

L'Union
fait
La Force



The UK Mauritian's Gazette

Monthly Issue No 1/17

At the service of the Mauritian community

75p

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Unity
is
Strength

Editor: Peter Chellen (Founder & Editor of Mauritius News (1983 to 2015))

Can The UK Mauritian Gazette last another 32 years !!!

We started Mauritius News (MN) 34 years ago, precisely in November 1983, but the paper itself went out of circulation in December 2015. It lasted 32 years. When we started the paper many of you were not born yet. How many will be born during the next 32 years if The UK Mauritian Gazette (The UKMG) should exist that long!

Can we take it as a challenge to make The UKMG last another 32 years? Where were we all when MN was created in November 1983? And where shall we all be when The UKMG will mark its 32nd anniversary! What a challenge!

In the course of time, The UKMG will be of service to many more readers, those who are yet to be born as in 1983, the newly-created MN was to serve readers yet to come then.

As we say in the editorial below, in the next 32 years people will probably be travelling to the moon just as people are regularly flying across the oceans by planes. In those past 32 years (plus) the digital age has completely transformed our way of life and today we cannot do without the mobile phones and the Internet.

So let us be part of this great adventure into the future.

The old Mauritius News itself has been hit by an asteroid and gone out of existence in the UK. With your support we can keep The UKMG going long into the future. Long Live The UK Mauritius's Gazette and Long Live The UK Mauritian community

Peter Chellen

To UK Mauritian of all age groups, of all religious and community backgrounds *This our story*

Next year, on 12/3/18, Mauritius will celebrate 50 years of sovereignty as a nation after its release from the colonial control of mother country, Britain. The apron string was cut off and baby Mauritius was left to fend for itself in the vast Indian Ocean. Well the baby is now an adult of 50. Some believed then that the baby would be drown in the surrounding ocean. Well the country did not drown itself and is still around! It is now prosperous enough to be known as a financial centre, to be considered as a beacon to the vast African continent in spite of its small size. Have a look at the sketch map on this page, Mauritius (in red) is very tiny and the white dot next to it is the French island of La Réunion, considered as sister of Mauritius.

In the wake of the independence era in the 1960s, there was a genuine fear that Mauritius could sink into the Indian Ocean because the island was facing very serious problems of which overpopulation was one of them.

With barely 600 thousand people then, just over half a million, tiny Mauritius was considered overpopulated and this was exacerbated by having one of the highest birth rate in the world at the time. Moreover, Mauritius depended almost entirely on sugar and unemployment was rife.

Britain after losing the Jewel in the Crown, India, had decided to rid itself of its colonial vocation and began to blow the wind of change in the direction of Africa. Mauritius, geographically and because of its political alignment, is African, and was earmarked for independence

The Chagos Archipelago

Did Mauritius have to give back to Caesar what was Caesar's? In other words, did Mauritius have to cede Chagos to the British to obtain independence? It is to be wondered how can we give away what was not ours, one may ask. But Britain has been condemned by the International Court of Justice for dismembering Mauritius before granting the island its independence. Britain has also been condemned for the ill-treatment of the Chagosian people to remove them from the Archipelago, namely Diego Garcia, for a US military base.

As much as Mauritius belonged to the British, so were its dependencies, including the Chagos Archipelago situated about 1,000 miles from Mauritius.

The Chagos Archipelago was already theirs. Whether Mauritius wanted it or not Britain was going to ram independence

down its throat. Mauritius was no longer the Star and well less the Key of the Indian ocean as it was when Britain had to conquer it from the French in 1810 to control the Indian Ocean route round the Cape of Good Hope (South Africa), before the opening of the Suez Canal in 1867.

