of India. It also led to painful economic devastation with many people losing jobs & business. Many families lost the earning member, and many children were left orphaned.

Between 17-18 July 2021, the Manchester team of HSS Sewa raised £2383 for Sewa UK to support Rehabilitation work in India.

**The Honourable Member of Parliament for Cheadle, Mary Robinson kindly agreed to do the Cheque presentation to Sewa UK, represented by Shri Natubhai Faldu.**

Overall sum raised was £3732.



# Manchester

Voluntary work with SeaShell Trust

SeaShell Trust is a charity based in Cheadle Hulme, Stockport that provides education and residential care for children with profound learning disabilities.

## 3 April 2021

HSS (UK) Manchester nagar team Donated Easter eggs as a token of appreciation to the staff of Seashell trust for their commitment and dedication.

## 24 & 25 April 2021

On request from Wendy Bray, fundraising manager at the trust a team of 23 volunteers of HSS (UK) over 2 days ( 24 & 25 April 2021) helped to clear the large grounds ,open space and walking paths around college, school and reception buildings of Seashell trust to make it safe for the children with profound learning disabilities and sensory impairments. Our team of 23 volunteers worked over 2 two



hourly slots on day 1 and 3 two hourly slots on day 2. This involved litter picking, removing general debris and sweeping dry leaves to make it usable and safe at all times.

We were delighted with friendly support from management team of Seashell trust.

Above work was appreciated by Mary Robinson, Honourable Member of Parliament for Cheadle in an event at a later date where we had the opportunity to showcase our work from HSS Sewa. She mentioned the SeaShell project is very close to her heart and really pleased HSS Sewa work.



Volunteering  
for **SeaShell**  
**Trust,**  
Manchester



Collecting  
for **India  
Covid  
Appeal**

## Newbury

### INDIA COVID FUNDRAISER

On Sat, 22 May 2021, Bharati Shakha Newbury held a UK fundraising drive in Newbury Town center to contribute towards the India COVID Appeal. Our stall, filled with Indian snacks, was ready by 8:00 am in the morning.

All the food was cooked by the Indians in Newbury. The start was slow but by 11:00 am sales and donations picked up and we all were kept busy till 3:30 pm. The weather held up very well and by 4:00 pm everything was sold out. Aside from the Swayamsevaks and Sevikas from Bharati Shakha Newbury, the wider Newbury community joined this drive and contributed greatly. Invites were sent by our Samaj Sampark team to all influencers.

The guests who visited us included Newbury's MP, Laura Farris and Newbury's Mayor Cllr Billy Drummond and Deputy Mayor Cllr Gary Norman. The net collection, including the online donation was £2162.96.

A big "Aum" to the Newbury Sewa Dal lead by Arvindji, Harikrishnaji, Pramendraji and all the Swayamsevaks and Sevikas involved in making this event a huge success



# Reading and Wokingham

Hindu charity raises funds for First Days charity

This year Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS (UK)), Reading & Wokingham chapter nominated First Days children's charity based in Wokingham to raise awareness of the long-term effect of poverty on children. Although the whole community was unable to get together collectively due to lockdown restrictions, each group organised activities to raise funds in different ways involving either participation, trade, or sponsorship within the wider community.

- The Parents group was involved in variety of tasks including making food for office such as samosas, tea masala, baking cake; help with catering for birthdays, online craft session for children as well as online yoga sessions.
- The Under 12 group helped by creating posters to spread awareness and raised money in their own way such as bike/toy sales.
- The Youth group worked in their own bubble volunteering to do diy work and donated the money received.

The culmination of this drive was an online musical event with a quiz and children's talent show which included singing, dancing, and playing musical instruments.

Although the two-month target for was £1200, it has been exceeded as donations still continue to come in.

