



DMMUK
DARJI MITRA MANDAL OF THE UK

October 2023

www.darjimandal.org.uk

Darji Voice

Presidents Message

Dear Community Members,

The annual festive season is upon us, and it's time to celebrate two of the most cherished festivals in Hindu calendar – Navratri and Diwali. These festivals bring with them a sense of joy, togetherness, and spiritual renewal and invite you all our community members to unite and partake in the upcoming celebrations.

Navratri: Dancing to the Rhythms of Togetherness

Navratri is a nine-night festival dedicated to goddess Durga and an occasion to revel in cultural heritage and vibrant traditions. Let's embrace the festive spirit by actively coming together and joining in Garba and Dandiya Raas. Whether you're an experienced dancer or a novice, this is the perfect opportunity to learn, move, and groove together. DMMUK will create a tapestry of colours, music, and laughter that will fill our community with joy.

Diwali: Illuminating Hearts and Homes

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is a time when we come together to celebrate the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Let's adorn our homes with traditional decorations, light oil lamps, and share stories of this auspicious occasion. Our community Diwali gathering will be a chance to savour delectable sweets, showcase fireworks, and enjoy cultural performances that resonate with the true spirit of Diwali.

Our ambition is to make this year's festivals even more special by uniting as a community. Your active and enthusiastic participation will create an atmosphere of warmth and camaraderie that truly embodies the essence of Navratri and Diwali.

We look forward to seeing you all at these exciting events.

AGM

This year again we were disappointed in the poor attendance at our Annual General Meetings (AGM). Your contribution to the progress and growth of the Mandal and the community is crucial. This event is your space to share ideas to how we shape the future for all. Your voice matters, please mark the next AGM (July 2024) on your calendar and help us make a positive impact!

Get involved!

Our Darji Community have many skilled and professional members and the Mandal would benefit hugely if you could volunteer a few hours a month to help the Mandal in delivering its objectives. A key focus is setting up a Youth Committee where our young Darji's can engage with audiences and develop a platform of events, news to establish a foundation to build on. Please contact us on info@darjimandal.org.uk to discuss how you could provide the change.

Pravin Jivan

President DMMUK

Give us your feedback and receive new issues regularly, please send your details by email to darjivoice@darjimandal.org.uk
The Darji Voice is published twice a year and is distributed to the community throughout UK.

Shradh Bhajans

Our annual Shradh Bhajans are specifically sung during the period of "Shradh", a Hindu ritual to pay homage to our ancestors. These bhajans are meant to invoke blessings and offer respect to departed souls.

This year's Shradh Bhajans will be held on Sunday 8th October between 3.00 - 5.00pm at our community centre. The Bhajans will be sung by renowned singer Nituben Shah and everyone is welcome - please inform your family and friends.

Admission is free, but please prebook your attendance to the event.

Navratri

Navratri festival starts from Sunday 15th - 24th October 2023 with Poonam on Saturday 28th October 2023. Once again DMMUK have team with Parag & Chhaya providing enchanting music and garba for the entire 11 days with Garba and Dandiya.

DMMUK is offering free admission for members and their children under 18 years. It is sure to be a memorable and joyful time for everyone involved.

Non-members will have free entrance on weekdays however there will be a charge of £3.00 on important days e.g. Aatham, Dussera, Poonam and weekends.

As per every year, we have Bal Navratri on Sunday 22nd October 2023 for children under 14 years between 1.00- 4.00 pm.

We are seeking for the donations towards Prasad from community members for each of 11 days and/or contribution towards Jalebi, fafda on Dussera night and Dudh Pauva on Poonam night.