Well, independence to a country with a monocrop economy, struck terror in the hearts of many. And there was a fear of the Hindu hegemony (domination) as it was propagated then by some politicians. The fear of economic disaster lying ahead was genuine and years before independence (1968) many began to jump overboard to swim to other shores (like the tiny rodents abandoning the sinking ship). Where to go? Well, we had to go to the mother country whether she liked it or not. The mother country was Britain

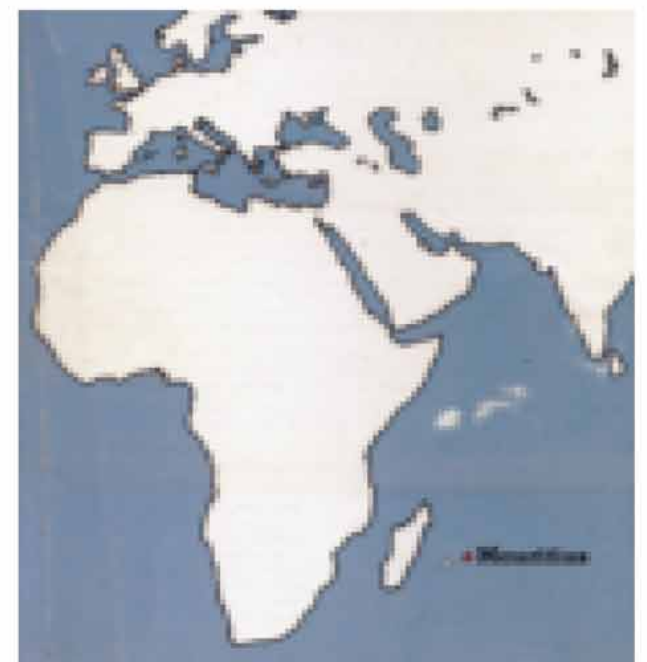
The first batch of Mauritian Migrants

We went by the French liners (Messageries Maritimes) via



The last edition of MN in Dec 2015

Marseilles to Dover, Folkestone and by planeloads to Heathrow. Seeing those hordes of her progenitures (progenies) coming home from many Commonwealth countries, Mother Britain shut her door with the introduction of the Commonwealth Immigrants Act ((CIA) in 1962.



Sketch map of the Indian Ocean where minute Mauritius is shown in red (a beacon?) facing the gigantic African continent. Can you spot UK?

The CIA did not stop the children from coming home. Some were refused entry at ports of entry, some were detained in prison, some were repatriated, but a lot got through to become illegal immigrants without any documents (les sans-papiers,

as those in France were known, travaillant au noir) to be part of the Black Economy.

While we have been away for the past 50 years Mauritius has done well in spite of all fears. The Hindu domination never materialised, Mauritius became the rainbow nation (an expression used in Mauritius first before it was adopted by South Africa). Since its release from the colonial yoke, Mauritius never looked back to ruminate over its weaknesses. Sugar Island moved from the status of an underdeveloped country to that of a Newly Industrialised Country (NIC). Today as a Financial Centre, Tiny Mauritius is regarded as a beacon (une phare) to the immense African continent, more so because of its democratic institutions and its observance of the Rule of Law.

Well, so much about our motherland and the land of your ancestors. What about us here? To sum up, the lot of the first Mau- *Continued on Page 3*

The well-wishers of The UK Mauritians' Gazette

In this issue our well-wishers are principally the former contributors who expressed their pleasure in seeing another international Mauritian paper published in the UK to fill the void left by Mauritius News which, after 32 years disappeared from the UK scene two years ago. The paper appeared for the last time in December 2015.

It is said that there is a time for everything and things happen by themselves to adapt to changing situations and changing environment. Mauritius News had served its time when the generation be-

fore the DOT COM era needed this publication. The Facebook generation of today needs a paper of a different sort. The UK Mauritians' Gazette has been devised with this view in mind. If Mauritius News was OUR paper, The UKMG is YOUR paper and we trust that you will adopt it as such to give it a lasting presence in the UK to serve the community well after elders are gone..

Everyone of the present generation is practically a journalist and a reporter posting and updating bits about themselves and their environment every

moment of the day on the social media. Please accept YOUR UKMG as an extension of YOUR social media network for your thoughts and ideas. We shall, however, refrain from accepting any post that may cause offence. We have operated for so many years without slandering or defaming people to get us into the libel hot water.

We are thankful for your support to **Your Paper**.

