



## **Director Board Report for the Year 2018**

### **Director Board**

MAUK is a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. Therefore, members of the Board of Directors have the responsibility as Charity Trustees and as Company Directors.

### **Elections**

At the last AGM, the following directors were elected to serve for two consecutive years: Anil Velu, Sherin Sathayaseelan, Jayan Pillai, Anil Edavana, Nishar Viswanathan, Ajikumar Velu, Mohandas Madhavan, Mrs Rajeswari Sadasivan, Pushkas Vasu.

The following sitting directors will serve until the forthcoming AGM on Sunday 27 October 2019: Raman Sambasivan, Sreejith Sreedharan, Sreekumar Kunjuraman, Aji Gangadharan, Murali Pillai, Nihas Rawther

Two members were coopted to the Board at the first Board meeting: Subash Viswanathan, Jainlal Soman. These co-opted Directors will hold office until the next AGM on Sunday 27 October 2019.

As usual, the Annual General Meeting will be electing only the required number of directors to the Board. The first meeting of the Board will then elect the officials and decide on the roles and responsibilities of the various directors.

### **Resignation and Termination**

The following Directors resigned from the Board in 2018.  
Mr Sherin Sathyaseelan - Personal reasons

### **2018 Management Structure**

To ensure efficient and effective management, each director was given responsibilities for one or two services and was supported by the Chair, Secretary and CFO

### **Membership**

As in the past years, MAUK membership has increased moderately during 2018. We started a door-to door membership campaign which has to postponed due to our focus on raising funds for Kerala flood relief.

### **Janani – MAUK Annual Souvenir**

MAUK Annual Souvenir 'JANANI' was published during the Kerala Floods Fund Raising event held on 16 September 2018 at Ilford Town Hall. The souvenir mainly featured creative work of UK Malayalees and gave a brief insight into MAUK's services and activities. Articles of two prominent writers from Malayalam literary field, Prabha Varma & Kiran Babu added extra value to this year's Janani.

The unique and attractive front cover depicting a pavement view of the front of Kerala House was envisioned and painted by the renowned artist Jose Pindian.

The Board expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the Chief Editor, Mr Manampoor Suresh, as well as other editorial board members- Priyan Sathyavathan, Jose Antony, Sreekala Nair and Muralee Mukundan for publishing a superb edition. Anil Raj, a prominent designer for many news magazines in Kerala, including Kerala Kaumudi and Kalakaumudi, did the design and layout for this year's Janani. We also thank our sponsors and advertisers for their financial contribution, which enabled us to distribute printed copies of the Souvenir free-of-charge.

You can also download the 2018 Janani at <https://mauk.org/publication#>

### **Website – mauk.org**

The website is used mainly for the purpose of informing members of MAUK activities and archiving our records. Members can also download MAUK policies, annual reports and accounts, forms and other publications such as Janani from the site. Regular update and maintenance are done by AANU Technologies with whom we have a contract for 3 years starting in 2017. The site is hosted on a cloud-based server to enhance security thereby preventing data loss.

### **Social Media**

MAUK increased its presence on social media with our Facebook page 'mauklondon' being our main means of publicity. Details of MAUK events, activities, reports and photos of main events are regularly updated on this page. This page has also become one of the main mediums for people from many parts of the world to communicate with MAUK. We are also present on Twitter - @mauklondon and on YouTube – mauklondon

### **Media Partners**

MAUK continued to maintain a good rapport with various print, online and visual media that is targeted at Malayalee community. On almost all occasions, our press releases and reports have been published unedited by our media partners, and we are grateful for their continued support. We express our gratitude to Garshom TV, Anand Media, MagnaVision, UKmalayalee.com, Kerala Link, KaumudiEurope and Manoramaonline.

### **Kerala House**

There has been significant increase in the usage of Kerala House. Community and faith-based groups now use Kerala House regularly at preferential rates. Location, easy access by public transport and affordable rates has been the prime reasons for this increase.

Kerala House is made available for all members of the local community for wakes and other funeral gatherings and rituals. Many members have made use of this service in the last year as it is located within short distance from Manor Park Crematorium. All members who have used the premises for this purpose have donated money to the upkeep of Kerala House.

The first-floor rear room has been set up as a dedicated office and boardroom with access restricted to Directors in order to comply with data regulations and maintain confidentiality. First floor front room is used as a classroom and occasionally for meetings.