Limited by guarantee no: 2913733



DMMUK SHRADH BHAJANS
 FOR MORE INFO SEE OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM OR
 Email: events@darjimandal.org.uk

Shradh Bhajans
 Sunday, 8th October
 3:00pm to 5:00pm
 At: 26 Oakthorpe Road, N13 5JL
 Entrance: FREE
 Bhajans with Nituben Shah



Shradh

For Bookings Contact
 Pravin: 07951 850727
 Mahendra: 07878 522965
 or email
events@darjimandal.org.uk

Navratri with Parag & Chhaya

DAY	DATE	TIMING
DAY 1	SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER	7:30PM - 12:00PM
DAY 2	MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER	7:30PM - 11:00PM
DAY 3	TUESDAY 17TH OCTOBER	7:30PM - 11:00PM
DAY 4	WEDNESDAY 18TH OCTOBER	7:30PM - 11:00PM
DAY 5	THURSDAY 19TH OCTOBER	7:30PM - 11:00PM
DAY 6	FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER	7:30PM - 12:00PM
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DAY 9	MONDAY 23RD OCTOBER	7:30PM - 11:00PM
DAY 10 - DUSSERA	TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER	7:30PM - 11:00PM
DAY 15 - POONAM	SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER	7:30PM - 12:00PM

AT: DARJI COMMUNITY CENTRE
 26 OAKTHORPE ROAD
 LONDON N13 5JL

7.30 PM ONWARDS

TICKET INFORMATION
 DMMUK MEMBERS: FREE
 NON_MEMBERS
 FREE ON WEEKDAYS
 £3.00 ON WEEKEND
 £3.00 ON FESTIVAL DAYS

MANGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT OF ADMISSION

navratri 2023
 Rhythm Guru Entertainment

Bal Navratri Entry:

- All children: Free (members and non-members)
- Adult members: Free
- Non-members: £3 per adult

Registered charity no: 1036109

Diwali

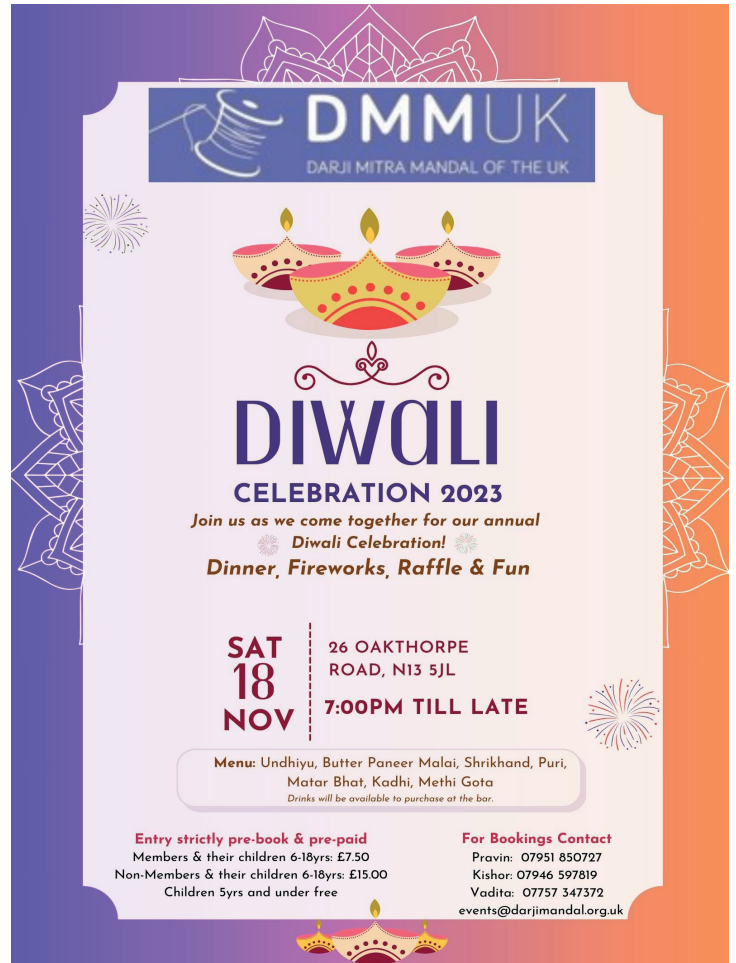
Our annual Diwali gathering to be held at the Pavilion on Saturday 18th November 2023 and will be celebrated with traditional firework display, delicious food, raffles, and dance performance.

This event is a wonderful way to come together, creating a vibrant and joyous atmosphere for everyone involved.

This is a very popular event and last year tickets were sold very fast and sadly we had to turn people down due to the limited capacity in the hall - so book early to avoid disappointment.

Members' tickets will be subsidised to £7.50, and non-members will be charged £15.00.

See event flyer for more information.