December 2017

Peter Chellen
Managing Editor

We are also thankful to our overseas contributors for their messages of encouragement and for their willingness to stand by UKMG. We thank, in alphabetical order: Eddy ABRAHAM (Australia), Breejan BURRUN (Mauritius), Paul DRAPER (Rodrigues), Mylene LAMY (Japan), Ahmad MACKY (Mauritius), Denis PIAT (France), Devinia SOOKIA (USA)

From Eddy Abraham (Australia)



Eddy Abraham talking to Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency Lady Quentin Bryce

It is a great pleasure to hear that "The UK Mauritians' Gazette will replace "Mauritius News". It is about time that the Mauritian diaspora in the UK continues to keep in touch with their Mauritian heritage through this new initiative..

Next year as Mauritius celebrates its 50 years of independence, the young Mauritians of the UK, will certainly like to know the road that has brought their parents to their new country. I am sure you will cover this event in The UK Mauritians.

I wish to offer you my sincere congratulations and offer The UK Mauritians' Gazette a long and prosperous life ahead.

Eddy Abraham. OAM Melbourne, Australia

From Breejan Burrun (Mauritius)

I am proud to join myself to Mr Peter Chellen's 'The UK Mauritians' Gazette' and his team and wish the new mouthpiece of the Mauritian community in the United Kingdom plenty of success and long life.



After 'Mauritius News' which has served the Mauritian community for decades under the dedicated direction of Mr Peter Chellen, I am confident that 'The UK Mauritians' Gazette' will be equally enthusiastically welcome by Mauritians throughout the United Kingdom.

Breejan Burrun

Mr Burrun, holder of a BEd with major in History, is a former tutor at the Adventist College, Phoenix, a contributor to local publications in Mauritius with a particular interest in the history of Mauritius. He has to his credit the publication of several books.

From Paul Draper Rodrigues



Paul Draper addressing guests at an Anglo-Mauritian dinner in London. In front of him sits Richard Gifford of Sheridans & Sheridans (Sols), chairman of the Association.

Congratulations to all the UK Mauritians' Gazette Team & to the chief of Staff- Peter Chellen - (my friend for over 50 years) on the launch of the Revived Mauritius News UK.

I send you my greetings from Rodrigues, where I now live, and wish you all a very Happy New Launch with the Seasons greetings to all Mauritians and friends of Mauritius in the UK. And of course, a very successful New Year 2018.

See more more well-wishers on Page 6

This issue, as we mention elsewhere, contains lots of narratives of what we have done in the past as a community paper, the one I edited for 32 years which went out of circulation in the UK from December 2015.

As we are now producing a new paper, in narrating instances from our past experiences we wish to establish the fact that we can deliver with the right support.

We have felt for some time the need for a publication for the community as none exists at the moment. When we were doing Mauritius News, there were quite a few publications that made surface to compete with it. We believe that competition is healthy for business development. But in a

very small and restricted market, excessive competition can become unhealthy and leave little room for survival. All the titles that appeared at the time of the existence of MN in the UK have all disappeared. But MN has itself not disappeared totally. The new ownership of the business has decided that it should be an online publication, which it is at the moment.

When we started publishing Mauritius News in November 1983, every subsequent November, in an anniversary editorial, I used to ask the question whether the publication would still be around another year. Operating on a shoe-string budget we were not too sure that we could survive

with the costs going up. In The UK Mauritian Gazette (The UKMG) I shall be asking the same question as to whether the publication will be here in another 12 months' time.

It can still be here if the community helps it to survive and this is why I have used the motto in English and French in the display boxes by the side of The UKMG logo. So, the answer of being here next winter is with the community itself.

So, by talking much about the past and about ourselves, we are trying to establish our credibility as a new publication for the community.

It is to be hope that members of the community will put

The UK Mauritian Gazette (UKMG) is your paper. It needs your support for a long life.

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The UK Mauritian's story

From Page One

tors.
What about us here? To sum up, the lot of the first Mauritian migrants have improved all along in this country. Many have become economically very stable to build strong and well-established families. Some, I would say are very prosperous and some wealthy. One chap, selling one of his UK nursing homes bought the Delphis Bank in Mauritius with all its 14 branches in various localities. Many of the first generation of Mauritians own properties in Mauritius. Well, we have done well in our country of adoption, we may say.

