



ASSOCIATION OF MANDHATA SAMAJ UK

Registered Charity in England No. 1055169

annual newsletter

Brief Profile of The Association of Mandhata Samaj UK (AMSUK)

Shree Mandhata Samaj UK is a community of Koli Patels originating from and around the areas near Navsari in Gujarat, India. Various community members had initially migrated to East Africa in the 1940 and 50's and had adopted the name "Mandhata Samaj". Subsequently, during the 1960 and 70's, the community members had resettled in the UK and continued with the adopted name, formed local Mandhata Samajs and Mandals in towns they had settled in.

In July 1972 the Association of Mandhata Samaj UK was established as an umbrella organisation of the various "Koli Patel Mandhata Samajs and Mandals" in the UK. AMSUK is a registered Charity Organisation.

AMSUK's aims are to foster unity, promote social welfare and preserve the social, cultural, and religious values of the Mandhata Community.

AMSUK's mission is to develop and maintain a strong, vibrant, and cohesive Mandhata Samaj that values and promotes our Hindu faith and cultural heritage.

At present the Mandhata community in UK is estimated to be circa 7,000 families with a total of about 30,000 community members. It is one of the largest groups of ethnic groups in UK. The community across UK with sizeable populations in Bolton, Bradford, Birmingham, Bilston, Dudley, Preston, East London and Essex, Leicester, Loughborough, Luton, Walsall, West Bromwich, Wembley, Wolverhampton, Coventry, Manchester, Stalybridge, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Rugby, Peterborough amongst many others.

For further details about AMSUK, please log on AMSUK Website: www.amsuk.org

AMSUK Executive Committee Members (2022 – 2024) & Holding Trustees (2022 – 2027)

Office Bearers:

President:	Hasmukh S Patel (Dudley)	Vice President: Vinu C Patel (Bolton)
Hon. Secretary:	Ashok R Patel (Leicester)	Asst. Secretary: Tejas D Patel (Bracknell)
Hon. Treasurer:	Dilip M Jina (Leicester)	Asst. Treasurer: Manisha A Patel (Luton)
Auditor:	Sharman Fielding	

Committee Members:

Ashok U Patel (Ruislip), Roshni C Patel (Wolverhampton), Hamel D Patel (Walsall), Beena R Patel (Harrow), Darshana Patel (Walsall), Ramanlal C Patel (Leicester), Kokila Patel (Wolverhampton), Hema Patel (Leicester), Hasmukh K Patel (Dudley), Maganbhai B Patel (West Bromwich)

Holding Trustees:

Aroon R Patel (Luton), Late Babubhai C Patel (Tipton), Mohanlal G Patel (Bolton), Mahesh H Karadia (Leicester), Dahyabhai K Patel (Dudley)

Women's Forum Convenor:	Rekha L Shah (Maidenhead)
Youth Forum Convenor:	Nailesh B Patel (Loughborough)
Singles Event Convenor:	Hina Dhanji (Leicester)

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT OF AMSUK

Dear friends,

Namaste. Jai Shree Krishna. Hope you are all safe and well. It has been my pleasure to serve as President of AMSUK.

We have a very rich cultural heritage and throughout the last fifty-one years, AMSUK has endeavoured to provide social and cultural support to our community. We are indeed grateful to our founder members of the past for their vision, passion, dedication, and voluntary commitment for building the foundation of our Samaj. However, have we built on that foundation? Are we really progressing? Should we be doing a lot more than we are at present to sustain our cultural identity?

As I have said before, the future our Samaj is very much dependable upon active participation of the present and future generation members in the mainstream of umbrella organization AMSUK and its Affiliated Towns.

Change is inevitable as generations change and we must recognize the needs of the present and future generations and collectively endeavour to meet the new challenges and cater for the requirements and expectations of all our Samaj colleagues and the society we live in today. We need to think and think hard, of ways on how best we can rejuvenate our members and particularly our Affiliated Towns for active interaction and participation in AMSUK as our umbrella organisation.

It is essential that we, AMSUK Management Committee, Affiliated Towns Representatives and Gaam Mandals Representatives get together regularly and strategically review where we want to take our Mandhata Community and set short to medium term goals.

My sincere thanks to the AMSUK Management Committee and our Community members for their continued support. I wish you all the very best for the future. Good luck and God bless.

Hasmukh S Patel,
President – AMSUK e-mail: info@amsuk.org

AMSUK SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

Namaste All, Jai Shree Krishna.