**JustGiving** Menu Start Fundraising Search

**DAY CHARITY WORK**  
AFTERNOON TEA  
LUNCH  
DINNER  
CAKE  
BREAD  
Samosas  
Masala  
Yoga  
Crafts  
Quiz  
Talent Show  
Musical Event

**108%**  
**£1,302**  
raised of £1,200 target

**Give Now**  
[Share](#)

**HSS Reading**  
**Reading's Various Fundraising Events**  
As part of HSS SEWA, Reading Nagar is fundraising for First Days Children's Charity because

**First Days Children's Charity**  
We give children all they need in childhood to reduce effects of growing up in poverty

Collecting for  
**First Days  
Children's  
Hospital,  
Wokingham**





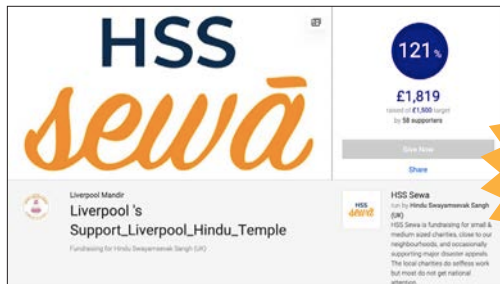
Reading  
bubble  
volunteering

## Liverpool

This year our volunteers at Adarsh Parivar Shakha, Liverpool came forward to support Shree Radha Krishna Temple (Liverpool, L7 2PH).

Our Mandir has not only been a religious place for worship and celebrations, but also, a cornerstone for learning, charity, and community well-being.

After 18 months of strict lockdown, the temple had finally opened, and was in need of our support so that the Mandir could once again become the bedrock for community service.



We raised a total of £1819.

Collecting for  
**Shree Radha  
Krishna  
Temple,  
Liverpool**

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/liverpool-mandir>



Collecting for  
**First Days  
Children's  
Hospital,**  
Wokingham



## Reading

Supporting Children's charity First Days as charity for 2021.

As part of various activities conducted to support this charity, Swayamsevak's from Reading Nagar volunteered to support the appeal from First Days to donate Winter Jackets and coats for children in age group 0-18 years.

In a short span of 15 days Swayamsevak's from Reading Nagar managed to collect around 40 jackets and coats for kids aged 0-18 years. We received donations of these jackets from various Swayamsevak's, local community as well as members of Gujarat Samaj, Jalaram bhajan group, Pranyog Reading to name a few. Firstdays has appreciated our support to them throughout this year and mentioned that our contributions has made lot of difference to Children in need.

Reading Nagar would like thank to all the local community members and groups who have supported us in this noble cause. Let us continue this good work of supporting the needy people.





HSS Rugby Nagar presented a cheque for £550 to charity MIND, raised from their Sewa Walkathon

Collecting  
for **MIND**  
**Charity**  
Rugby

*Rugby*

NOT SITTING ON THE FENCE WHEN IT COMES TO SEWA

Rugby Shakha has been busy recently giving their time over 2 weekends to help paint all the railings at Rugby St. Cross Hospital. Additional help was volunteered when a Swayamsevak posted the Sewa project on Facebook page 'Spotted: Rugby Town'. The post raised the profile and awareness of Sewa



Volunteering  
for **St. Cross**  
**Hospital,**  
Rugby





# Rugby

## CHARITY THROUGH ADVENTURE

This year due to Covid-19 restrictions and unable to travel for long walks i.e, Yorkshire 3 Peak challenge, Rugby Shakha along with Charity through Adventure decided to walk the distance journey that Lord Ram took during his 14 years in exile from Ayodhya to Lanka... within the UK! It was approximately 1957miles (3150km). We had chosen the whole month of May 2021 to take on this challenge. Dipika Mistry-Nesbitt, Rugby Samaj Samparak Pramukh

After 31 days, 44 participants ranging from 4 years to 80 years old completed the challenge walking an incredible 2,177 miles and together raising a £906.95 (£1,100.00) for SewaUK.





Supporting charity partner **Sewa UK** through volunteering/fundraising...



**Cycle4Sewa** participants from Reading



Our South Midlands Sanghchalak, Dr Balmukund Bhala achieves 50 blood donation milestone!

Running the London Marathon for **Sewa UK**



Manchester Volunteers manning one of the Altrincham 10k Run waterpoint

# JAN 20 22

HSS  
*sewā*

HSS Sewa is part of HSS (UK) working to support vulnerable and needy. We aim to imbibe from young age in our members, the Hindu tradition of regular selfless service to society, without any expectation.