MN's target

It is pertinent that we talk about the first migrants' offspring, born and brought up here in the UK. When I started MN there were practically no People Of Mauritian Ancestry (POMA) to be seen in the main stream of British life. I did mention this once or twice in Mauritius News. Today, to our knowledge, a sprinkle of them have made their way up, as we highlight on other pages. Compared to the other ethnic minorities in the UK we are a minority among the minorities. We are minute, and considering such small size the Britishers of Mauritian origin or parentage have been a credit to themselves, their families, their country (Great Britain) and the faraway island of Mauritius.

I created Mauritius news for the elders and I am creating UKMG for both the elders and you of the younger generation (the youngers). I created MN in November 1983 and edited it for the following 32 years. The last edition appeared in December 2015 (pictured) when it was put to rest (RIP) by the

new ownership as a publication in the UK.

Can The UK Mauritian's Gazette (UKMG) have a future? Can The UKMG exist for another 30 years plus? Many MN was created in November 1983 many of you, the youngsters, had not come into this world yet. Yet many will have seen the publication at home from a tender age, and seen it delivered up to adulthood.

When MN disappeared someone told me we are a now like orphans. The disappearance of MN has caused a void in the community, the absence of an organ has been felt, if only to tell you where the next disco is to take place, and what not! Mauritius News was meant for those before and those of the Dot Com generation. The UKMG is for the Facebook and Social Media Generation. The UKMG is meant to be an addendum to the social media for you, the young ones.

When MN was created in 1983, desktop computers did not exist, Internet was yet to be created, website was an unknown conception, and there was no mobile phone. The first mobile phone that was to come on the scene a few years later was literally of the size of a brick. Imagine carrying that gadget in your pocket!

The digital age has changed our way of life and brought about the era of the High Technology. Today, we take for granted the numerous gadgets around us, and at our disposal. Yet I still marvel at what such software as the Photoshop can do for me on my laptop! Now they are talking of 3D printing!

The future

Should The UKMG exist for another 30 years, could you imagine how much water will pass under the bridge! I, for sure, will be playing bridge with the old man upstairs when he can spare some time from creating universes (Now they talk of multiple and parallel universes, the universes duplicating themselves over and over in a non-ending routine to the point that the recent Tv documentary of Horizon asked "in which universe do you live?").

In those next 30 years so much will happen, earth people will be making space trips on flying saucers and aliens will be frequent visitors to planet earth. There will be intermarriages of course, but will they bring their religions to impose them on us? We may have enough of that here already,

Well, that is sheer speculation. Closer to home, The UKMG, in order to be here when time travellers will come will need the support of every member of the Mauritian community, the young and the not so young, in other words, you, you and you, and those yet to come.

The future is yours, the future is full of hope with you.

So, let's be Merry and Full of Cheer NOW.

Peter Chellen
Managing Editor

Editor's note: Some of the ideas in this text are repeated in another editorial in this issue.

A teacher once told me 'there is a wisdom in repetition.' I leave at that.

Britishers of Mauritian parentage in the media and public life

Naga Munchetty



Naga Munchetty's father is from Mauritius and her mother from Tamil Nadu..

Naga Munchetty is a regular presenter on BBC breakfast show. According to entries on the Internet she started her career as a journalist with the Evening Standard and worked for the Observer, and has been a reporter for Reuters Financial News. Her media *parcours* includes Bloomberg and Channel 4 News.

Her full name is Subha Nagalakshmi Munchetty Chendriah. In an interview published in The Guardian she said "can you imagine spelling these names in class as a child?" Being myself of Tamil stock, I know the feeling.

Naga won the BBC Mastermind Trophy in 2013, was on the floor as a celebrity participant in last year's Strictly Come Dancing show. She is golf addict, she plays the trumpet and the piano, is a cocktail expert and above all has a head for figures.

She used to live in Streatham, a stonethrow from Wandsworth Road.

Suella Fernandes



Fareham Conservative MP Suella Fernandes' mother is Mauritian-born whose maiden name is Mootien..

According to an online entry her father is from East Africa, though the name of Fenrnades sounds more Goan.