Following the elections at the AGM/Sammelan Event in Wolverhampton on Sunday 7th August 2022, there was a very positive feeling that the years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 would be progressive and that the new Committee were enthused on working towards rejuvenating the participation of all in AMSUK events and activities.

COVID Pandemic

The year 2022-2023 was the start when everyone was getting back to normality following the unprecedented COVID pandemic which changed everyone's lives and way of living. As you all are aware post 24th March 2020 all AMSUK Events/Activities were cancelled/postponed until further notice and subject to UK Government's advice/instructions on easing of the lockdown restrictions.

2022 AMSUK AGM/Sammelan Event

Since NONE of our 15 Affiliated Towns volunteered to host our 2022 AGM/Sammelan Event, the Association of Mandhata Samaj, UK hosted the 2022 AGM/Sammelan Event and celebrated its Golden Jubilee anniversary on Sunday 7th August 2022 at "Sitara Hall", Mander Street, Wolverhampton. WV3 0JZ. West Midlands.

The key milestones that were being celebrated were;

50th Anniversary of AMSUK (1972-2022), 75th Anniversary of India's Independence (1947-2022) and Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (1952-2022)

The celebrations began with welcoming of the guests followed by the AMSUK AGM, lunch, honouring of AMSUK's past and present Holding Trustees and live musical entertainment.

The event was enjoyed by an audience of over 350 attendees. The venue offered excellent facilities for the event. The catering provided by the Wolverhampton Catering Team was delicious and the entertainment performed by "The Man from Africa" was enjoyed by all.

The whole community social spirit was there for all to see, particularly the way AMSUK's past and present Holding Trustees were honored.

It reflected what our community can achieve with the help and support of all our community members.

AMSUK Golf Tournament on 11 September 2022 at Glen Gorse Golf Club in Leicester

Having held the first AMSUK golf tournament in 2018 near Luton, the second and third in Leicester in 2019 and 2021 (It was considered safe to hold due to the fact that it was outdoors, and the risk minimised), the fourth tournament was again held in Leicester on Sunday 11th September 2022.

It attracted over 45 golfers and non-golfers from all AMSUK affiliated towns and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thank you also go to Jayman and Vinay from Leicester for carrying out all the administration and running around before and during the day as was the case in previous years. This

year we held the dinner after the golf at a private function room and the lovely Indian food that Bharti Patel cooked was thoroughly enjoyed by all and all agreed we should do the same for 2023 if held in Leicester.

AMSUK Singles Event

The Report on AMSUK Singles Event is included elsewhere.

AMSUK Youth Forum

The Report on Youth Forum Activities is included elsewhere.

AMSUK Women's Forum

The Report on Women's Form Activities is included elsewhere.

AMSUK Website

Having launched the new fully functional AMSUK website in June 2020, we now need content from all towns and community members to make it an interesting website for information and communication for all our community members. This will keep everyone updated in what is happening in all the towns as well as nationally at the AMSUK level. This will hopefully also encourage the younger generation to interact and take more active part in our communities around the UK.

Virtual on-line "Zoom" and Face-to-Face EC Meetings

On-line "Zoom" EC Meetings were held on; 22 August 2022 and 17 October 2022

Face-to Face EC Meeting was also held on 9 April 2023 – The following are under discussion.

- Strategic review of AMSUK and its future
- Review of the Constitution of AMSUK
- AMSUK Mainstream Events/Activities during the next 24 months.
- AMSUK Youth Forum Events/Activities during the next 24 months.
- AMSUK Singles events during the next 24 months.
- How best we can rejuvenate our members for active participation in AMSUK events and activities.
- Effective liaison and communication with AMSUK Affiliated Towns and active participation in their respective Towns' Events/Activities.

Once again, I would sincerely like to thank Hasmukhbhai, our President, for his support and guidance during the year and sending out communications when I was busy travelling or tied up.

Wishing you all good health, happiness, and success for the coming year.

