

GLOBAL retreat CENTRE

Renovation Project Update
May 2019



To our dear unlimited family, Dadi Janki has been with us for just about a week now and it feels like Madhuban has come to us. Dadi is well and sharing more and more as days go by. I am sure all of you are keeping alive the memory of madhuban too.

I know that it's been quite some time since we shared any news about the renovation of GRC however, things have now become clearer and there is more definite information to share with you all.

Since the closure in March 2018, there have been various elements of preparatory works undertaken - asbestos surveying and removal, definitive plans of the building drawn up, applications to official bodies made in respect of the buildings heritage listed status, all the old pipework stripped out and the sanitary ware removed from all the bathrooms and public toilets. A huge task!

In late 2018, a mechanical and engineering company was appointed, and they have been drawing up plans and creating detailed designs for the new plumbing system and the electrical rewiring of the building. We have been able to provide lots of input into how we may be able to improve the facilities for the future: relatively small changes that impact on the ease of managing such a large property.

Early in 2019, a local building company and an electrical company were appointed as sub-contractors to carry out the work of replacing all the pipework throughout the house and a complete rewire. Until this point, the building



looked like an empty shell with the works happening within. Now it looks like a proper building site with portable facilities positioned in the courtyard, scaffolding erected, site fencing in place and plenty of activity being visible.



A timescale for the project has been provided which would suggest that the contractors will be off-site in late summer 2020. Of course, there will be much to do following that to allow for reoccupation - decoration, carpeting, refurbishing. It is too early to suggest an opening date yet but watch this space!

Our service to support our contacts continues in various places around the area and new contacts have been made that offers opportunities for new outreach service, as well. Despite the security fencing, the grounds do remain open to visitors. We have a steady trickle of people coming to appreciate the beauty and freshness that the gardens currently hold with the spring buds and flowers bursting forth. We hope to continue to utilise the gardens through the year with a few different events for the public.



So where are the residents of GRC?

There are a few whose service field is such that they need to be at GRC each day e.g. the garden, overseeing the project and other aspects relating to the renovation. Others are living locally at our bhavans and supporting service; some 'on sabbatical' at other centres in the UK; one teaching meditation in schools and a hospital in Tibet!

Donations continue to come in for the project, for which we are very grateful. We are expecting the cost to be in excess of £6 million pounds and we have accumulated about half of this to date.

Lots of love
Manda