The following life members used their free booking of Kerala House in 2018: Jeeju Sasi

Prominent personalities who visited Kerala House in 2018: Poet & writer Prof.Kavitha Balakrishnan, Writer and Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction at UN, Muralee Thummarakudy, Trivandrum Commissioner of Police, K. Sanjaykumar IPS, Prof Ravichandran Chandran, Music Director Ousephachan, Prof Madhusoodanan Nair, Gandhi Bhavan Charity Director Punalur Somrajan and Novelist M P Hafis Muhammed.

## **Arts & Cultural Services**

### **Chenda Troupe**

MAUK Chenda Troupe, which was founded in 2011 under the training and guidance of Vinod Navadhara, has grown into the leading Chenda Troupe in the country. Over the years, the Troupe has performed for many prestigious events including the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of The Commonwealth, Olympic Torch Relay and at leading Temple and Church festivals. Our Troupe is a regular feature at The Independence and Republic Day celebrations at the High Commission of India. In 2018, the Troupe could only perform a total of 3 shows in the UK.

### **Promotion of Traditional Kerala Arts**

MAUK is deeply committed to promoting Kerala arts and culture in the UK. In 2017 we have made an extra commitment to promote the diverse ritual, folk and ancient art form of Kerala as MAUK has a moral obligation to preserve these declining art forms as it is an integral part of Kerala heritage and to provide opportunities for the community to experience these invaluable art forms. To contribute to this objective, MAUK have run special sessions of Kattankappi to educate about this topic. We have also held two performances of Ottanthullal by guest artist from Kerala, Mr. Kannan Marathorvattom.

### **Kattankappium Kavaihaum**

2018 presented some of the most memorable moments and eminent people through the 11 events 'Coffee and Poetry' organised independently and in association with other organisations like KALA, Kaumudi Europe, Essence UK and Women's Forum of MAUK. While thankfully recognising these organisations, we express our sincere gratitude to the volunteers of this movement. We strongly believe that 'Coffee and Poetry' contributed positively towards creating a better understanding of the society we live in, through the various events, talks and the discussions we organised while maintaining its core value of political and religious neutrality. When we marked the 79th event since its inception, we still keep 'Coffee and Poetry' as an open platform for all views and opinions to be presented and discussed over.

#### List of events in 2018

- 14 Jan - Raathri mazha peyyumpol - Poetry of Sugathakumari, Tribute to Punathil
- 14 April - Chila naattu kaaryangal - Murali Thummarakudi
- 15 April - Kaavya Sandya - Poetry of Kureepuzha Sreekumar
- 26 May - Marichu jeevikkunnavar - Talk by Prof.C Ravichandran - in association with Essence UK
- 21 July - Charity endeavour - Dr. Punalur Somarajan
- 28 July - Meeshayude 101 nirangal - Discussion on freedom of expression
- 18 Aug - Beyond Kerala flood disaster - Dr. K Raviraman - talk and discussion
- 30 Sep - Chakkarakkudathil kai ittaal - Tribute to poet Chemmanam Chakko - 'just a minute' language game
- 31 Oct - Kaviyodoppam - Prof Madhusoodanan Nair - in association with KALA & Kaumudi Europe

03 Nov - Tribute to Balabhaskar - in association with MAUK women's forum  
25 Nov - Dr. N P Hafiz Mohamad - Childrens literature, Social cost of addiction

## **Social, Sports and Leisure Services**

### **Votes for Women Centenary Celebrations**

As part of the celebration, MAUK conducted month-long events and workshop to awareness about the Suffragettes and democracy in British society. The celebration was inaugurated on the 2nd of April and concluded on the 28th of April with the Grand finale showcasing the outcome of the workshops that were conducted in between these dates.

MAUK conducted five workshops with the theme of Suffragettes and empowerment of women including poetry, art, and ICT workshops for children and young people, art and drama workshops for adults.

The month-long events culminated to the Grand Finale on 28 April, which brought together some the best artists and speakers from the local community. In addition, participants of the various workshops were given opportunities to present their work to the event. Selected ebooks were introduced to the audience. Some participants of the art workshops described their vision of their creative artwork. Children also recited poems that were written during the poetry workshop.

