

GRC Update

Dearest Divine Family!

As autumn sets in, the beauty of Baba's retreat centre grounds has its own charm and attraction. As the leaves change colour to a palate of reds, yellows and browns in the tender winter sun, the place looks like its on fire, creating a wonderful ambience. Our minds drift to all of you who have so much love for Baba's place and we know that you are also visiting here in your minds!

Everyone we meet enquires with a lot of interest as to how the work is progressing. Things are moving very well. Due to the specialist nature of working on a Grade II listed building, after a lot of effort, we are especially pleased that we have managed to select a contractor to carry out our work who is locally based. The contractor commenced on site at the end of March 2019. They are very diligent, have high standards of practice and are conscious of providing top-quality workmanship. We hope to have completed the works towards the end of next year.

As would be expected with a building of this nature there have been several challenges. Even though this is a complex project, with Ratanbhai's experience and wisdom and the team of people who are supporting him, one by one those challenges are being resolved. However, this does mean that the work may be delayed to some extent. It also means expenses are rising, even though we are working as economically as we can, bearing in mind BapDada and Dadi's shrimat that we should not waste a single penny of the Yagya in carrying out our activities.



While the building is an amazing treasure and generally is sound, we have had to deal with a number of regulatory bodies and comply with all their requirements. For example, we are not able to change the fabric of the building (walls, floors etc) in anyway, while carrying out plumbing, electrical works, bathrooms, paint works, etc, as we need to obtain permissions for everything that we do from the various regulatory authorities.

Also despite having carried out an extensive clearing of asbestos prior to the work starting, we have discovered more asbestos as the work progresses. There have also been delays due to the presence of bats in the attic. As these are a protected species in the UK, we required a licence to continue the work in the loft areas of the Main and South Blocks. Having one element of work stall has a knock on effect with connected tasks. However, thankfully, everything is again progressing.

This is also wonderful opportunity to make sure the house is conducive to the service that the world is asking of us at this time. It is a chance to review ourselves and our contribution to service. With this in mind we have started having conversations with our contacts and some BKs. The first of these happened in Madhuban in October with participants of *The Call of Time* Retreat and also some international BKs. It's been very inspiring to see people's hopes and aspirations and love for GRC. We hope to do this with the UK family as well in the very near future.

In the meantime, service continues around Oxford and the 12 or so residents who are still there keep themselves busy with various aspects related to GRC renovation, maintaining the grounds and some with lokik jobs etc.

Thank you for your generous support for GRC. It is the good will of the Family that can enable us to successfully complete GRC. Our request is that you give some time for special yoga during Amrit Vela and evening yoga for the project at GRC. Those good vibrations and blessings will certainly spread all around and contribute to the success of the project and service. This is the most precious need of the time.

Lots of love

In Baba's yaad

Ratanbhai and Sister Jayanti