



On Behalf of Our Board of Trustees & Committee



Sushri Wells
Trustee/Secretary of Asian Association, Director of Saffron Kitchen

Welcome to all the members to this June 2023 edition of our Newsletter.

There is a saying right time at the right place- I was invited to join the Asian association 14 years ago and before I knew it, I was elected as the Secretary. It was the time, I was looking for something to do after I retired from my business.

It's been my privilege to be associated with the Asian Association. I feel proud to see the organisation growing each day. I had planned my retirement well and always wanted to support and work in my community. Breaking barriers and encouraging social integration has always been my focus. We opened the centre to all who wanted to be part of the organisation and learn about our rich cultural heritage. Our family is growing each year.

We have been blessed to have many volunteers who support the organisation inspite of their busy lives.

The Asian centre has now become a place members come each week. Some have formed groups and meet weekly and plan outings. The staff are always courteous and helpful always coming up with ideas and planning events for the members.

Getting an award this year from the High Sheriff of Derbyshire has been a highlight this year for me on a personal front. It feels rewarding to be recognised for the work you do.

Thank you to National Lottery

£281,297.61



National lottery official logo.

We are absolutely thrilled and over the moon to share some incredible news with all of you! In June, our organization was granted an astounding £281,297,61 funding by the National Lottery, spanning over the next four years. This remarkable support will undoubtedly have a profound impact on our mission and enable us to expand our efforts in ways we could only dream of. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the National Lottery for recognising the value of our work and investing in our vision for a better future.

Together, we will make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve and the communities we impact. Thank you for being a part of this extraordinary journey!



Members, staff and volunteers presenting National Lottery Cheque

To celebrate this moment, we invited a few of our members to attend our centre where we presented our National Lottery Community Funding cheque.

These funds will allow us to employ volunteers that have worked incredibly hard as well as recruit our fast growing Saffron Kitchen team with a full time Chef and so much more!



Celebrate Diwali with us!

We're celebrating our **41st anniversary** and **Diwali festival** together with **two** amazing artists. We know you enjoyed last years event so this year we're bringing you not just one, but **TWO** shows!

We're taking **Kumar Sharma** and **The Kathak Rockers** on tour with the amazing **Fusion Art Collective** to bring you a show never seen before! With newly choreographed unseen performances by artists all the way from India!

Alongside an evening to remember, we will also be provided a 3 course sit down meal, with an alternative cheaper option for balcony seating.

Tickets are available to purchase via our website:
www.asianassociationchesterfield.org/tickets



AND it doesn't stop there, we will also have a performance in Leicester at the Sue Townsend Theatre! So please share with your friends and tickets can be purchased:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/asianassociationdiwali

Alongside 2 amazing performances we will be visiting local performing arts schools/colleges to perform workshops by Kumar Sharma and the Kathak Rockers themselves, teaching the art of dance including Kathak fusion.



Connect Studios dance workshop 2022



Chesterfield college performing arts dance workshop 2022

Holi Celebrations

March 2023



We celebrated Holi at Hasland Hall where we had a beautiful turn out from members and non members of our community. We had our dancer cancel last minute but our amazing team of volunteers offered their skills of song and dance, with many children taking to the stage. A beautiful celebrations full of colour and love.



Chesterfield Borough's Equality and Diversity Forum

Supporting the development of an infrastructure that enables BME community groups to be actively engaged with us and provide feedback on policy and service developments.

Our fabulous Saffron Kitchen team catered this event with a delicious buffet style menu.



Derbyshire Cricket Foundation

We partnered with Derbyshire Cricket Foundation to provide a free programme called 'Street Cricket Hub' for 8-14 year olds every Monday after school. We had many of our members children involved and they loved getting involved!





Together Fund days out

As part of being a part of Together Fund, coordinated by Links CVS, we were given the opportunity to invite our members on FREE day trips, transport was provided at local pick up/drop off points and they were taken to beautiful places such as Matlock.

A great opportunity for everyone to get together and enjoy the beautiful weather.



Discover the Delights of our Luncheon Clubs!

Each month is a new adventure filled with delicious food and delightful surprises. At **Asian Association**, we believe in creating unique experiences that tantalise your taste buds and foster a sense of community.

Variety is Our Spice: No two luncheon club gatherings are the same! We take pride in curating a diverse range of themes and activities to keep things exciting. From international culinary journeys to themed celebrations, we're dedicated to making every luncheon an unforgettable experience.

