



Director Board Report for the Year 2019

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: Raman Sambasivan, Sreekumar Kunjuraman, Sreejith Sreedharan, Aji Gangadharan, Murali Pillai, Nihars Rawther, Subash Viswanathan and Rohoney Dayanand

The following sitting directors will serve until the forthcoming AGM: Anil Velu, Jayan Pillai, Anil Edavana, Aji Velu, Mohandas Madhavanandan, Rajeswari Sadhasivan and Pushkas Vasu.

Three members were co-opted to the Board: Abha M Nair, Shiny Benu and Shola Delip. These co-opted Directors will hold office until the forthcoming.

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 Director resigned from the Board in 2020.

Abha M Nair – To focus on her career in the medical profession, which was made more demanding due to the COVID-19 crisis.

2019 Management Structure

To ensure efficient and effective management, tasks were divided into three teams.

Regular Services - Led by R Sambasivan, this team focused on the weekly and monthly activities such as Elders Services, Classes, etc.

Support services - Led by Mohandas Madhavanandan, this team focused on delivering assistance to directors to complete their projects successfully. Kerala House Management, Membership services and Public Relations also came under the remit of Support Services.

Culture, Arts & Social Services - Led by Aji Gangadharan, this team focused on promoting the Arts and culture of Kerala and coordinating large scale cultural and social events such as Onam Celebrations, Onam Feast and Festive Sangamam

While the three teams conduct the day-to-day running of the activities, the Chair, Secretary and CFO

provided advice, guidance and support for the teams to function effectively and efficiently.

Membership

In 2019, we added 40 new family members to our organisation. Membership request is mainly received through online mediums. Under the able leadership of our new Director in charge of Membership, Rohoney Dayanand, we have simplified and made it much easier to obtain membership through our website. We urge all our supporters to promote MAUK and encourage your friends, family and colleagues to become part of MAUK - Our Extended Family.

Visit our membership pages for more info – www.mauk.org/category/membership

Janani – MAUK Annual Souvenir

MAUK Annual Souvenir 'JANANI' was published during the MAUK Ponnonam 2019 on 15 September 2019 at Ilford Town Hall. This year's Janani was dedicated to celebrating the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi and hence featured an in-depth article on Gandhiji's ideals and life. As usual, the souvenir mainly featured creative work of UK Malayalees and also gave a brief insight into MAUK's services and activities.

The Board expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the Chief Editor, Mr Manampoor Suresh, as well as other editorial board members- Priyan Sathyavrathan, Sreekala Nair and Muralee Mukundan for publishing another superb edition. Anil Raj, a prominent designer for many news magazines in Kerala, including Kerala Kaumudi and Kalakaumudi, did the design and layout. 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 2019 Janani at <https://mauk.org/publication#>

Website – www.mauk.org

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

Social Media

MAUK continues to increase its presence on social media with our Facebook page www.fb.com/mauklondon being our primary 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 YouTube – mauklondon

Media Partners

MAUK continues 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 Britishmalayali.com, KeralaVision TV, Europemalayali.com and Manoramaonline.

Kerala House

There has been a 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 a 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 is used as an office and boardroom with access restricted to Directors to comply with data regulations and maintain confidentiality. First-floor front room is used as a classroom and occasionally for meetings.

In light of the current restrictions imposed due to the Pandemic, the Board has decided to extend the deadline of the free booking of Kerala House for life members to 30 December 2022. The following life members used their free booking of Kerala House in 2019: Edwin Rajan Thomas.

Arts & Cultural Services

Chenda Troupe

MAUK Chenda Troupe, 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. In 2019, the Troupe performed for many leading Church and Temple festivals.

Promotion of Traditional Kerala Arts

MAUK is deeply committed to promoting Kerala arts and culture in the UK. In 2017 we made an additional commitment to advancing the diverse ritual, folk and ancient art form of Kerala. 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, in 2019 MAUK have held the following events:

Kathakali Costume Exhibition and Workshop on 8 June at Kerala House. This all-day event was held in partnership with the renowned Kala Chethana Kathakali Troupe. We acknowledge and greatly appreciate Kalamandlam Barbara Vijayakumar and Kalamandlam Vijayakumar for promoting Kathakali in Europe through such initiatives.

