



BMUK
Brahamakshatriya Mandal UK

શ્રી બ્રહ્મક્ષત્રીય મંડળ યુ.કે.

E-mail: committee@bmuk.org

Website: www.bmuk.org

October 2023

Dear Members

We warmly welcome you to this latest edition of the newsletter and yes its been a while. We hope you all had a wonderful Summer break from schools, university or even work to spend quality time with family and friends or just find time for yourselves.

The Committee members themselves took a bit of a break and are now refreshed to look at what we can do for you in the months ahead as Navratri and Diwali celebrations are on the horizon – see details further down.

You will note the beautiful new BMUK logo which adorns this newsletter – our sincerest thanks go to Bharatbhai Gordhandas Kakaiya (aka Jimmy) for the design with its wonderfully traditional lotus theme, very eye catching artform and use of colours signifying UK.

So, our last event took place in Spring - a wonderful musical extravaganza in May that was well attended by BMUK and their friends. Music and food were plenty as dancing continued well into the late night. The committee wish to thank all those who not only participated but in doing so, helped raise funds for charity as part of the event and generous donations as well. It was pleasing to also see and meet a large number of youngsters attending and we hope you will keep supporting BMUK going forward and indeed organise such events yourselves - well done!

We are delighted to say that 20% of all proceeds from the event and 100% of the extra contributions made on the night - a grand total of £550 are being donated to Andh Kanya Praksh Gruh - a facility based in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) which provides essential education and training for blind girls from the basic stage, i.e., nursery up to primary level.

If you wish to know more about this excellent charity and its cause, please do look at their website <https://www.akpgschool.org> . And remember, it's not too late to still make a donation if you wish by emailing your pledge to prakash.soneji@bmuk.org and making your contribution by online transfer using the link on our website www.bmuk.org – the online payment system is not just for subscription payments so go explore!

BMUK Directory

As you all know, we now have a new BMUK Members Directory, 2023. Thank you to those who ordered copies in advance, the demand was high which meant we had to print more copies and we hope you find the Directory informative and helpful. Further copies might yet be made available to purchase if there is sufficient demand and so we ask again that you place your order in advance by email to a committee member so that we only print the numbers we need and not waste resources, The directory will be at cost £5 each which can be paid for in advance online from our website www.bmuk.org or on the day at our Diwali meeting when collected.

Forth coming events:

Navaratri

Sadly, we were unable to hold Navratri celebrations last year but promised that we would host them again in 2023. We are excited and looking forward to meeting everyone at the Navratri celebrations to be held on October 21st and 28th (Sharad Punam)

Venue: Arya Samaj Hall 69 Argyle Rd, London W13 0LY

Time 7.30pm (for 8pm start) until 11pm (close and return of hall)

Light snacks and refreshments will be provided on both days until 8pm so come early and mingle before the celebrations begin at 8pm sharp – and don't forget to bring your dandias as we, BMUK has no stock left (we will try and remedy this before the event if we can but cannot promise).



Whilst we will not be holding formal competitions this year, we hope everyone will come in their colourful and traditional garba outfits to add to the fun and festivities and bring your beautifully decorated aarti thalis to impress.

Aarti thalis will be available for both days if you wish to contribute to aarti collection and any other donations are of course welcome including prasad offering.

Diwali meeting and AGM

Our annual gathering for Diwali is scheduled for Sunday November 19th from 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 so please ensure everyone in your group are registered on arrival.

The day's programme will be as follows:

- 12:00pm – 1:00pm Arrive, Meet and Greet in main hall.
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm Lunch (service and kitchen will close 20 minutes before)
- 3:00pm – 3:30pm Committee Reports (including possible elections)
- 3:30pm – 5:30pm Music and entertainment by group
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Raffle draw
- 6:30pm – 7:00pm Goodbyes and close.



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As with each AGM, 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@bmuk.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.

Here's a challenge and opportunity for anyone and everyone who wants to see BMUK run differently or for the needs of our members in today's world and particularly for younger members. If you want change, you have to be an active part of that change – so what will, or can you do?

The current committee members have been in place for a number of years now, simply rolled forward due to lack of volunteers and interest from the wider membership. Whilst we are honoured to serve the Naat – we recognise that we cannot meet everyone needs and demands or get it right at times and may even be completely out of touch with youngsters. Most importantly, we recognise that we cannot continue as we are and desperately need new committee members with fresh ideas and energy to come forward, support or even take over.

So - there is an opportunity for a group of 6 to 8 self-organised, motivated, and like-minded members/volunteers to form a "surrogate" committee. You will organise and manage BMUK matters and any events you feel appropriate for a trial period of 1 year. Your chance to try new ideas aimed at developing and growing our BMUK community, member participation and charitable work. You will have the freedom to organise as you see fit, raise funds and have access to existing funds for projects or events that meet BMUK constitution, its aims and objectives which the Trustees will endorse.

If you think you can lead or be part of a great new team that can make a difference, why not talk to other BMUK members you may know before Diwali meeting so you can present yourselves to members as a group, be counted and get organised.

Raffle draw and prizes

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 preferably before the Diwali meeting so we can organise ourselves.

Subscriptions and Donations

Thank you to those members who have made efforts to keep their subscriptions up to date. We will of course be collecting subscriptions (card payment preferred) at the Diwali meeting for the forth coming year of 2024 and any arrears that may be outstanding. If you prefer to save time, we are continuing 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 your 'Subscriptions' to 2023 before the Diwali Meeting, that would help enormously.