The local community very well supported this unique project that combined education and entertainment to bring awareness of the Suffragettes and Equality for Women. This project has generated broad interest from women of all age groups, and MAUK managed to attract many new volunteers and service users. We have also been invited by a local heritage group to be part of their project, which will be taking place in November this year.

The event was funded by Women's Vote Centenary Grants Scheme and coordinated by MAUK volunteer Jasline Shimmy Antony.

### **Coach Trip**

Two coach trips were conducted this year. The first one, European coach tour of Brussels, Keukenhof and Amsterdam was held over the Bank Holiday weekend in May. A total of 49 people participated. A day trip to Frinton-on-Sea was held on 14 July in which 80 people took part.

### **UK Malayalee Cricket Legau (UKMCL)**

The UKMCL was set up by MAUK, Kerala Catholic Association and Kerala Cultural and Welfare Association in 2004 to cater for the growing needs of Malayalee Cricketers and provide them with specialised services. As in previous years, UKMCL Awards were presented at the Onam function to the League winners – East Ham Malayalee Cricket Club (EMCC). The runners-up were East Ham based Hornbills. More details about UKMCL is available at <http://ukmcl.com>

### **Card Competition**

MAUK Annual 28 Cards competition was held on 22 July at Kerala House. This year's winners were Jainlal Soman, Pushkas Vasu and R Samabasivan. The runners-up were Gangadharan Babu, Dinesh Shobanan and Ajith Lekshmanan. Both teams were awarded trophies at prestigious MAUK Onam celebrations.

### **Keralolsav 2018**

Keralolsav 2018 took place at Flanders Playing Field on Sunday, 02 July. The highlight of this year's day long outdoor celebration of Kerala Culture was the Mega Thiruvathira coordinated by MAUK's Women's Forum. It was the first of this kind conducted in the whole of Europe and was a huge success with 210 participants from different parts of the UK of all age groups between 16 and 75.

18 volunteers under the guidance of MAUK Women's Forum lead Seena Ajeesh were involved to make this mammoth task a reality. Rathy Mahesh, Jennies James, Shola Delip, Swarna Nair, Geeja Srilal, Rani Reghulal, Rani Sudesan, Simi Dilbert, Lekshmi Anil, Sruthi Ravi, Sandra Sugathan, Shruthi Narayana, Rajeswari Sadasivan, Vineetha Lijo Antony, Shamala Satheesan, Anupama Biju, Priya Nair, Dhanya Ravindranath, Rohoney Deyanand were the team leads who managed to assemble and train the participants. Rohoney Deyanand choreographed the Thiruvathira.

Watch Mega Thiruvathira at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNmtWErn1XQ>

Over thousand people from across the UK attended the event. The chief guests at the event were Shri P Sreeramakrishnan, Kerala Assembly Speaker and Stephen Timms, MP for East Ham, Unmesh Desai, Representative for City and East London at the London Assembly, C Divakaran Kerala MLA and Roshi Augustan Kerala MLA

### **Onasadhya**

Had to be cancelled due to Kerala Floods

### **International Women's Day (IWD)**

IWD was celebrated on Sunday, 18 March 2018 at Kerala House by the newly reformed MAUK Women's Forum. A mixture of educational talks and entertaining cultural programmes were featured. Over 100 people attended the event. Unsung heroes from the local community whose commitment to women's empowerment projects were celebrated

The main speaker Dr Sheethal Shaw highlighted the importance of women's participation in all aspects of the society. Ajitha Sajeev, who works for Newham council homeless people's unit, talked about women's safety. Sheeba Anil, from Swayam properties, shared her experience as a businesswoman who broke the glass ceiling to build a successful business from start. Haleema Azizi, head of beauty & spa at Newham college spoke about the importance to self-care and mental wellbeing. The event led by Seena Ajeesh and team was very successful and highly appreciated by the audience

## **Elders Services**

### **60+ Sisters Club**

In 2006, the Late Mrs Girija Nair, who was a dedicated MAUK volunteer, started the Sisters Club with a vision to provide friendship and support for women over the age of 60. At present, MAUK senior Director Rajeswari Sadasivan, with the able help of many including Radha Rajan, Radha Ashokan and Prasanna Vijayakaran efficiently manages the Club.

The Club has over 25 regular active members who gather every Tuesday from 1 pm to 4 pm at Kerala House to take part in various activities including singing, poetry, dancing, light exercise sessions, food tasting, training for cultural shows, day-trips, etc. Members of the Club have formed a strong bond and are a support network for each other. This year, the Sisters Club members were treated to 2 one-day outings. MAUK would like to extend our gratitude to Ford Community Transport scheme and Halal Restaurant in Aldgate, who have made

these trips possible.

