

Dear Members,

How has time flown?! We hope you have all had a wonderful Summer. Navratri and Diwali are both around the corner.

This year we are able to get back to a 'new' normal. We shall be having a full Diwali meeting on **Sunday 6 November at Kingsbury High School** – see details overleaf.

We are really excited and looking forward to meeting everyone after such a long time. For various reasons, we will be unable to hold Navratri celebrations this year, but certainly will host them again in 2023.

BMUK Directory 2023

As you all know, we now have a new BMUK Members Directory, 2023. Copies will be available to purchase (£5- per copy) on the day at the Diwali Meeting. Thank you to those who ordered copies in advance, your copy has been reserved.

AGM and Elections

At the upcoming Diwali meeting we will be holding our elections for Committee members. You, the members, must elect (or re-elect) a committee which includes between 5 and 9 people.

Nomination forms are available on the BMUK website (www.bmuk.org) and will be available on the day at the Diwali meeting. Alternatively, you can email your nomination to the Committee Secretary at rajesh.ashra@bumk.org

To be on the Committee you must be a fully paid-up member, over 18.

Being a Committee Member is rewarding! It requires a commitment of a few hours a month for meetings and during event days and easily fits into normal life. There is so much to be achieved and we would particularly welcome younger members (minimum age 18) to come forward. Be encouraged to give something back and to help take BMUK, your community and heritage, forward (and meet great people along the way!).

It is an invaluable experience, and the Community needs those with a positive and constructive 'can-do' approach. In return, you will experience a great sense of achievement and belonging, as well as pride and satisfaction.

Note from Jay Ashra

Dear Community,

I have been on the Committee for 18 years (since January 2004) - yes that long! I had youth, energy, intellect, good looks, humility and hair on my head. I've now lost my hair and am in my early 50s!

I have now resigned from the Committee. It has not been an easy decision as I have grown to really respect all members of the Committee and Trustees, and I have enjoyed working with everyone over the years. I have had the honour of having various roles, including Chair and Secretary and chief executive chai/ coffee barista 😊

When I joined, I had goals and visions... some were achieved. Many sadly have not been. As you know I have been advocating many things (especially Youth and Young Professionals Database/ Support Mentoring scheme and The BMUK family tree). Sadly, there was always very little uptake. I do want to genuinely thank those that did reply and show interest.

I feel I have failed in achieving my goals and I am trying to understand why. There are many areas to explore. What could I have done differently or better? Have the projects not been attractive enough? Has the Community become apathetic over the years? Is BMUK a relic of the past and there is no need for such an organisation? Or maybe there is something else that stops people getting involved and being active???

I have said many times... I deeply believe in the value and necessity of our Naat – especially in today's age where conflicts seem to be increasing, alongside austerity, insecurity and lack of community spirit. It is now, perhaps, more than ever, we need the strong, connected, vibrant Community – steeped in values, trust, intelligent idea sharing and effective support systems.

Having resigned, I am really hoping - actually I am PLEADING - for those from my generation or younger to come forward to take the Community forward. We need innovative and motivated thinkers and leaders who can play a role running the Community and perhaps creating new projects (or even reviving the ones I was not able to see to fruition).

I will still help the Committee and support our community from behind the scenes. I have always loved our Naat... BMUK is a fantastic, warm, diverse and very connected Community with long, solid ties that bind us all together. I really hope generations following will experience and enjoy this, and benefit from it, as we all have. It is up to us to ensure they can.

So please do come forward and take part. I promise you that being in the Committee is enjoyable, fun, challenging, enlightening and educational. It is also very, very necessary.

Finally, I want to thank you all for the fun times and the affection you have shown me. I have enjoyed them (even teasing me on stage – I promise I will improve my Gujarati!!!). I also want to deeply thank the Trustees and Committee for being fantastic mentors and kind friends. Much of my learning has come from experiencing and observing the sheer hard work, the diligence, the diplomacy, the creativity and simply the dedication shown by each member I have had the pleasure and privilege to work with.

I look forward to seeing you ALL at future BMUK events!

Jay

UPCOMING EVENTS

Diwali Meeting 2022

The annual BMUK Diwali Meeting & Annual General Meeting will be held on

Sunday 6th November 2022, 12.00pm – 7.00pm.