**Kind regards,
Ashok R Patel, Secretary - AMSUK**

AMSUK TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

AMSUK 2022/2023

DRAFT

Provisional Income/Expenditure Statement (excluding Youth Forum)

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net</u>
WF Mehfil Bollywood Night	2,217.00	2,046.16	170.84
WF International Women's Day	1,926.00	1,756.79	169.21
2022 AGM	3,001.39	5,721.49	-2,720.10
2022 Mandhata Pragati	2,708.72	3,113.86	-405.14
New Membership	525.00		525.00
Interest Received (estimated)	150.00		150.00
Public Liability Insurance		678.28	-678.28
Website Hosting		72.00	-72.00
Zoom		113.01	-113.01
Net Deficit			<u>-2,973.48</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE (£)	2021.22	2020.21
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>		
Membership	-	25
Donations		
Morgaar Gam Mandir	1,161	-
COVID fund	26,397	-
Womens Forum	575	-
Gift Aid recoverable	2,274	-
Other	-	111
2021 Golf Day	2,270	-
2020 Bollywood Night	-	319
Bank Interest	38	44
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>£ 32,715</u>	<u>499</u>
<u>OUTGOING RESOURCES:</u>		
Donations Payable		
Pethan Kothamdi High School	43	-
Mogaar Gam Mandir	3,392	-
Covid Transfers		
Oxygen equipment	12,197	-
Medical supplies	3,643	-
Food distribution	4,129	-
2021 Golf Day	2,270	-
2020 Bollywood Night	-	425
2021 International Womens Day	-	100
Misc Expenses, Postage, Zoom, Website etc	596	1,076
TOTAL OUTGOING RESOURCES	<u>£ 26,269</u>	<u>1,601</u>
NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING)	<u>£ 6,446</u>	<u>(1,102)</u>

Following the AMSUK AGM and Sammelan 2022 on 7th August the AMSUK Women's forum were to form a new committee for 2022 – 2024. We are an integral part of AMSUK and have representation on its Executive Committee. We thank the AMSUK Office Bearers in particular, for their continued and wholehearted support with all our endeavours.

Plans for a Mehfil Night to be held at the end of November had already begun with the previous committee and so they saw the fabulous event through. It was held at the Dudley Community Centre with attendance at 260. We were entertained by Vaishali & Echoes International. The event was a huge team effort with the backing of the AMSUK Executive Committee, contributing to its success. We had attendance from the many AMSUK affiliated towns, family and friends who enjoyed our first 'in person' gathering, post COVID. Thank you to you all, for supporting and making our Mehfil Night so special.

Keeping connected to our roots is important to us and we had the perfect opportunity to do this by celebrating 26th January - India's Republic Day and commemorating Gandhi Nirvan Din (30th January), via Zoom. We are fortunate to have some wonderful singers within our very own community. This was an enjoyable and informative couple of hours, with patriotic songs and related articles read out by enthusiastic participants. This included young people and those away on holiday, who logged in and participated from India! The benefits of an event held via Zoom.

We hosted a celebration of International Women's Day 2023 on Sunday 12th March, at Shree Krishna Temple Dudley.

As is our age-old tradition, we began with prayers and our immediate past Chairperson, Roshniben, had the honour of lighting the auspicious Divo.

International Women's Day is designed to celebrate women and to bring issues that affect women, to the fore. Following this ethos, one of our chosen topics was, managing menopause. A subject that is little talked about and is still taboo.

As a prelude to the talk, we had a short skit about Menopause delivered by the Wembley Mandhata duo - Kantaben and Sushma, who despite the serious topic, put a light hearted spin on the effect menopause has on so many of us.

The talk on Menopause, was delivered by Bhavna Patel, who is an enthusiastic and experienced speaker, engaging the audience with an informative, interactive style, referencing her own 'lived experience'. Questions from the floor too, were expertly answered.

Our other topic was 'Dealing with Dementia', another sensitive issue that has a stigma attached. Drawing from her own experience, our knowledgeable speaker, Jyotiben Joshi, also covered, with sensitivity, the delicate issue of 'care home' or 'home care', concluding that there is no right or wrong. It is what suits individual needs and what the immediate family feel; would be in the best interest of

everyone involved in the care giving. Empathy, compassion and understanding of the needs of the sufferer and those involved in the care of the individual, are what underpins the ultimate decision taken. We had the opportunity of sharing our experiences and pertinent questions were asked, discussed, and honestly answered.

The morning session completed, it was time for a delicious lunch (made by caterer Binaben, from Birmingham) and of course, for a 'chit chat' and a catch up, which we all enjoy so much.

The second half of the day began with our heartfelt thank-you to all involved in the event, in whatever capacity, from inception to delivery, including setting up and beautiful décor, to clearing up after the event. Every individual plays a part, and we are ever grateful to each of our enthusiastic volunteers and supporters. Thank you.

We have an AMSUK Youth Forum and the lead, Nailesh, with members, Bina and Nikita, gave us an overview of their immediate and future plans. They appreciated what the community had done for the youth thus far and that we are still a huge part of their future. Music to our ears. These are the leaders of tomorrow who will play their part in continuing our legacy. They have our support.

