

Stoke Hindu Samajam
Trustees' Annual Report
For the Financial Year September 2023 – August 2024

Introduction

The Trustees of Stoke Hindu Samajam (SHS) are pleased to present the annual report for the financial year ending August 2024. This report outlines our ongoing commitment to promoting community cohesion, preserving cultural heritage, supporting educational initiatives, and providing charitable assistance to individuals and families in need.

Throughout the year, SHS has continued to be a cornerstone of cultural and spiritual enrichment for the Hindu community in Stoke-on-Trent and surrounding areas.

Key Activities and Achievements

1. Vishu Celebration – 14th April 2024

SHS successfully hosted the Vishu festival, an important South Indian harvest celebration, on 14th April 2024. This event was widely publicised via social media platforms and drew an attendance of approximately 100 participants. Children took part in a range of classical and cultural performances, demonstrating their talents developed through SHS's educational activities. To honour their efforts, awards and trophies were presented, encouraging continued engagement and excellence in cultural expression.

2. Educational and Cultural Classes for Children

SHS continued its commitment to youth education by offering regular classes in:

Indian regional languages

Traditional music and dance

Hindu Dharma and values

These programmes play a vital role in nurturing the next generation with knowledge of their cultural and spiritual heritage.

3. School Outreach Initiatives

In response to invitations from local educational institutions, SHS volunteers visited schools to deliver interactive sessions on Hinduism, supporting the Religious Education curriculum. These sessions have helped foster better understanding and respect for Hindu beliefs among students from diverse backgrounds.

4. Chenda Drumming Classes and Performances

Regular Chenda (traditional South Indian drum) classes were conducted for both children and adults. These sessions not only provide musical training but also promote physical coordination and cultural pride.

A notable milestone was the SHS Chenda Melam performance during the Diwali celebrations at The Potteries, in partnership with Stoke-on-Trent City Council—a proud moment for the community and a demonstration of cultural vibrancy.

5. Community Support and Charity Collaborations

SHS has actively collaborated with other charitable organisations to assist vulnerable individuals, including adults and children facing hardship. On several occasions, SHS coordinated the preparation and distribution of free cooked meals, ensuring basic support to those in need, particularly during times of personal or financial difficulty.

6. Onam Celebration

SHS organised a grand celebration of Onam, one of the most important festivals for the Malayali community. This event featured traditional music, dance, and the festive Onasadya (grand vegetarian feast). The celebration served not only to honour tradition but also to strengthen communal bonds and foster a sense of shared identity and joy among participants.

Conclusion

The Trustees of Stoke Hindu Samajam remain deeply committed to their mission of promoting spiritual wellbeing, cultural education, and community service. The 2023–2024 financial year saw the successful continuation of key programmes, increased community engagement, and strengthened partnerships with local schools and charities.

As we look ahead to the coming year, SHS will continue to explore new avenues to serve the community with dedication, compassion, and cultural pride.

SHS Balance Sheet September 2023-2024

Date	Description	Income	Expense
15/09/23	OPENING BALANCE	£285.17	
15/09/23 – 14/09/24	Contributions	£5230.38	
19/10/23	Reghuram Solicitor Fee		£1695
20/10/23	Rajeev (Goods and Services Provided)		£307
13/12/23	Hanley Temple Hall Rent		£65
29/01/24	Hanley Temple Ayappa Pooja		£528.40
07/02/24	Reghuram Ayappa Pooja Expenses		£525.34
19/04/24	Copeland Bus Tour		£750
15/09/24	CLOSING BALANCE	£5515.55	£3870