Culinary Explorations: Our talented chefs are always busy crafting mouthwatering dishes that cater to a wide array of preferences. Whether you're a fan of traditional comfort foods or an adventurous eater looking to expand your palate, our luncheon clubs have something special in store for you.

A Feast for the Senses: We understand that a memorable meal is about more than just great food – it's an immersive experience. That's why we go the extra mile to create an ambiance that complements each month's theme. From carefully selected décor to captivating entertainment, you're in for a treat for all your senses.

Community and Connection: Our luncheon clubs are not just about food; they're about forging connections. It's an opportunity to meet new friends, catch up with old ones, and share stories and laughter over a fantastic meal.

Our community is at the heart of what we do, and the luncheon club is where it all comes together.

Join Us for the Next Feast: Whether you're a regular attendee or a newcomer eager to embark on a culinary journey, we invite you to join us for our next luncheon club event. Keep an eye on our newsletter and website for updates on upcoming themes and dates.

We can't wait to have you at our table!



Catering your every needs



We are delighted to see our Saffron Kitchen Chesterfield CIC taking off and providing hot meals to those in need within our community. Alongside our day to day meals, we also provide catering for larger numbers including events, special occasions and market days.

We've had some great events happening throughout the year including:

Chesterfield Canal Festival

We sold out by 2pm!

We were so excited to try a new event, we were a little short on the ground with staff but are so grateful for the community we have and had volunteers and their families supporting us on the day for this unforgettable event.

Even after packing up we had members of the community wishing they had tried.

We hope you'll visit us at our next event to see what all the fuss is about!



Plastic Free Festival



We're proud to be members of Plastic Free Chesterfield and enjoyed seeing so many members of our community on board with plastic free!

We had some great stalls around us who also visited for their lunch. With some great entertainment and music throughout the day.

Here we are in Chesterfield Market with a few new faces we can't wait to introduce you to! This was the very Market day that we decided Mango Lassi and Chai Tea were going on the menu to finish out the full Indian/Asian cuisine experience.





National Garden Scheme

We were invited by the National Garden Scheme to attend their open day to show off the beautiful gardens. We had the opportunity to meet the Mayor, councillors and members of the NGS. We launched our **Chai Tea** available at Market Stalls! The gardens are free to visit and based in Mastin Moor. They also have a beautiful sound garden for all to enjoy.



Ashgate Hospice Catering

We attended Ashgate Hospice's recent event where we were made very welcome. The weather wasn't on our side but we had a wonderful day.



Medieval Market



We were in a new spot at this years Medieval Market but we brought something new with the launch of our **Mango Lassi!** We had a great day seeing the Dragon and reenactments.

We were delighted to have a special visit from local police enforcement that enjoyed our delicious food & Lassi!





Thank you day



As a way of celebrating thank you day and celebrating our recent funding from the National Lottery, we invited members, staff and volunteers. We outsourced our catering to give everyone a much deserved day off.



It was amazing to see everyone join together for celebrations.



A huge thank you to everyone involved in the work we do here at Asian Association and Saffron Kitchen, without the community we have, we wouldn't be where we are today and we are eternally grateful.



Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour



We were granted an amazing £5,000 from Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner to stop and educate the community on Anti-Social Behaviour.

We've held our first session where our lead Anand spoke about what ASB is and the stats around our local area.



We will be doing more work throughout the year so please keep your eyes peeled, follow our social media channels to keep up to date on our next events.



There were 241 reports of the crime – with 56 recorded incidents in the worst-affected neighbourhood.

Chesterfield stat, April 2023



Complimentary Therapies



Our volunteers, members and staff were able to take part in gaining their Level 2 certificate for Complimentary therapies fully funded by White Rose Beauty College.

They took part in a 12 week course which involved 1 day a week of learning and set homework.

This is the second year we've been able to offer this so if you're interested in enhancing your skills, come and volunteer, you'll have so many opportunities to enhance your skills.



Easter crafts

We held our Easter event at our center in Hasland where we provided food and many activities creating beautiful handcrafted art by the children that attended.

Everyone made Egg-sellent designs our their most creative easter eggs!



Journey from Refugee to Resilient Staff Member

Masouda and her family came to us unable to speak English, struggling to find a place to live and unable to earn.

Masouda volunteered with us and worked very hard, she attended all English classes, volunteered her time in the kitchen, at all events and we're proud to announce that we have now offered Masouda a contract as an employed member of staff.

She is an absolute asset to our team and we look forward to seeing her grow.