P&O Cruises – Join us for a 7 nights cruise from Malta to Italy & Croatia, visiting 5 ports, from 25th April to 2nd May 2024 on Azura

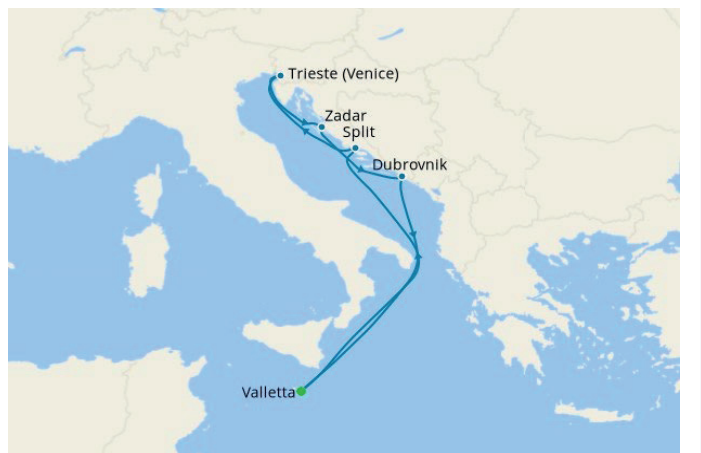
Includes: flights, transfers and 7 nights full board cruise on board P&O Ship Azura

Itinerary:

- Day 1 – flight to Malta, transfer airport to port
- Day 2 – at sea
- Day 3 – Split (Croatia)
- Day 4 – Trieste (Venice/Italy)
- Day 5 – Zadar (Croatia)
- Day 6 – Dubrovnik (Croatia)
- Day 7 – at sea
- Day 8 – transfer to airport for flight to London

Cost per person: Inside £749, sea-view £899, Balcony £1,129

Contact: Shila Tailor 020 8518 5988 or 07834 234 340 (evenings and weekends)



WHATS BEEN HAPPENING (Gallery of events taken place)

60+ Event





Summer Barbeque: 13th August



Vadhu Rotla: 25th August



Friday Club: 30th June with Jay Kumar



WELLBEING: Breast Cancer

Cancer is a disease that will impact one in three. Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide, accounting for nearly 10 million deaths worldwide or nearly one in six deaths and according to the World Health Organisation breast cancer is one of the most common diagnosed cancers after skin cancer globally.

We will all know of a loved one who has lost, diagnosed, or being treated for breast cancer – whilst breast cancer can occur in both men and women, it is statistically know women are commonly diagnosed.

Substantial support for breast cancer awareness and research funding has helped create advances in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. Breast cancer survival rates have increased, and the number of deaths associated with this disease is steadily declining, largely due to factors such as earlier detection, a new personalised approach to treatment and a better understanding of the disease.

Please look out for signs and symptoms of breast cancer which may include:

- A breast lump or thickening that feels different from the surrounding tissue.
- Change in the size, shape or appearance of a breast.
- Changes to the skin over the breast, such as dimpling
- A newly inverted nipple
- Peeling, scaling, crusting, or flaking of the pigmented area of skin surrounding the nipple (areola) or breast skin.
- Redness or pitting of the skin over your breast, like the skin of an orange.

If you find a lump or other change in your breast even if a recent mammogram was normal – make an appointment with your doctor for prompt evaluation.

Anyone registered with a GP as female will be invited for NHS breast screening every 3 years between the ages of 50 and 71. You'll get a letter in the post inviting you.

You'll automatically get your first invite for breast screening between the ages of 50 and 53. Then you'll be invited every 3 years until you turn 71.

Please remember, you need to be registered with a GP surgery to be invited for breast screening. [Information from https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/breast-cancer](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/breast-cancer)

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Walking for Cancer Research UK

Key fact: There are currently 3 million people living with cancer in the UK. On average someone is diagnosed with cancer at least every 90 seconds in the UK. Each year, around 167,000 people die from cancer in the UK, an average of 460 people every day. (*Stats: MacMillan Cancer Support 2023*)

We all know someone who is affected and impacted by cancer - each one of us have a personal journey with family and friends that we lost during the last few years hence why the Cancer Research UK Shine Walk was our own journey to help beat cancer by walking stride by stride through the streets of London on Saturday 23rd September. Starting at Battersea Park, we embarked the 13 mile walk through some of London's amazing landmarks to raise crucial funds for Cancer Research UK's life-saving work.