Bharathanatyam workshop by Rajashree Warriar on 15 December at Kerala House. Dr Rajashree Warriar is an eminent Bharathanatyam exponent, educator, classical musician and a media person from Kerala. Bharathanatyam student of different abilities got the opportunities to advance their knowledge and skills through two sessions; one for beginners and intermediate level students and one for advanced level students.

Kathakali and extended Bharathanatyam performances were featured as part of our Onam Celebrations.

Kattankappium Kavaithaum

Coffee & Poetry completed 90 meaningful events in 2019. In this year, we organised 11 events independently and in partnership with other organisations such as Kalachethana Kadhakali Club, esSense United Kingdom, esSense Global UK and URUK. The Exhibition of Kathakali costumes and Kadhakali workshop were unique. We Celebrated 100 years of UK Malayalam creative writing at the second UK Malayalam writers meet we organised at Kerala House in March 2019. Vayalar sarathchandra Varma, Kalamandalam Vijayakumar, K P Ramanunni, Sunil P Ilayidom, Dr.C Viswanathan, Dr.Augustus Morris, Sajeevan Anthicadu and Suresh Ravindran attended various events.

To effectively accommodate the network of growing friends of Coffee & Poetry in its programmes, it was decided in December 2019 to organise online events. This got implemented in January 2020 under the banner 'Cybermeet'.

Ponnonam 2019 (Onam – Harvest Festival of Kerala)

Be it the cultural celebrations or the Onam feast, MAUK Onam celebrations are a much-revered event in the calendar of UK Malayalees since the mid-1970s. It is one of the largest social gathering of Malayalees in the UK.

Ponnonam 2019 was a great success with all 650 seats booked up by community members weeks in advance. This year's show presented to the packed venue on 15 September at Ilford Town Hall. The Ponnonam 2019 Team under the guidance of Mohandas Madhavanadan presented a bouquet of cultural performances including Nrityotsav, enchanting classical and fusion dances by Mayaloka Dance Company, the colourful Kathakali by the world-renowned Kalachethana Kathakali Troupe, Thiruvathira by MAUK Women's Forum and Bhathanatyam by Jona Prakash, Ashwani Ajith and Sruthi Sreekumar was presented to a joyful and excited audience. The highlight of this year's celebrations was the exuberant Ganamela by the dazzling Rimi Tomy, Indian playback singer featuring vocalist Sreenath and Nikhil Raj along with Anoop Kovalam from India on Keyboard and musicians of MAUK NiSaRi Orchestra, Vinod Navadhara on percussion, Varun Myyanad on drums, and Shino on guitar. They were aptly supported by technicians Prince from Kerala & Sojan Erumely.

We take this opportunity to thank our sponsors and our partners, Ponnonam Croydon Team (KCWA Trust, Sangeetha of the UK & Friends of Kerala) for their incredible support.

See photos of this mega show at <https://mauk.org/photo-gallery/ponnonam-2019>

Social, Sports and Leisure Services

UK Malayalee Cricket League (UKMCL)

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

Onasadhya (Onam Vegetarian Feast)

Every year MAUK volunteers prepare the scrumptious Sadhya we serve under the supervision of the Elders. This year was no different. We served over 320 home-cooked Sadhyas on Saturday, 31 August at

Trinity Centre in East London. We thank all our volunteers for the hard work each year they have put in to keep this tradition alive.

MAUK Onasadhya has charity at heart. Every year we add £1 to the cost price of the Sadhya we serve here in the UK to provide a similar number of Sadhyas in orphanages and care homes in Kerala on the same day. This year, we provided Sadhya's at Snehakood in Kottayam, Anandatheeram Rehabilitation Centre in Kollam and Karunalayam in Attingal. Our partner organisation in Thiruvananthapuram - Thottacdu Powrasamathi, prepared and served the Sadhyas at Karunalayam.

