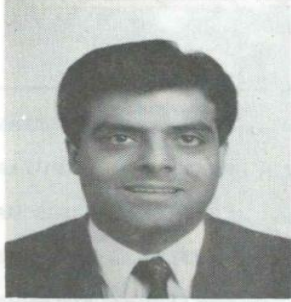


PAST PRESIDENTS

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



NAMASTE !

It gives me great pleasure and privilege to write this foreward on behalf of SHREE LOHANA MAHAJAN, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

OUR MAHAJAN as one big "FAMILY", with its 60 - 70 families in and around TAMESIDE has contributed in educational, cultural, economical and social fields in this country.

Educational achievements by OUR members is very consistent, every family in our MAHAJAN has at least two to three members educated to University level.

Our MAHAJAN has organised Navratri and Diwali functions every year with great success. In the last three years it has worked with other Local MAHAJANS and groups such as Bolton, Manchester and Soni Mandal with friendship and co-operation to organise such functions.

We are well represented in the Local government and in our parent body Lohana Community of United Kingdom (L.C.U.K.) by our executive committee members.

Whatever success we have achieved in the last fifteen years it is due to the generosity and goodwill of sincere and dedicated workers, who form the backbone of our community.

We have published this souvenir to recognise the efforts of all those volunteers through the respective presidents of the past years.

I must personally congratulate them for their tireless efforts and determinations to uphold the values of our community and heritage.

We pray for God's blessing so that we may continue to serve the WHOLE community for generations to come.

This souvenir contains a selection of photographs of functions and activities we have organised in the last fifteen years for the Lohana MAHAJAN of Ashton-u-Lyne.

My sincere thanks to all committee members for their untiring efforts, devoted energies, dedication and commitment in preparing for this eventful celebrations.

I also thank all the participants who have worked extremely hard in preparing the entertainment for this celebration.

Finally, my thanks to all Lohanas and friends who have generously donated and given their advertisements or compliments in this souvenir publication. We hope for your support always.

BHARAT CHANDE.

Shree Lohana Mahajan

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ASHTON-U-LYNE

પ્રકાશન સ્થાનેથી

શ્રી લોહાણા મહાજન આશ્ટનને પંદર વર્ષ પૂરા થાય છે તેની જુશાલીમાં આ "સુવેનીર સેરેક્રીવ" પ્રસિધ્ધ કરતા ઘણો આનંદ થાય છે. આ ઉજવણીનું આયોજન દેલા આર્ટિફ મલિનાથી થઈ રહ્યું છે. ગઈ સાલની તથા આ સાલની કાર્યવાહિક સમીતીએ તથા અન્ય ગ્રીતિજનોએ આ કામ આઠે રાત દિવસ મહેનત કરી છે. આ તમામ લોકોને હું આભાર વ્યક્ત કરું છું અને અભિનંદન પાઠવું છું.

દેલા પંદર વર્ષ દરમિયાન મહાજનના મુખ્ય હોદ્દાધારો કોણ હતા તથા મહાજને કઈ કઈ પ્રવૃત્તિઓ કરી તેની અચૂક માહિતી આ સુવેનીરમાં તમને મળશે. તે સિવાય જાણા બોલ શૈયે આપેલા લેખ, ભજન, સુવિચાર તથા રમુજી દુમકા વાંચવા મળશે. સુંદર ફોટોગ્રાફો જોઈને તમને મહાજનના પ્રસંગોની ઝાંખી થશે. આપણા અત્યારના મેમ્બરોના નામ, શરનામ અને ટેલીફોન નંબર તમને વર્ષો મુદ્દી કામ આપશે. જાહેર પત્રોમાંથી પણ ઘણી માહિતી મળશે - આ મુલ્કો ઠકોવો હું ખાસ આભાર માનું છું.

સ્વંતમાં આશ રાખું છું કે કાર્યક્રમમાં તથા સુવેનીર વાંચવામાં તમને આનંદ આપશે. અચારી કંઈ ભૂલ થાય તો માફ કરી દેશો. પ્રભુની કૃપા અને આપ સૌના આશિષ હશે તો આપણું મહાજન આવતા પંદર વર્ષ પણ આજ રીતે ચકી રહેશે, અને એક મજબૂત સંસ્થા બની જશે.

