

2022 ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED AND PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR BOARD BY SREEJITH SREEDHARAN. SECRETARY

REGISTRATION

Malayalee Association of the U. K. (hereafter M.A.U.K.) is a Registered Charity (No. 1102653) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (No. 4934084). Therefore, the Board of Directors is responsible as Charity Trustees and Company Directors. M.A.U.K. is also registered with the Information Commission's Office and the Fundraising Regulator. M.A.U.K also works in partnership with the London Borough of Newham













At the last A.G.M. on Sunday, 28 August 2022, the following directors were elected to serve for two consecutive years: Anil Velu, Jayan Pillai, Anil Edavana, Aji Velu, Mohanadas Madhavanandan, Nishar Viswanath and Aloysius Mathew.

The following sitting directors will serve until the forthcoming A.G.M. on Sunday, 24 September 2023: Raman Sambasivan, Sreekumar Kunjuraman, Sreejith Sreedharan, Aji Gangadharan, Murali Pillai, Subash Viswanathan and Rohoney Dayanand.

Members are invited to apply to join the Director Board. The candidates must be members for over two consecutive years to be elected as a director. They must have served as a volunteer for a minimum of one year. Members at the Annual General Meeting will elect directors

Resignation

The following Directors resigned from the Board in 2022.

Subash Viswanathan - Personal reasons Rohoney Dayanand - Personal reasons

2022 Management Structure

In 2022, each director led one or two tasks of their choice and was encouraged to build a team consisting of experts and interested volunteers. This has boosted our volunteer numbers and their participation.

MEMBERSHIP

In 2022 we added 18 new family members to our organisation. Membership requests are mainly received through online mediums. We have simplified and made obtaining membership through our website much more straightforward and have introduced direct debit as an option to pay your yearly subscription.

Despite the financial pressure, the membership fee was held at £20 for the eighth consecutive year. We urge all our supporters to promote M.A.U.K. and encourage your friends, family, and colleagues to become part of M.A.U.K. - Our Extended Family.

Joint Secretary Sreekumar Kunjuraman is the Director in Charge of the Membership. Visit our membership pages for more info – https://mauk.org/membership/why-be-a-member

Website - www.mauk.org



The website is used mainly to inform members about M.A.U.K. activities and archive our records. Members can also download M.A.U.K. policies, annual reports and accounts, forms, and other publications.







Social Media : MAUKLONDON





M.A.U.K. continues to increase its presence on social media through our Facebook, Instagram, Threads, and YouTube handles under 'mauklondon'.

Media Partners

M.A.U.K. maintains a good rapport with various print, online, and visual media targeted at the Malayalee community. We are grateful for their continued support. We express our gratitude to: UKmalayalee.com, Kerala Link, KaumudiEurope, britishmalayali.com, europemalayali.com, Anand Media, Britishkairali.co.uk, Manoramaonline and Radio Lime.

















Kerala House bookings for private functions and community gatherings have significantly increased over the last few years. Community and faith-based groups 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 also available for members of the local community for wakes and other funeral gatherings and rituals. Many members have used this service in the last year as it is located within a short distance from Manor Park Crematorium. Although we offer the premises free of charge, all users have donated money to the up-keeping of Kerala House.

Due to the restrictions imposed due to the pandemic, the Board has decided to extend the deadline for the free booking of Kerala House for life members to 30 December 2023. Any life member who has yet to use their free booking will lose the privilege after this date.

Directors Murali Pillai and Mohanadas Madhavanandan oversee managing the Kerala House.

Arts. Cultural & Social activities





London Academy of Dravidian Arts (L.A.D.A.)

L.A.D.A. is M.A.U.K.'s endeavour to nourish and promote Dravidian Arts and Language in the U.K. Our priority is to restart all our cultural and language classes that were suspended during the pandemic as well as start new ones under the remit of L.A.D.A. and work collaboratively with other organisation to preserve and promote Dravidian arts and culture.