Whilst the last 3 miles was the hardest, we were proud to finish the walk in 5 hours and 48 minutes – thank you to everyone who supported us in raising just under £3k surpassing our original target. It's still not too late to donate at: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/fab-4-5> and help us in helping this cause.

Thank you to Bhavini Tailor, Neeta Sidpra and Preeti Shah – we did it!

Bharti Bhikha

Turning a Century

DMMUK are proud to mark the incredible celebrations of Mrs Gajraben Bhagwandas Master turning 100 years old. She was congratulated by his Majesty King Charles and the Swaminarayan Institute, Anoopam Mission for reaching this phenomenal milestone.

Gajraben was born on 27th September 1923 in Talsadi, India and was married to Bhagwandas Karsan Master of Kothamdi. She moved from India to Africa in 1943 where all her nine children were born. Arriving in the UK in March 1970, she worked as a machinist.

She is a great grandmother, and her family is made up of 16 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. She has devotee of Lord Swaminarayan and his divine sadhus and her motto in life is 'to never think negative of anyone. Always help the needy and always remain in gods' devotion which she practices staunchly'.



Story Of Ethan Tailor and Stargardt's Connected by Bhavna Tailor



RAISING AWARENESS OF A RARE EYE DISEASE: OUR STARGARDT'S CONNECTED STORY

My son Ethan Tailor was diagnosed with Stargardt's Disease when he was just 7 years old. I had taken him to the opticians thinking he needed glasses and 2 weeks later found out he was going blind.

Being a rare disease, I had never heard of Stargardt's, it was a complete shock and I was completely heartbroken. Despite the devastation, I wanted to do something positive and set up Stargardt's Connected in 2019, the first and only Stargardt's charity in the U.K.

What is Stargardt's Disease?

Stargardt's Disease is a recessive genetic condition- meaning both parents must be carriers of the faulty gene causing the disease. Their children then have a 25% chance of having the condition. Very often there is no prior history of Stargardt's in the families which is why it is a shock when a diagnosis happens. It affects the retina and causes progressive central vision loss. Those with Stargardt's have difficulties with things such as recognising faces, reading, watching TV and distance vision.

Diagnosis usually happens between ages of 10 and 20, although people can be diagnosed earlier or later. It affects approximately 1 in 10,000 people and is therefore classed as a rare disease. There is no current cure or treatment.

Stargardt's Connected, the Charity

Stargardt's Connected aims to raise awareness and vital funds for research and support.

We provide information and advice to those affected by the condition and hold events to help reduce the feelings of isolation.

We held our first conference earlier this year and have set up a Stargardt's patient register helping to link people up globally and stimulate research. We are one of the only Stargardt's charities in the world.



Ethan, 7 when he was diagnosed.

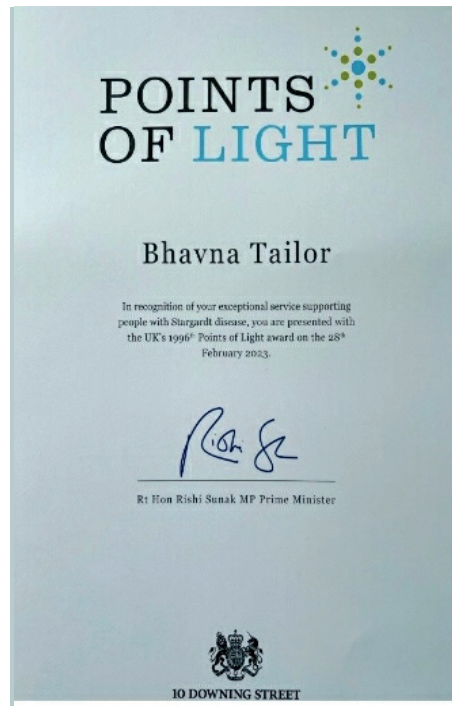
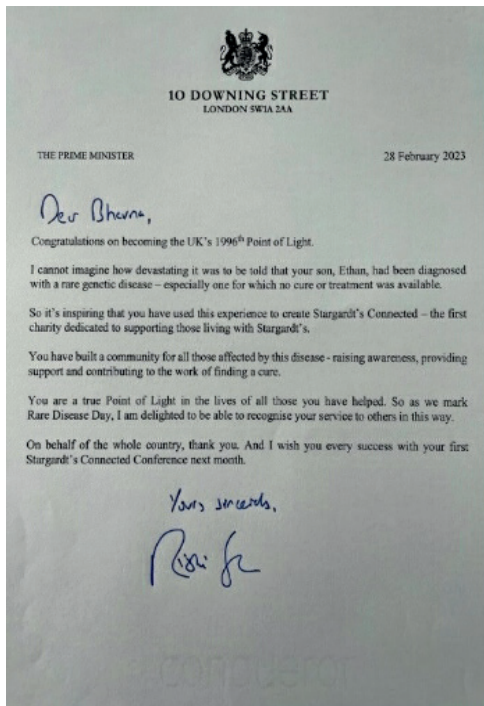
Prime Minister's Points of Light Award