English classes



We hold English classes every Monday and Friday for our volunteers in supporting them to learn the English Language on more of a 1 to 1 basis. We are very grateful to have Carol volunteer her time in supporting us and our amazing team have come on leaps and bounds in learning a language we know is not simple!



An insight into Saffron Kitchen



We filmed our new introduction video to Saffron Kitchen, we had a professional photographer in on our ever growing cooking class to capture the full heart of what happens behind the scenes.

You can view our view through the main website or on our YouTube channel:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAlnKr1IP9Q&t=216s>

www.saffron-kitchen.org.uk



Supporting our community

We were granted £1,000 from Derbyshire County Council to allow us to provide a warm space offering refreshments, seating and a safe place to support our community during the current Cost of Living Crisis.

The warm spaces grant allowed us to welcome everyone and mitigate to the rising costs of heating.

Our centre is welcoming for everyone.

Welcome to our
Warm Space

Please come in and make yourself comfortable.
It's free, you can meet new people and get advice and information while you're here.



Find out more by visiting
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/costofliving



☆ High Sheriff award ☆



Our esteemed Trustee and Secretary and Director of Saffron Kitchen, Sushri Wells, was bestowed with a prestigious award by none other than the High Sheriff herself.

This unexpected recognition filled us with immense excitement, a testament to the dedication she pours into both our community and beyond its bounds, exemplifying her unwavering commitment to our shared values.

Congratulations Sushri!

We're bringing you home-made..

Introducing our latest offerings: the delectable Carrot Pickle and rich Tikka Masala Sauce, crafted exclusively for you!

Find these enticing additions gracing every Market day, or conveniently include them with your meal order. Whether you prefer to drop by our center or simply give us a call, these delectable creations are at your fingertips.

Handcrafted from scratch by our dedicated Saffron Kitchen Team, these culinary delights are thoughtfully designed to seamlessly elevate your meals with authentic flavours and impeccable taste.





Saffron Kitchen

More than just a kitchen

Saffron Kitchen began during a period of our lives that many wish not to remember. From one lock down to another, many were isolated and many classed as vulnerable, disabling them from the ability to access local stores.

Discover the heart of our Saffron kitchen, where the essence of community flourishes beyond the mere culinary experience.

More than just a kitchen, we stand as a beacon of support for the vulnerable members of our community. Our commitment goes beyond recipes and cookware; we provide accessible information, inviting and warm spaces within our centre, with empowering cooking classes, and engaging through luncheon clubs.



Through these initiatives, we have witnessed lives transformed, as we guide and nurture members toward meaningful employment opportunities and offer them a sense of purpose. In the face of adversity, we've stood with those who have had to rely on meagre resources, ensuring they have access to wholesome ingredients and nutritious meals. We've witnessed resilience in the face of loss, where some of our community members have been living on the barest essentials.

'Together, we aim to not just fill stomachs, but to mend hearts, uplift spirits, and forge bonds that make our Saffron kitchen a true haven of compassion and care.'





Fundraise whilst you're shopping!



It's never been easier to raise funds for the Asian Association of Chesterfield. Here's our handy list on how to raise money simply by doing your shopping!

- **Easyfundraising:** Easy fundraising is a shopping platform with a variety of online shops - familiar and new! This means that over 4,000 shops and sites will be able to donate to us for FREE every time you use easyfundraising to shop with them. These donations will help SO MUCH, so please sign up to support us – it's completely FREE and doesn't take long.

Don't forget - if you want keep up to date with all that's happening, follow us on social media



Lottery Community Fund Grant

Having received this grant in a four-year agreement in 2023, we are grateful to the Lottery Community Fund for their continued support. This grant forms the solid base to all our projects, services and activities. We are hugely grateful for it!



Warm Spaces Grant

Awarded to help support maintain heat and refreshments in our centre during the Cost of Living Crisis.



Winter Food Access Programme

Thanks to this fund, We have been able to offer free meals to those in need as well as continuing to keep our prices affordable with the Cost of Living crisis.



Social Enterprise

Social enterprises contribute to reducing economic inequality, improving social justice and to environmental sustainability.

Our Thanks and Gratitude

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all of our volunteers, many of which come and support us last minute and always show up with smiles on their faces and more than happy to help. We are eternally grateful for you. Matlock Print for their printing expertise as well as always being able to support what could be last minute work. To our community for their generosity in positive feedback, our volunteers for their time dedicated and to every one of our supporters who send us their goodwill. We look forward to your continued support, friendship and kindness!



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