Chenda Troupe

M.A.U.K. Chenda Troupe, founded in 2011 under the training and guidance of Vinod Navadhara, has grown into the leading Chenda Troupe

In 2022 the Troupe performed at many prestigious events, including the Chariot festivals of London Sri Murugan Temple, Lakshmi Narayana Temple, Ilford Ganapathi Temple, Sai Baba festival, Aylesbury Church and the inauguration of Nagapooshini Temple in Harrow.

Chenda Classes

In 2022, M.A.U.K. reintroduced the Chenda classes suspended due to the pandemic. The Chenda classes currently occur on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings, with 26 students in 3 classes.









Motherly bond: Chilanka dancer Anjali being congratulated by her son after her performance

MAUK Chilanka: Dancers Forum

MAUK Chilanka was created as a platform for dancers of various genres, mainly Indian Classical, folk and cinematic dance. The influx of students from Kerala has seen a rise in artists seeking opportunities to train, collaborate and perform, which Chilanka hopes to address. In 2022, Chilanka artists performed at major stages, including the Platinum Mela, MAUK Onam Celebrations, KCWA Ponnonam, UUKMA Boat Race, Keleeravam: CM Diaspora Meet and Limelight 2022 Stage show.

Chilanka performances can be booked at a reasonable cost for private and community events. To book, please contact on 07960212334.

Promotion of Traditional Kerala Arts

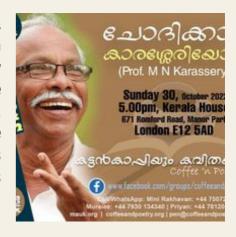
M.A.U.K. is deeply committed to promoting Kerala arts and culture in the U.K. In 2017, we additionally committed to advancing Kerala's diverse ritual, folk and ancient art forms. M.A.U.K. is morally obligated to preserve these declining art forms as they are integral to Kerala's heritage. In addition, this commitment also provides opportunities for the community to experience these invaluable art forms. As part of this commitment, we have showcased Ottanthullal by Jishnu Rajesh at the Onam Celebration.





Kattankappiuma Kavithayum (Coffee and Poetry)

M.A.U.K.'s literary group was launched on 08 October 2010 at Kerala House to celebrate the notable poet O.N.V Kurup winning the Jnanpith Award, the highest literary Award in India. It is an independent body headed by Poet Priyavarathan Sathyavrithan and supported by Muralee Mukundan and Manampoor Suresh. It has conducted 142 episodes, during which most of today's Malayalam literary personalities have blessed the gathering with their presence. The Kattankappi team meets regularly online and in person at Kerala House, where participants discuss literary works, current affairs, the environment and the arts.





In January 2020, months before COVID gripped the U.K., the Kattankappi team launched their cyber world activities to spread its message wider and attract global participation. This foresight has given Kattankappi an advantage in bringing people together during the pandemic, and its online presence has since strengthened.

In 2022, Kattankappi organised six online events and three meet-ups at Kerala House in which Academy Award winners and writers Paul Zacharia, Prof. T J Joseph and Prof. M. N. Karassery participated.

For in-depth reports and activities of Kattankappi, visit http://coffeeandpoetry.org



Janani, a literary marvel to the world by MAUK, took birth as a quarterly newsletter in 1997. Currently published annually, it aims to promote the thoughts and creativity of Non-resident Keralites.

After a two-year break due to the Pandemic, Janani 2022, M.A.U.K. annual souvenir was published at the Ponnonam stage. To comply with our commitment to being an environmentally sustainable organisation, only 100 hard copies were printed. The magazine, edited by Gagana Priyan and Priyavarathan Sathyavrithan, can be downloaded from the M.A.U.K. website.

https://mauk.org/publications/janani-2022-2

To watch the publication of Janani 2022 at the Ponnonam stage, visit: https://youtu.be/nF2-qMDtPGo



M.A.U.K. OnaSadhaya

Every year, M.A.U.K. volunteers prepare the scrumptious Sadhya we serve under the supervision of the Elders. This year, 210 home-cooked Sadhyas on Saturday, 03 September, 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.