The afternoon's entertainment followed in the form of 'Music Magic'. We were not disappointed! Nimesh Sanghoi delighted us with his wonderful numbers, adding his quirky, inimitable style which had us all charmed and engaged. Of course, it was not long before we took to the dance floor!

As all good things come to an end, so ended our happy day, on a high note. The event gave us much 'food for thought' as well as memorable entertainment. Furthermore, it strengthened our camaraderie and sense of community. Long may that continue...

The AMSUK Women's Forum is a 20 strong group of women from different AMSUK affiliated towns. We each bring our enthusiasm and expertise to the group, work as a whole and together, we endeavour to inform, educate, and entertain our AMSUK community, family, and friends, in the spirit of health and wellbeing.

We have much to do and deliver over the year, with plans underway. We hope you will join us and lend your support in whatever way you can. Although a Women's Group, all are welcome to attend our events. Afterall, it takes a whole family to affect change and progress, in an understanding and supportive way.

As a Women's Forum group, we say, let's reshape the conversation and make our voices heard, in the best possible way - "there is no limit to what we as women can accomplish" and we welcome all members of our Samaj to be the driving force that spurs us on, to serve and to deliver the very best that we can.

Yours in friendship,

AMSUK Women's Forum Committee.



AMSUK YOUTH FORUM ANNUAL REPORT

Youth Forum

When you hear the words “Youth Forum” many of you will associate us with just sport, and if sport is not something that is of interest to you, the Youth Forum becomes irrelevant.

We as a forum understand this and have acted.

COVID-19

Before we get into explaining how we have changed our approach, let us get the past few years out of the way. COVID has impacted us all - our personal, social and, work lives, and we would like to reflect for a moment on the lessons it taught us.

COVID did not discriminate - money, status, power became irrelevant; it brought our lives as we know it to a standstill, many of us lost loved ones, were unable to see family and friends, and it left us with time to reflect, an opportunity to redefine what was really important to us.

The pursuit of bettering ourselves sometimes leads us to forget what we really hold dear. COVID changed all of that. Family, friends, togetherness the fundamental reasons why our founding fathers created the Samaj came back to the forefront of our minds.

Youth Forum: Our Aims

It is this “togetherness” which the Youth Forum is driving towards. In October 2022, we recruited a new committee with fresh ideas, a commitment to succeed and a passion to make our Samaj ‘great’. We have members located in Wembley, Leicester, Loughborough, and Bolton; our aim is to have representation from every affiliated town.

We want to **work together**, we want to **create that sense of togetherness**, we want to give **our next generation the best opportunities**, ultimately, we want to give **them the choice of being a part of something special**. Some will choose not to, and that’s fine, there’s no “they have to”, or “they should” this is simply about **giving them a choice**, much like we have been given by the generations before us.

One of the few positives of COVID, was the rise of Zoom and Teams, we as a forum continue to use that now, and we have monthly meetings on the first Thursday of every month.

We as a forum will continue to work together to deliver what we hope will benefit affiliated towns, make us as a community stronger and to continue the work of our founding fathers in helping to maintain our identity.

We mentioned at the very beginning about the current forum adopting a different approach, so let us explain, sport still plays a role, and will continue to, however we also want to include everyone, we want to cater for all interests, all ages.

Elder's Appreciation event

“Respect your elders, not because of their age, but because of the wisdom they possess.”

Let us start with our primary focus, our elders, some are still with us; and some are looking over us, these are the people who made the sacrifices, travelled over to the UK, worked endless hours, overcame adversity, suffered hardship, did whatever was required to give us the opportunities that we have today. Without them we would not have this platform, we would not be where we are, so with this in mind we want to recognise them, we want to celebrate them, we want them to share their stories, share their knowledge, we can still learn from, we still value you, we still need you.

“You may have youth on your side, but they have experience. Learn from them.”

The forum will be working closely with our elders with the aim of dedicating a night to them in 2024 to simply say “Thank You”.

Focus on our Youth.

Now we move onto our children, those in education, whether doing SATs, GCSE'S, A-levels, degrees or if they are more practical, Apprenticeships, GNVQ's or working, entrepreneurs in the making, we recognise the challenges they face, we as a forum have faced these, or are facing these.

We want to help; this is not something the Youth Forum can do on our own. We have so many successful people in our Samaj. We are looking to you for help, your advice, your experience, your words of wisdom could help our future generations much more than you realise.

“Together we become stronger.”

Look out for our careers and networking events both locally and nationally throughout 2024.