### **Elders Club**

The Elders Club meets every Thursday at Kerala House from 10 AM to 5 PM. Participants of the club enjoy a variety of activities including card and board games, exercise classes, knitting, arts and crafts, etc. Kerala lunch is also provided. The Club has always been a focal point for Elders in the community to meet and catch up.

### **Thalamura**

Thalamura, which is being coordinated by MAUK Volunteer Suresh Sukumaran meet every alternate Fridays from 1 pm to 6 pm at Kerala House. In 2018, it has seen an increase in the number of participants with cooking being the most popular activity.

### **150Club**

150Club is an exercise-based prevention programme for members of the local community who are at risk of being Diabetic. The 150Club scheme is an initiative by NHS Newham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Newham Council and the 150Club partnership - made up of the West Ham United Foundation working with the council's leisure trust activeNewam and the Staywell Partnership, which includes MAUK.

150Club exercise programme takes place every Tuesday at Kerala House. Members of the local community who wish to join 150Club activities should request their GPs to refer them to enrol to the programme.

### **Befriending Services**

MAUK befriending Service is an outstanding and compassionate service that is run as part of the Elders Service to ensure housebound Elderly people are not forgotten. Participants of the Elders service make visits to their homebound peers for a chat & tea. The service also offers support with shopping, attending appointments or even to accompany them for a short trip to park.

If you know of anyone who could improve their wellbeing by this service, please email their details to [info@mauk.org](mailto:info@mauk.org) or call us on 07961454644, and we will be happy to visit them.

## **Educational Services**

### **Chenda & Tabala Classes**

Students attending the percussion instrument classes are on the rise with many non-Malayalee students now attending the classes. One-to-One tuition, weekday evening and weekend classes have provided more opportunity for students to attend at their convenient time and learn at their own pace. Mr. Vinodkumar Sukumaran runs the classes.

### **Keyboard & Guitar Classes**

The number of students attending the keyboard and guitar classes has increased. The classes now take place on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. We have students from the age of 5 to 60 years. Well-known musician and music composer, Mr. Albert Vijayan, train the students of MAUK

### **Malayalam Classes**

MAUK restarted its Malayalam Classes due increased demand from community members. New classes started on Saturday 14 April 2018. Classes takes place at Kerala House on Sunday from 10 AM. Currently, we have over 40 students in three different ability groups learning Malayalam.

### **Educational Awards 2018**

The Chief Guest the Worshipful Mayor of Loughton, Cllr. Philip Abraham presented the prestigious MAUK Educational Awards at the Onam celebrations. Jiya Rose Jijo from won the Award for the best GCSE results. Arjun Santosh from East Ham came second.

## **Community**

### **Kerala Flood Relief Efforts**

MAUK have been busy raising funds to help victims of the Floods that devastated our beautiful Kerala and took the lives of many of our brethren. Realising the magnitude of the disaster, MAUK was one of the very first organisations to swiftly evaluate the situation in the affected area through our members/volunteers who have been on holiday in the area and our local contacts.

In the initial days following the floods, MAUK volunteers collected essential non-perishable items including food, medicine, clothes and dry-cleaning products and forwarded it to members of the Loka Kerala Sabha who arranged cargo and distribution facilities. Our task was made easier by the coverage we got from BBC London News. We have also used our social media pages to request for support. As it was not MAUK practice, we did not provide a live update of our efforts through social media during this stage. We have also written to the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) requesting them to launch a nationwide appeal and to the BBC for wider coverage of the floods.

Three days following the Floods, MAUK launched a fundraising appeal through Charities Trust fundraising platform – sponsorme.com. Through this page, we have raised £16,489 from 241 donors and £3552 through gift aid. In addition, 11-year-old Ryan Kunnummal from Birmingham also raised over £650 through his sponsorme page.

We changed this year's Onam celebrations into a fundraising event and have raised £14447 from 217 donations received for this event. We are happy that we gone our target of Rs. 25 lakhs (approx £30K) but are very much aware that this amount is only a drop in the ocean when compared with the amount, effort and will needed to rebuild Kerala. We convened a consultation meeting at Kerala House on Sunday, 21 October 2018 to gather opinions and suggestions on how best we can spend this money.