M.A.U.K. Onasadhya has charity at heart. Every year, we add a nominal fee to the cost of the Sadhya we serve here in the U.K. to provide a similar number of Sadhyas in orphanages and care homes in Kerala on the same day. Last year, we provided over 200 Sadhyas at Dr Ambedkar Memorial Rehabilitation Centre in Attingal, Thiruvananthapuram.

The directors in charge of the project were Murali Pillai and Subash Viswanathan.

Ponnonam 2022

Onam is the celebration of oneness. Since the early 1970s, M.A.U.K. has been celebrating Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala, in grand splendour every year without fail. The celebration has become a much-revered date in the calendar of the U.K. Malayalees and is one of the largest and most significant social gatherings of Malayalees in the U.K.



The 2022 celebrations planned for Sunday, 16 September 2022, at Redbridge Town Hall in Ilford were postponed to Sunday, 16 October 2022, due to the demise of H.M. The Queen. The rescheduled celebrations took place at the newly built Little Ilford School Auditorium in Manor Park, London E12 was attended by 360 people, which was the venue's maximum capacity. Highlights included a refreshing Thiruvathira by mums and daughters of M.A.U.K. Thiruvathira Club, energetic cinematic and folk dances by M.A.U.K. Chilanka artists, the stunning harvest dance by Rani & Team, Ottanthullal by Jishnu Rajesh and the ganamela by visiting playback singers Chithra Arun, Abhijith Vijayan and Gokul Harshan alongside M.A.U.K. Nisari musicians.

The director in charge of the celebration was Mohandas Madhavananadan, and the Volunteer Lead for the event was Nihas Rawther.

🛑 🛑 Festive Sangamam 2022 (FS2022): M.A.U.K. Annual Charity Fundraiser

FS2022 was held on Saturday, 17 December 2022, at the Well Centre in East Ham, London E6. Entertainment of the evening included Karaoke by Music Mojo fame Gokulraj Govind and Gismi Subash and dances by Jyothi Davangere Sangyanaik, followed by DJ Abs of Vibrantz, London. Aswathy Sasidharan hosted the gathering. Halal Restaurant, Aldgate, served the scrumptious three-course North Indian dinner.



Director Nishar V P coordinated the event supported by volunteers Nithin Raj, Arjun Murali and Akash M Francis

Keleeravam



The significance of M.A.U.K.'s role as the leading organisation in propagating Kerala arts and culture in the U.K. was highlighted when N.O.R.K.A. (a Kerala government entity) tasked M.A.U.K. to plan and coordinate the cultural gathering that coincided the visit of Kerala Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan to the U.K.

N.O.R.K.A. officials selected M.A.U.K. for this task because of its uncompromising apolitical and non-religious track record in serving the U.K. Malayalee community since its inception in the 70s. Focusing on the rich cultural heritage of the Keralite diaspora, M.A.U.K. flawlessly executed the cultural show aptly titled Keleeravam.

Within constrained time, M.A.U.K. pooled together top artists from across the U.K. to present a two-and-a-half-hour show of traditional, folk and classical art forms of Kerala. The event on 09 October at Tudor Park in Feltham, West London, was attended by over 400 people. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, other State ministers and community leaders in the U.K. addressed the audience before the cultural extravaganza commenced.



The Keleeravam team consisted of prominent, experienced and skilled members from across the U.K. Led by M.A.U.K. secretary Sreejith Sreedharan; the team consisted of M.A.U.K. Chair Anilkumar Edavana (Ilford), Balagopal Balakrishnan (Kent), Bijini Jayaprakash (Belfast, Northern Ireland) Cllr. Manju Shaul-Ahmed (Croydon), Faisal Nalakath (West London), Jasline of Shimmy Antony (Chelmsford), Leenumol Chacko (Birmingham), Nidhin Chand (Edinburgh, Scotland), Mini Raghavan (Hayes), Cllr. Philip Abrahim (Epping), Priya Alice (Working), Sandra Dinesh (Cardiff, Wales).