Volunteers

If you feel like you want to help on the day of the meeting itself, whether it is to help with set up in the hall, meet and register members, serve lunch, sell raffle tickets. – we would welcome all the help we can get, 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 of the meeting but otherwise juts let us know when you arrive.

Sponsorship

If you would like to sponsor/ contribute to the Diwali Meeting, any part of it (e.g., lunch), or indeed any BMUK activity or even a general donation please contact a member of the Committee. Your donations will be gratefully received.

Future Events

With the widely reported cost-of-living crisis amongst other things, BMUK is not immune to the effects of rising costs, from catering to venue hire and even cost of providing entertainment. As much as possible we aim to provide value for money with your subscriptions being put to best use. This includes subsidising events so that ticket prices are kept low and reasonable and the annual free events like Bhajan evening and Navratri celebrations – so why miss out on these.

You owe it to yourselves to have a few days of fun and friendship, meet other BMUK families and keep the BMUK flag flying. The committee have considered many ideas to try and bring people together at minimal cost to members themselves. Some have been very successful, some not so and some specifically aimed at bringing young members together.

Now its over to you to suggest some new ideas – something you may have heard about or experiences or think it would great fun to try. Email you suggestions to a committee member or bring it with you to our AGM and we will have a suggestions box that you can drop your ideas into. The committee promises to explore each suggestion and where viable to make it happen.

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Here's mine for starters – Uttarayan (kite flying festival) except not in January but around summer-time when the weather is suitable and perhaps, we can mix it with picnic in the park and make it an outing for the whole family. Interested? come and talk to us at the meeting.

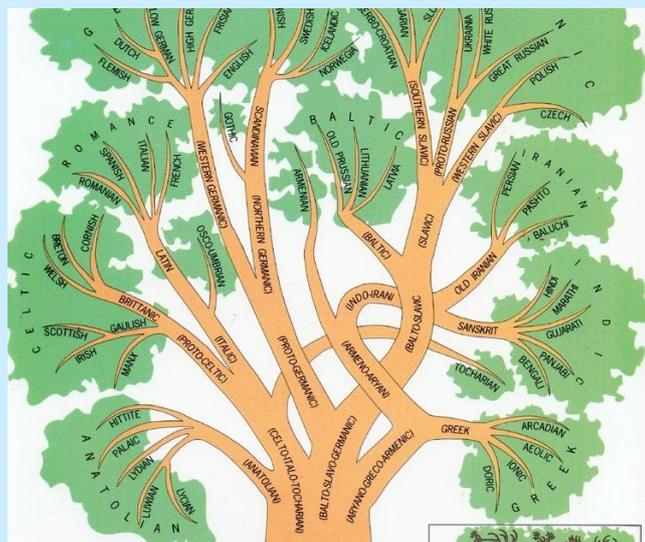
If we have more members participating, we can be more adventurous in our events and projects. We have had interesting suggestions ranging from paintballing, hill walking or hiking, long weekend coach tour, sports day?

BMUK is also there if YOU need support perhaps to promote a charity event or fund raiser for a good cause you are taking part in or that our members might be interested in either participating or contributing into. Unfortunately, we cannot promote commercial ventures or events. BMUK's many aims and objectives include the promotion or enhancement and advancement of our culture, religion, custom and practices as well as fighting against social, welfare and environmental injustices. This includes supporting other select charities or organisations which have similar and compatible aims and objectives. Maybe you can or want to champion a worthwhile cause, raise awareness of a particular issue, write or share an article about an issue that might benefit others - why not reach out as there may be someone else within BMUK who has ideas or thoughts or even experience of such matters. Give it a go – get in touch and let's ask the community

Special request from Jay Ashra – family tree

You may recall last year Jay Ashra had a project in mind to develop a Naat “family tree”. He asked individuals or groups to pull together their own family trees and share it with him so that he can consolidate the information and create a Naat map so to speak like a jigsaw puzzle. Good news is that he received some very positive comments and enthusiastic responses and promises. We understand these tasks take time and effort as well as the willingness and patience to complete. Perhaps you started and ran out of steam or were waiting for that eureka moment to pull all the missing information together or perhaps not sure how far back you should go?

Jay, bless him, is even more determined to see this project through and knows in his heart that this can be a fascinating project from each family's perspective if you haven't already done your family tree. Getting the kids and grandparents talking and involved – what a way to learn, educate and remember about our roots and relationships. So, a polite request from Jay and one wholly supported by the Committee and Trustees - lets finish this puzzle that some of you may already have started so that we can proudly present it to everyone and put ourselves on the map. If you have any questions or suggestions, Please talk to Jay Ashra - he will be at the Diwali meeting or you can email a committee member (details at end of this newsletter) who will put you in touch.



—Obituaries—

Jayeshbhai Lallubhai Soneji	12/12/2022
Prafulbhai Jamanadas Padia	25/03/2023
Yatinchandrabhai J Sheth	12/05/2023
Shavitaben Jamanadas Padia	25/05/2023
Harsukhbhai Dahya (Goratela)	10/06/2023
Mulchandbhai Jamanadas Jogi	08/07/2023
Manaharlalbhai Harjivan Bosamia	20/09/2023

Contacts:

Committee Members:

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Our New Logo