OFFICE BEARERS : 1976 TO 1991

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>TREASURER</u>
1976-77....	BACHOOBHAI KOTA.....	RAJNI G SOMAIYA....	PRATAPRAI S PUJARA
1977-78....	JAYANTILAL N TANNA....	RAJNI G SOMAIYA....	PRATAPRAI S PUJARA
1978-79....	NATWARLAL P BHOJANI....	SANKUT P SOMAIYA....	KANJIBHAI KOTECHA
1979-80....	NATWARLAL P BHOJANI....	SANKUT P SOMAIYA....	KANJIBHAI KOTECHA
1980-81....	NATWARLAL P BHOJANI....	PRITI V CHANDE.....	KANJIBHAI KOTECHA
1981-82....	NATWARLAL P BHOJANI....	PRAFULBHAI TANNA....	KANJIBHAI KOTECHA
1982-83....	NATWARLAL P BHOJANI....	PRADIP R KHIOSIA....	KANJIBHAI KOTECHA
1983-84....	NATWARLAL P BHOJANI....	VIKRAM N TANNA.....	KANJIBHAI KOTECHA
1984-85....	NATWARLAL P BHOJANI....	JANAK N KHILOSIA....	KANJIBHAI KOTECHA
1985-86....	JANAK N KHILOSIA.....	BHARAT V CHANDE.....	KANJIBHAI KOTECHA
1986-87....	JANAK N KHILOSIA.....	BHARAT V CHANDE.....	KANJIBHAI KOTECHA
1987-88....	TANUBHAI MASHARANI....	BHARAT V CHANDE....	PRADIP K LAKHANI
1988-89....	TANUBHAI MASHARANI....	BHARAT V CHANDE....	PRADIP K LAKHANI
1989-90....	VIKRAM N TANNA.....	BHARAT V CHANDE....	PRADIP K LAKHANI
1990-91....	VIKRAM N TANNA.....	KIRAN K CHANDE.....	PRABHUDAS THAKKAR
1991-92....	BHARAT V CHANDE.....	KIRAN K CHANDE.....	NARESH R SANGHAN

SOUVENIR COMMITTEE

Dr Vikram N Tanna (Convenor), Mr Prabhudas Thakkar, Mr Jagubhai Lakhani, Mr Bharat v Chande, Mr Narendra Mavani.

THE INDIAN WEDDING

MEETING

Marriage comes to us all sooner or later, being arranged through attendance at other people's weddings, social gatherings and masis having a chat with one another to create a perfect match. After investigating each other's family background, the date for the first meeting is set. This the most nerve-wracking time for both the boy and the girl. It is also make or break time, and if the answer is yes, future meetings are arranged. If alla this is successful and the final answer is yes to his proposal, both parties are on cloud nine and the world is rosy.

ENGAGEMENT

After sending letters of acceptance of the union, the parents arrange the official engagement ceremony when the two families are united. A priest or elder solemnly declares the engagement in public, and the sum of 5.25 is passed from the boy's family to the girl's as a symbolic gesture. The 'Chundadi' is a grand affair in which the girl is draped in a special ssari by her soon-to-be mother-in-law. This signifies that she is now claimed and cannot accept any more proposals of marriage. The,parents of the girl now fully realise that their precious little daughter will soon be married and leave home. BANG! Life suddenly becomes hectic and the sari and jewellery shops begin making a fortune on your behalf. Yes, this is the time when money is no object and only the best will do.

MARRIAGE

As the big day draws nearer and the invites have been sent, the days and nights merge into one. The suitcases are packed and everything is organised to the last detail. Family members get emotional and buckets start filling, especially when she says "I do" at the registry office. The night before the wedding the girl has mehendi painted on her hands and she realises she will be somewhere else before the next day is over.

Six o'clock in the morning and a polite knock at the door tells the girl it's time to wake up. Everyone is dressed and she is helped to get ready. The morning passes quickly. The boy's party arrive and they are ceremoniously welcomed. The hall by this time is filled to capacity as he is led to the mandap where the wedding will take place. The girl's parents wash his feet in symbolic respect, and he pledges to honour and protect their daughter. After the three traditional calls by the priest the bride makes her entrance. With her mamas at her side she is led barefoot into the mandap where she garlands the groom. He responds in kind, and the bride's parents dutifully give her away (kanya daan). The priest puts the Varmala around the couple's necks and joins their hands, asking the families, friends and gods above to bless their union (Hasta melap).

Having invoked Lord Ganesh, the priest lights the sacred fire and the bride and groom take their vows as they walk round it. The bride leads the first three which symbolise Dharma Artha and Kama. They are-blessed at the beginning of each round by the bride's parents, her brothers and her mamas respectively. On the fourth round the bride-groom leads the way (Moksha) and they are blessed by his parents. The bride then sits to the left of her partner and makes her seven pledges (sapta padi). This concludes the marriage ceremony, which is followed by speeches and congratulations from guests.

After shaking hundreds of hands and refreshing themselves, the newly-weds arrive at the dinner table. They are offered mithai from every direction as they try to negotiate with the food on their plates. Next follow the photographs, family portraits and family blessings. The time comes for the finale when the tears start flowing and the Kleenex always gets misplaced. As the bridal procession takes off, the bride's family are left wailing and the curtain falls. This has been one expensive day for the bride's parents, but well worth it.

BINOTI