UDAYA The Platinum Mela (TPM)

Arguably the highlight of M.A.U.K. in 2022 was the M.A.U.K. Udaya Platinum Mela held at Flanders Field in East London on Friday, 03 June 2022, the additional Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday allocated to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen.



After months of preparations, working closely with multiple statutory agencies, putting together pages of project management plans and risk assessment documents, arranging programmes, and obtaining licences, the strenuous and time-consuming work by M.A.U.K. volunteers yielded spectacular results, with over 5000 people attending the all-day event

The Mela, which brought together over 250 artists from across the U.K., celebrated the outstanding diversity and vibrant multiculturalism of Great Britain.

The multi-dimensional celebration included cultural programmes, an art exhibition and competition, Asian street food stalls with live cooking, ethnic jewellery & cloth stalls, fun and games for children and adults, including inflatables and go-carts, a charity cricket match, tug-of-war competition, raffles and much more.



Key attractions of the celebration included 30 feet high hoarding of the Queen at the entrance to the venue, Thiruvathira (traditional Kerala dance) by 70 ladies dressed in Platinum Jubilee colours, 70 children singing the National Anthem, and Chendamelam (Kerala drum composition) by 101



The free event, which cost nearly £29K to organise, was funded through a £10K grant from the National Lottery Award for All and business sponsorship.



The chief guests at the Mela included Sir Stephen Timms (M.P. for East Ham), Unmesh Desai (London Assembly Member), Rokhsana Fiaz (Mayor of Newham) and dignitaries from the art and business field.

TPM also attained wide media coverage in local and national media, including in the B.B.C., Guardian and Recorder group of papers. Online community news portals and radio stations also covered Mela extensively.

M.A.U.K. extends its sincere gratitude to the Staff at London Borough of Newham, Event Safety Advisory Group, Newham, all our volunteers, performers and sponsors for their part in making the Mela part go down in history as one of the largest, outstanding and memorable Platinum Jubilee Celebration. M.A.U.K. created a dedicated website to preserve the legacy of the celebrations, where you will find videos of cultural programmes, art exhibits, photo galleries, etc.





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TPM was led by Sreejith Sreedharan, with directors Anil Kumar Edavana, Sreekumar Kunjuraman, Aloysius Mathew, Mohanadas Madhavanandan and volunteers Jasline Shimmy Antony, Ani Gomez, Sheena Nair, Soumya Shaiju and Jashwin Liju Antony playing key roles.







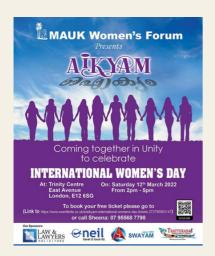






M.A.U.K. Women's Forum





Aikyam: International Women's Day (I.W.D.) Celebration

MAUK WF celebrated I.W.D. on Saturday, 12 March, at Trinity Centre in Manor Park, London E12. This year's celebrations were named Aikyam (Malayalam word meaning Unity) to show solidarity with oppressed women in the community. Cultural programmes, interactive talks and Q&A on LBGTQ+ awareness, benefits of Yoga, menopause and mental well-being, demonstrations in self-defence and Thiruvathira (Kerala traditional dance) were the celebration's highlights. The event, attended by over 150 people, was coordinated by Sheena Nair with the support of other W.F. members.

Sangeetha Sayahnam

The programme began in May 2021 and meets online every fortnight, where participants play the musical game Anthakshari. On average, there are 10 - 15 participants per event. Participants, especially those housebound eagerly look forward to the meeting as it enables them to interact with other like-minded people.

Discussion Group

This is a Women's Forum initiative focused on discussing topics of significance to women in contemporary society. Discussions run every couple of months and take place virtually.

Thiruvathira Club

Thiruvathira Club used to be known as Sunday Club before the pandemic when women got together at Kerala House to practice Thiruvathira. Classes are taught online by a professional dancer, Deepa Sajeev, in Kerala. Classes run fortnightly and are open to people of all ages and abilities. Members of the Club also gather at Kerala House regularly to practice and socialise.