Venue: CROFT HALL, KINGSBURY HIGH SCHOOL, KINGSBURY, LONDON, NW9 9AT

Please note: There will be another function in the hall next door so parking may be busy but there is an overflow car park - entrance is via Stag Lane or Bacon Lane, off Princess Avenue. There is also limited but free parking spaces on streets nearby.

The Venue rules provide that we keep a register of everyone in attendance.

We respectfully ask that you RSVP for your attendance to the Diwali Meeting as this will help greatly with catering. For RSVPs, please go to the BMUK WEBSITE: www.bmuk.org and follow the instructions

The day's programme is as follows:

12.00 – 13.30	Arrive, Meet and Greet in main hall
13.00 – 15.00	Lunch
15.00 – 15.30	Committee Reports, Announcements
15.30 – 16.00	Elections, Open Forum, Planning for 2023
16.00 – 17.00	Raffle draw
17.00 – 18.30	Goodbyes and close.



Raffle

Any contributions towards the raffle prizes are welcome. If you wish to donate a prize for the raffle draw, please contact a member of the Committee.

We do ask for some volunteers to help out for the Meeting – the more the merrier. It's a great way to socialise and get to know others and do your bit for BMUK. If you wish to volunteer and assist on the day, please do contact a committee member preferably in advance – all help is welcome!

Sponsorship

If you would like to sponsor/ contribute to the Diwali Meeting or any part of it (e.g., lunch), please contact a member of the Committee.

Logo for BMUK

We have had the same Logo for a number of years, and we are looking to change the logo to a contemporary, modern design.

We welcome new ideas and designs, so feel free to bring them along to the Diwali Meeting or email them to a committee member.

Subscriptions and Donations

During two years of Covid (2020 and 2021), we had a subscriptions holiday. In our January 2022 Newsletter, we asked Members pay their Subscriptions online for 2022 by 15th March – this was so that we could consolidate and update our records.

Thank you to those members who did this. We shall continue to collect subscriptions online for those who prefer this method.

The process for online payment is easy: Go to the BMUK Website (www.bmuk.org) and click on tab that says “Subscriptions”, enter any details requested and pay! This system can also be used for donations, tickets for events and the Directory (if you are ordering one).

If you are able to get up to date on Subscriptions for 2022 and 2023 *before* the Diwali Meeting, that would help enormously.

We shall still be collecting Subscriptions at the Diwali Meeting on 6 November – as per normal.

Please note you can now make card payments at the Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Births

Congratulations to Punit and Shreena Ghumra on the birth of their baby boy, Prem Ram, on 16 May 2022

CONTACT US

BMUK Committee Members' Contact details

Bharatiben Soneji (Chair person)	bharati.h.soneji@bmuk.org
Rajeshbhai K. Ashra (Secretary)	rajesh.ashra@bmuk.org
Hiteshbhai Khatri	hitesh.khatri@bmuk.org
Harshalbhai Kshatri (Treasurer)	harshal.kshatri@bmuk.org
Dr Abhaya J. Soneji	Abhaya.soneji@bmuk.org
Hansaben Kakaiya	hansa.kakaya@bmuk.org

BMUK Trustees Contact details

Harishbhai Ghumra	harish.ghumra@bmuk.org
Yashvantbhai Machchhar	yashvant.machchhar@bmuk.org
Prakashbhai Soneji (Treasurer)	prakash.soneji@bmuk.org
Vipinbhai Bhuchhada	vipin.bhuchhada@bmuk.org

આવતો પ્રસંગ

દિવાળી મીટિંગ 2022

વાર્ષિક BMUK દિવાળી સભા અને વાર્ષિક સામાન્ય સભા યોજાશે.

તા. રવિવાર 6ઠી નવેમ્બર 2022,

બપોરે 12.00 થી સાંજે 7.00 વાગ્યા સુધી.

સ્થળ: કોફ્ટ હોલ, કિંગ્સબરી હાઇ સ્કૂલ, કિંગ્સબરી, લંડન, NW9 9AT

જરૂરથી પધારશો

CONGRATULATIONS

Mrs Sarala Ghumra completed 12 Bridge walk covering distance of ten miles on 25th September 2022 in aid of Diabetes UK organisation. She is a regular walker for 5 miles in aid of Cancer Research for last 10 year. Kudos to her.

The Diabetes aid route map is shown below.