View photos of Onasadhya 2019 - <https://mauk.org/photo-gallery/ona-sadhya-2019>

International Women's Day 2019 (IWD)

International Women's Day 2019 was celebrated on Saturday 9 March 2019 and was a massive success with more than 100 people attending.

The Women's Forum led by Shola Dilep did a fantastic job by coordinating a remarkable, informative, exciting and entertaining event. The event included a wide range of programmes from modern and classical dance, musical performances, inspirational speeches, historical and fun quizzes and a fabulous fashion show. Talks by Chief Guest Prathibha Ramsing (OBE) on women empowerment, Bittu Thomas about a true story of child trafficking featured in the movie Love Sonia, teenager Ashlyn Mathews and Dr Hena Vijayan on mental wellbeing, presentation by Suresh Ravindran about negative influences on social media about gender bias and stereotypes were highlights of the event.

View photos of IWD 2019 - <https://mauk.org/photo-gallery/iwd-2019-photos>

Festive Sangamam 2019

After a few year's break, MAUK organised a Christmas Gathering on 14 December 2019 at Newham Town Hall in East Ham. The event, titled Festive Sangamam 2019 was organised to raise funds for MAUK's charity project in Kerala, which was to build a house for Nirmala Rajan and her family. The overwhelming response we received for the event took us by surprise, with 320 seats being booked within two weeks. The evening consisted of three course meal, cultural programmes and DJ.

View photos of FS 2019 - <https://mauk.org/photo-gallery/festive-sangamam>

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 increased its participants to over 35. It gathers 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 a one-day outing. MAUK wish to thank Halal Restaurant in Aldgate for their support of the Club

MAUK Lunch Club

MAUK Lunch Club, which is part of MAUK Elders Services, has been functioning since 1998. This tailor-made service is a unique platform for Elders in our community to meet, chat and share their cultural identity and shared experiences. Participants of the Club enjoy a variety of activities including card and board games, exercise classes, knitting, arts and crafts, poetry, film, picnics, trips, etc. Kerala lunch is also provided each week. We express our sincere gratitude to Ananthapuri Restaurant, Manor Park, for providing the lunch at a subsidised price.

Since grants from statutory bodies have ceased a few years ago, the Club has been functioning in a loss. To generate more revenue to keep this essential service operating smoothly, in 2019, we have introduced a sponsorship scheme through which kind-hearted individuals and community-spirited businesses can sponsor the cost of running the Lunch Club for a day. People and businesses were given the opportunity to sponsor a day as part of your celebrations of an auspicious occasion, in memory of someone beloved, as a promotion of your business or to support this essential service. The response we received was overwhelming and motivating, with all days in 2019 were sponsored within weeks of introducing the scheme. We express our sincere gratitude to all the 50 members of the local community who sponsored the Club in 2019.

The Lunch Club meets every Thursday at Kerala House from 10 AM to 5 PM and is open to all members of the local community free of charge.

See the list of MAUK Lunch Club sponsors of 2019 at <https://mauk.org/category/club>

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 2019, it saw 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 ActiveNewham 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 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 participate at their convenient time and learn at their own pace. Mr Vinodkumar Sukumaran runs the courses.

Keyboard & Guitar Classes

The classes take place on 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 in April 2018 due to increased demand from community members. Classes take place at Kerala House on Sunday from 10 AM.

Educational Awards 2019

MAUK Educational Awards were presented at the Onam celebrations. Abhijeet Sajilal from Basildon, Essex won the Award for the best GCSE results. Ivan Jose from Greenford, Middlesex came second.

Megha Manoj from Moulsham, Chelmsford won the Award for best A-Level results and Den Joseph from Yate, Bristol came second.

Thanal - MAUK Charitable Endeavors

Charitable Projects in Kerala

Clean Water Projects

MAUK has continued with its remarkable charitable activities in Kerala. In 2019, we built three water treatment plants in remote villages of Kerala, where clean water is scarce and consequently has the highest rate of cancer patients in India. In partnership with KeralaVision TV, we built water plants in Monkombu, Vennattukaduv and Thottukadav Government UP School to ensure that over 500 residents have access to clean, fresh water. The plant at Thottukadav Government UP School was inaugurated by M. A Arif, MP for Alappuzha, on 17 September 2019, in the presence of MAUK secretary Anil Edavana.