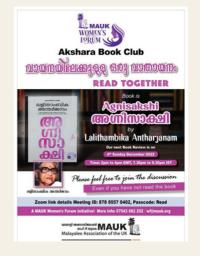
👅 🛑 🦰 Palla Thulli Peru Vellam

This is a charity project run by the Women's Forum. The idea at the heart of this venture is to make it possible for everyone to contribute to charitable endeavours. People are invited to donate £1 to celebrate a loved one's birthday or other special occasions, and these donations will feed into a collection that supports women's empowerment efforts in Kerala.

Akshara: M.A.U.K. Book Club

The book club initiated by Sudha Das on 12 June 2021 as part of WF intends to promote the Malayalam language and literature and engage its members in discussions, debates and evaluations of literary work through Zoom meetings. Sessions occur every few months, leaving participants time to read the selected text. In 2022, texts discussed included Randidangazhi by Thakazhi Sivashankara Pillai and Isakkinte Ithihasam by O. V. Vijayan.

The Club currently has 49 Malayalam enthusiasts from across the globe as active members.



Walking Club

This Club began to allow people to get together and walk, taking care of their emotional and physical health as we moved out of tighter COVID restrictions. Members of the Women's Forum organised walks in parks and woodlands near their homes, mainly within the boroughs of Newham and Barking and Dagenham, allowing the local Malayalee community to get together in spaces of proximity to their homes.

W.F. 2022 Subcommittee

Special mention to the W.F. coordinator Jayalekha Priyan and sub-committee members Rashme Joi, Radha Rajan, Sudha Das, Sheena Nair, Sumathy Raveendran, Sulatha Sambasivan, Gagana Priyan, Mallika Rajan, Swarna Nair, Indra Raveendran and Rajeswari Sadasivan, for the exemplary and noble services undertaken.



Led by M.A.U.K. volunteer Ignatius Gomes, M.A.U.K. provided Christmas cakes for 2000 residents and services users of 12 charities in Thiruvananthapuram District in Kerala, India. The cakes baked by the famous bakery chain Ambrosia were packed in custom-made covers specially designed for M.A.U.K. by Romansons Printers.

Thanal House Building Projects

MAUK Thanal completed two more house-building projects for vulnerable families in Kerala. The Chengunnur Project and Pulari Project in Attingal were completed in 2022. This brings the total number of houses built by Thanal since 2018 to seven. Director Aji Gangadharan coordinates Thanal's Kerala Projects.



M.A.U.K. Food Club

After recognising the severe impact of COVID-19 on the local community, M.A.U.K. started a Food Bank on 03 April 2020 to support those struggling with food shortages. This situation was exacerbated by the loss of income caused by the national lockdown. The subsequent cost of living crisis deepened the need for this service to continue. From 01 May 2021, M.A.U.K. Food Bank was transformed into a Food Club (F.C.) to focus primarily on low-income families and undocumented migrants. The Food Club is part of Newham Food Alliance (NFA) and serves between 50 and 60 families.

In 2022, M.A.U.K. Food Bank operated on Sundays from 15:00 to 16:00, serving around 50 local families in the E12 and E6 areas. In addition to food sourced through NFA stakeholders, M.A.U.K. spent, on average, £800 per month purchasing food items suitable for the large ethnic service user base.

In 20222, the Food Bank operations were managed by director R Sambasivan, assisted by fellow directors Jayan Pillai, Anil Velu, Sreekumar Kunjuraman, Anilkumar Edavana, Mohandas Madhavanandan, Murali Pillai and volunteers Aswathy Sasidharan, Lali Bharathan and Jasline Antony.

We sincerely thank Public Health, London Borough of Newham, FareShare and The Felix Project for their financial and logistical support.