This year on February 28th, Rare Disease Day, I was honoured and thrilled to receive the Prime Minister's Points of Light Award and a personal letter from PM Rishi Sunak congratulating me for the work I have done in setting up the charity and supporting the Stargardt's community.

You can find out more about the charity and Stargardt's Disease on stargardtsconnected.org.uk.



Bhavna and Ethan at our first Stargardt's Connected conference this year.



Ethan and the future

We try to be optimistic about the future. Ethan is now 15, thriving and leads a full happy life. He's been on his first skiing school trip this year, has presented at international conferences and has a passion for cooking.

With adaptations and a positive mindset, Ethan embraces life and all its opportunities and doesn't let his sight loss stop him achieving.

In Ethan's own words,
"The limit is what you choose".

We are always looking for people and companies that would be interested in fundraising for the charity. You can contact me, Bhavna Tailor on info@stargardtsconnected.org.uk to discuss further.

Here are the charity bank details if you would like to make a donation:

Stargardt's Connected
Sort Code: 40-20-23
Account Number: 72180723

Thank you!

Bhavna Tailor

Here's their Point of Light Award press release: <https://www.pointsoflight.gov.uk/stargardts-connected/#:~:text=When%20Bhavna's%207%2Dyear%2Dold,6%2C000%20people%20in%20the%20UK.>

Obituaries

Since the last publication of Darji Voice, the DMM of UK has been informed of the passing away of the following community members in the UK. The DMM of UK conveys our sincere condolences and sympathies to the families.

Date	Title	Name	Town
04/06/2023	Mrs	Harigangaben Tailor	Solihull, West
08/06/2023	Mr	Mohanbhai Gulabivala	Bounds Green, London
15/06/2023	Mr	Manilal (Manharbhai) Amratlal Tailor	Leicester, Leicestershire
19/06/2023	Mr	Harischandra Parshottam Bhagat	Leicester, Leicestershire
30/06/2023	Mrs	Indiraben Navinbhai Topiwala	Leicester, Leicestershire
07/09/2023	Mr	Chimanlal Itchuubhai Tailor	Leicester, Leicestershire
25/09/2023	Mrs	Kusumben Manilal Ghela	Isleworth, London



DMMUK TRIPLE EVENTS DHAMAKA

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Shradh Bhajans

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*Bhajans with
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Shradh

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MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE
RIGHT OF ADMISSION



Diwali Celebration



DIWALI
CELEBRATION 2023

Join us as we come together for our annual
Diwali Celebration!
Dinner, Fireworks, Raffle & Fun

**SAT
18
NOV**

26 OAKTHORPE
ROAD, N13 5JL
7:00PM TILL LATE

MENU: UNDHIYU, BUTTER PANEAR MALAI, SHRIKHAND, PURI
MATAR BHAT, KADHI, METHI GOTA
DRINK WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT THE BAR

Entry strictly pre-book & pre-paid

For Booking contact

Members & their children 6 - 18 yrs : £7.50
Non_members & their Children 6-18 : £15.00
Children 5yrs and under Free

Pravin : 07951 850727
Kishore : 07946 597819
Vadita : 07757 347372
events@darjimandal.org.uk