We take this opportunity to once again thank each and every individual and business that donated to MAUK Kerala Floods Relief Effort. We can all agree that rebuilding Kerala is a mammoth task that will take years. To enable and empower MAUK to play its minor part in this Herculean task, we request your continued help, support, advice and guidance. In return, we promise to use the funds efficiently and effectively, update you regularly and have clear audit trail for the money spent. In 2019, we have built a water purification plant in the

remote village of Monkombu in Alapuzha District. We are in the process of building three more plants in areas where there is a severe shortage of clean water.

### **Onam 2018 / Kerala Flood Relief Fundraising Event**

As in the previous years, MAUK have made elaborate plans to celebrate Onam months in advance. However, due to the loss of lives and the utter devastation caused by the floods in Kerala, the director board felt that holding a celebration so soon after the calamity was inappropriate. It was also unfeasible to cancel the entire event due to the amount of time, money and efforts put into the planning and preparations. Hence, we decided to strip the celebration aspects of the programme and use the event to raise more fund for the victims of the flood. The event was held on Sunday, 16 September 2018 at Ilford Town Hall. The main highlight of the event was the musical concert by Indian playback singers Renjini Jose, Kannoor Sheriff and Pradeep Babu, who were aptly supported by MAUK Nisari musicians. In line with MAUK's commitment to promote ritual, folk and ancient art forms of Kerala, we have invited the talented Kannan Marathorvattom, recipient of Kalasagar Award to perform Ottanthullal. Kannan, through his splendid performance educated and entertained the audience leaving them with a greater understanding of this great art form.

The Worshipful Mayor of Redbridge, Cllr. Debbie Kaur-Thiara, allowed the free use of Redbridge Town Hall helping raise over £14440. We express our sincere gratitude to the Mayor and Cllr Thavathurai Jayaranjan their kind support and assistance.

### **Mega Raffle**

A mega raffle was held to raise money for Kerala Flood relief projects. Ticket sale was launched at KFFE and the draw took place at Kerala House during the annual volunteers gathering held on 8 December 2018. Tickets were sold at £5 per ticket and the prizes were sponsored by community-spirited businesses. All prizes were collected by the winners.

### **Inspirational Individual Awards**

The Inspirational Individual Award was introduced to give well-earned and deserved recognition to exemplary role models in the community who have made an inspirational achievement and contribution to the community. In 2018, the award was presented to Francis Mathews for assisting with the NHS Organ Donor campaign within the Malayalee community and setting an example by donating your kidney to save another life. The award was presented at KFFE by MAUK Chair. Francis is also a life-member of MAUK.

If you wish to nominate someone who qualifies for this award, please email their details to the Board at [info@mauk.org](mailto:info@mauk.org) explaining why you think they deserve this award.

### **MAUK/ Girija Nair - Volunteer of the Year Award**

The Volunteer Award was initiated in 2003 to celebrate, acknowledge and appreciate the instrumental contributions of MAUK Volunteers. The award was renamed MAUK Girija Nair Award in 2014 to honour one of MAUK's steadfast and inspirational volunteers.

Ms Aswathy Sasidharan was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award 2017 at the Kerala Floods Fundraising event for her participation and leadership in MAUK cultural activities.

Read more at <http://mauk.org/girija-nair-volunteer-awards>



## **Sponsorship and Donations**

Despite the challenging economic climate, MAUK has managed to increase the amount it has raised through sponsorship. Around £40,000 was raised for the Kerala Flood Relief Projects

The Board takes this opportunity to thank our Main Sponsor of 2018 – Swayam Property Services for their continued support. We also thank our co-sponsors Neil Travels, Sam travels, Law and Lawyers, Thatthukada, Annathapuram, Big Brix constructors, Vita-Grey Constructors, Green Stop, Solanki, Global Study Link, Majors Builders. We also take this opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our supporters at Barclays Bank and Royal Mail.

## **Annual Accounts**

The externally audited accounts for the year 2017 are shown at the end of this report.

## **Resolutions**

If members wish to introduce any resolutions, please inform the Company Secretary in writing, seven days before the AGM (8 PM, Saturday 19 October 2019). The resolutions should be proposed and seconded by two members of MAUK. It is a requirement that all three members are present at the AGM when the item is discussed.

- END -