Watch video of MAUK water projects in Kerala – <https://mauk.org/kerala-floods>

House building project

In 2019, MAUK also commenced building a house for Nirmala Rajan, a 64-year-old labourer in Kazhakkuttam. She is living with her 67-year-old husband who suffers from poor health, her son who has physical impairments and ten other members of her extended family (including teenage girls) in a dilapidated house with a makeshift roof. The £10K project commenced in the latter part of December and was expected to be completed by March 2020. However, due to the restrictions brought about by COVID-19 Pandemic, we have extended the completion date to October 2020.

Watch videos of Nirmala Rajan House Building project – <https://mauk.org/nirmala-rajan>

Onasadhya for vulnerable

In 2019, MAUK provided Onasadhya's at Snehakood in Kottayam, Anandatheeram Rehabilitation Centre in Kollam and Karunalayam in Attingal. Our partner organisation in Thiruvananthapuram - Thottacdu Powrasamathi, prepared and served the Sadhyas at Karunalayam. In addition, MAUK also contributed to Uthradam Day Onam Kit distribution by Thottacad Powrasamithi.

Gandhi Bhavan

We are also a regular promotor and contributor to Gandhi Bhavan, a major national charity with its head office in Pathanapuram, Kerala. MAUK officials visited Gandhi Bhavan to witness the exemplary service they provide and learn from them. More info: <https://www.gandhibhavan.org>

Community

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 2019, MAUK presented the Award to Barbara Vijayakumar and Vijayakumar for their immense achievements in preserving and promoting KathaKali in Europe for over three decades.

If you wish to nominate someone who qualifies for this Award, please email their details to the Board at info@mauk.org explaining why you think they deserve this Award.

MAUK / Girija Nair - Volunteer of the Year Award 2019

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.

Mrs Aswathy Nair was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award 2019 at Ponnonam 2019 for providing advice, guidance and support with maintaining high standards in MAUK accounting.

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

Reception for Anil Nautiyal, First Secretary, HCI

MAUK held a reception for Anil Nautiyal, the newly appointed Counsellor for Passport, OCI and Public Response Unit on 15 June 2019. Anil Nautiyal earned the name of 'Kerala ambassador' during his work in the Indian embassies in Qatar and Saudi Arabia. During his stint in the Middle East he was one of the officers who ensured that immediate service is rendered to those Indians and Malayalees in distress.

Stephen Timms, MP for East Ham, Unmesh Desai, representative of City and East at the London Assembly, prominent members of local communities and business people also attended the event.

Sponsorship and Donations

Despite the continuing challenging economic climate, MAUK has been successful in attracting an increased amount of sponsorship and donations. This success was attained by building grassroots level relationships with community members and local businesses. It is also evidence of the continued support MAUK is receiving for its endeavours to find innovative ways to serve the community.

We express our sincere gratitude to our main sponsors of 2019- Swayam Property Services <http://www.swayam.co.uk> | Law & Lawyers Solicitors <https://www.lawandlawyers.co.uk> | Neil Travel and Tours <http://neiltravel.com>

We also thank Global Study Link <https://www.globalstudylink.co.uk> | Thattukada Restaurants <http://thattukadauk.com> | AMCO Windows and Doors <https://www.amcowindowsanddoors.co.uk> | Allied Mortgage Services <https://www.alliedmortgage.co.uk> | Sam Travels <https://www.samtravel.co.uk> | BuildTech Property Developers <https://www.builttech.in>

Annual Accounts

The audited accounts for the year 2019 are published along with this report and can be download at <https://mauk.org/agm-2020>

Resolutions

This year, MAUK is holding its first-ever virtual Annual General Meeting; uncharted territory for most of us. We would like to keep the meeting short and concise. Hence, the Director Board has decided not to accept any resolutions at this year's meeting.

- END -