M.A.U.K. Elders Services



● ● 60+ Sisters Club

In 2006, a dedicated M.A.U.K. volunteer, Mrs Girija Nair (late), started the Sisters Club to provide friendship and support for women over 60. Activities of the Club, which take place on Tuesdays from 1 PM to 4 PM, include singing, poetry, dancing, light exercise sessions, food tasting, training for cultural shows, day trips, etc. In 2022, the Club did not meet due to a lack of participants as concerns about COVID prevailed.

M.A.U.K. Thursday Lunch Club

M.A.U.K. Lunch Club, part of M.A.U.K. Elders Services, has been functioning since 1998. This tailormade service is a unique platform for Elders in our community to meet, chat and share their cultural identity and shared experiences. Club participants enjoy various activities, including card and board games, exercise classes, knitting, arts and crafts, poetry, film, picnics, trips, etc. Kerala lunch is also provided each week.

To ensure the smooth operation of this bespoke and essential service, M.A.U.K. has successfully 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 their celebrations of an auspicious occasion, in memory of someone beloved, as a promotion of your business, or to support this essential service.

The Lunch Club returned to normal functioning at Kerala House in April 2022. It meets every Thursday from 10 AM to 2 PM with its regular activities and has over 40 Elders from the local community attending regularly.

Please contact us if you wish to sponsor a day at the Lunch Club.

M.A.U.K. Befriending Services

The gravity and value of this outstanding and compassionate service run as part of the Elders Service were highlighted during the pandemic. In addition to getting the housebound to participate in online activities, M.A.U.K. volunteers regularly visit the housebound, accompany them to the park and do their shopping if requested.

If you know anyone who could improve their well-being with this service, please email their details to info@mauk.org or call us on 07931207834, and we will gladly visit them.

M.A.U.K. in the Community

Repatriation of Mortal Remains

M.A.U.K., with the financial support of the High Commission of India (HCI) and logistical support of N.O.R.K.A., repatriated the mortal remains of 2 Indian nationals back to their families in Kerala. Incidents like this are increasing. Therefore, M.A.U.K. published a 'Case Review and Recommendation for Future Incidents' prepared by the team that dealt with repatriation. This document can be accessed at mauk.org/repatriation_case_study

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

M.A.U.K., upon invitation from the Indian High Commission, participated in the 76th Indian Independence Day Celebration held at the Navnat Centre in Hayes on 21/08/2022. M.A.U.K. Chilanka artists; Krishna Preethy, Arathy Nair and Anjali Nair performed Jugalbandi and volunteers at the M.A.U.K. stall served freshly made lime juice, sarbath and idiyappam and sambal for the thousands who took part in the celebration.

M.A.U.K. Girija Nair - Volunteer of the Year Award 2021

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

The 2021 Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Gagana Priyan for her contribution to Women's Forum activities and for leading the editorial Board of Janani, M.A.U.K. annual souvenir.

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

Educational Awards

M.A.U.K.'s long-running awards for outstanding results in G.C.S.E. and A-Level examinations were presented at the Ponnonam 2022 stage. The winners were Lovin Jose for G.C.S.E. and Atul Siburanj and Neena Maria for A-levels.

Increasing social, economic and legal issues in the Malayalee community

The Malayalee population in the U.K. is increasing rapidly, as are their diverse needs and issues. These issues range from visa scams, immigration crimes, employment and accommodation-related issues, food shortages, and homelessness to domestic violence, loneliness and mental health problems. M.A.U.K. is at the forefront of dealing with such issues, and the number of people approaching M.A.U.K. is ever-increasing. Hence, we have assembled a team of experienced volunteers to assist those desperately reaching out. However, it is not always possible for M.A.U.K. to achieve the desired outcome for the callers due to financial, legal and medical limitations and restrictions. We still endeavour to lend a sympathetic, non-judgemental listening ear, which most callers find soothing and reassuring. And sometimes, that's all it takes to bring someone back from the brink of mental breakdown and suicidal thoughts.

Accounts

The 2022 Accounts, which Haridas Bhaskaran audited, are published along with this report. We sincerely thank Haridas for meticulously completing this painstaking task for the 4th year running.



We acknowledge the invaluable support and express our sincere gratitude to all our sponsors.





















