As well as looking to provide for children in education, we will also be looking to continue the fantastic work of previous committees and work with our **under 12's**. We need to be realistic, the needs of under 12's in the present day, has changed to the needs of under 12's in the past. We will strive to find the answers and deliver what they might want, but again we need your help, if you have any ideas or suggestions please reach out.

We will be putting together an **“Ackers Adventure event”** in September 2023, so watch this space, hopefully we will see you there.

Mental Health & Health

“Mental” health, often a difficult conversation to be had within our community, and it still has somewhat of a stigma attached. However, we want to be vocal about this subject, it affects us all in some way, and chances are we will all suffer at some point in our lives. Mental health is not visible, we want people to know they are not alone, we do not need to suffer in silence, we will continue to highlight the issues and will look to the professionals within our community to offer guidance and advise where suitable. So to all of you who work in this field we appeal to you to reach out, **help us to help our community**.

More Events to Look Forward to

Now back to what the Youth Forum is known for “Sports”. We will be looking to reintroduce sporting events into the calendar. On **Sunday 13 August**, we will host a Sports Day, not to be confused with Sports Festival. There will be Football, Netball and Rounders events to take part in, so get in touch if you’re interested in playing.

In November 2023, we will also be bringing back the Indoor Cricket Tournament which has been so well organised in the past.

In Q1 2024 we will be looking to hold a Racket Day event, featuring Badminton, Table Tennis and introducing Squash and Tennis. This will be a fantastic opportunity for individuals to reach out and participate.

All the above events will be hosted to wet the appetite at a local level, give individuals, and teams the taste for competition again with the end goal being Sports Festival 2024 which the forum will be looking to host.

None of this though goes ahead without the help and support of towns. “Support” is a loose term, we **appeal to towns** to really support us, at local level spread the news, get your teams ready, individuals come forward too to play, let’s support them, encourage them, bring back that sense of “togetherness” and let us see them representing your towns at a national level.

We hope what you have read is of interest to you, we as a forum will continue our work, it will take time, but it will only work with your help, put the politics to one side, join us in helping our future, our future generations, do not let the hard work of our founding fathers go to waste.

We want to make up for lost time, **we want to join together**, in 2024, we want everyone to know what it means to be part of a ‘successful, vibrant and active’ Samaj.

Find us on:



[amsukyouthforum](#)



[AMSUK Youth Forum UK](#)

Contact us on:



info@amsukyouth.co.uk

AMSUK SINGLES EVENT REPORT

Weddings, get togethers, private introductions...they were the places to meet people. Certainly, at mass get togethers, you'd get the matchmaker aunty or uncle going around fixing everyone up. Some were horrified and dreaded going to the next event and some went with the flow. When events were at their peak, it was easier to meet someone.

Now...we don't have so much of that. The wedding guest list is smaller and get togethers are limited and not as they used to be. People have become busier. Life just takes over and some have found it difficult to meet anyone.

At AMSUK we know that life's tough enough without the added pressure of trying to find a partner and someone who is from the samaj. Therefore, the matrimonial get together and now the singles event have become the recognised forum for people in the samaj wanting to marry people in the samaj. So instead of you having to do all the hard work, we'll do it for you.

The main objective of the singles event has always been to bring people together, from our community, and create a forum for meeting a potential partner. The event allows for the ladies and gents to mingle, talk, laugh and see if there is someone for them. Opportunities are created at these events.

There have been several successful singles events and people have met their prospective partners, that has then led to marriage. The event works, people have found their life partners here.

The event takes place across the country with the last face to face one being in Wolverhampton at a fancy hotel. To break the ice there were a series of games and the speed date. Unfortunately, then covid hit. All AMSUK activities stopped. However, we were still able to hold an online singles event and people joined virtually. This was the first time we had hosted an online event and we still managed to create virtual ice breakers and a virtual speed date. We didn't think this was possible but managed to make it work.

After every event, we ask for feedback and people prefer the face-to-face events. People also prefer different events. We have taken this feedback and the **next singles event** will be held on **23 July 2023** in **Leicester**. The venue is within the City Centre. If anyone is interested in attending the event, please get in touch.

We aim to ensure that the event is relaxed and there are no expectations. All we want is for the singles out there to come along and give it a go. Meet people and just have fun. Leave the rest to us. We don't always get it right, but we do this for you – our people, our community.

So, anyone interested in registering themselves or registering someone else, please contact me: Hina – 07966476646 or hinkas666@gmail.com

**Singles Event Co-ordinator
Hina Patel-Dhanji**