As we say on Page 5 MP Fernandes, a lawyer, is a staunch supporter of Brexit. Apparently a group of Conservative MPs have chosen her to be their leader to stand up to their party's leader PM Theresa May..

Well, I remember a very young girl at the annual Père Laval Mass at the St George's Cathedral in Southwark.

Gavin Ramjaun



Journalist, TV presenter and sports correspondent Gavin Ramjaun has worked for the BBC and ITV. We see him on Sky News presenting the sports programme.

Gavin was born in December 1983, one month after the birth of Mauritius News itself

His parents are both from Mauritius.

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Echos de l'île Maurice

Disparition

Environ 550 cas de disparition ont été enregistrés par la police entre janvier et août de cette année. Si la majorité des cas a été résolu, il reste quand même une trentaine de personnes qui sont toujours portées manquantes contre une vingtaine en 2016. Ils sont, pour la plupart, des adultes, mais il y a aussi des mineurs.

Selon la police, des 550 personnes portées manquantes, une vingtaine sont âgées de moins de 12 ans, environ 150 ont moins de 18 ans, 40 étaient des personnes âgées ou des handicapés. Le nombre de cas enregistré pour toute l'année 2016 s'élève à 850 contre 860 en 2015.

Sida

VIH/SIDA : 4700 patients soignés dans les hôpitaux
Le premier cas de VIH/sida a été découvert en 1987 à Maurice. A juin 2017, un total de 6 865 personnes ont été testées positives à cette maladie. La prévalence est plus élevée parmi les usagers de drogue.

Le ministère de la Santé a décentralisé, depuis quelques années, les services offerts aux patients pour davantage de proximité et pour lutter contre la stigmatisation. Ainsi, ils sont un total de 4700 à ce jour qui bénéficie de traitements dans les hôpitaux de l'île.

Narcotics

De la drogue valant Rs 3 milliards saisie cette année
Le Premier ministre Pravind Jugnauth a révélé au Parlement que de la drogue d'une valeur de Rs 3 milliards ont été saisies cette année contre Rs 240 millions pour

toute l'année 2014.

En 2017, il y a eu aussi la saisie record d'héroïne, soit 197 kilos contre seulement 12 kilos en 2014. Et de janvier au 5 décembre dernier, un total de 2 156 personnes ont été arrêtées pour des délits liés à la drogue. Maurice décrit à tort comme un paradis fiscal

Paradis fiscal

L'île Maurice a été faussement décrite comme un paradis fiscal car elle dispose d'une juridiction conforme aux bonnes pratiques réglementaires qui sont conformes aux normes internationales.

Cette déclaration a été faite par le ministre des Services financiers et de la Bonne gouvernance, M. Dharmendar Sesungkur, le 14 décembre 2017.

La note globale de «Compliant» attribuée à Maurice par le Forum mondial de l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques sur la transparence et l'échange de renseignements à des fins fiscales en 2017 témoigne de la transparence du système d'échange d'informations, a souligné le ministre

Limitation du mandat d'un Premier ministre

Le Parlement discute actuellement une motion déposée par le député Alan Ganoo, qui s'insère dans le cadre du 50e anniversaire de l'indépendance et du 25e anniversaire de l'accession de Maurice au statut de République.

En sept points, Alan Ganoo propose des législa-

tions appropriées pour limiter les mandats du Premier ministre, l'introduction d'une loi anti-transfuge, l'application d'une représentativité raisonnable de femmes au Parlement, la révision des pouvoirs de l'Electoral Boundary Commission en ce qu'il s'agit de la délimitation des circonscriptions électorales, la mise en place d'un mécanisme pour traiter les cas des parlementaires qui ont failli à leur devoir électoral, l'introduction d'une deuxième génération des droits au développement et à l'environnement, et le rehaussement des procédures autour de la nomination du président de la République.

SAJ estime que l'Alliance Lepep a tenu ses promesses

Le ministre-mentor, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, a déclaré le 14 décembre 2017, lors de la traditionnelle fête de fin d'année du Mouvement Socialiste Militant (MSM), à Roches Noires, que l'Alliance Lepep a tenu tous ses engagements depuis fin 2014 à ce jour.

Il est revenu sur les différentes mesures sociales du présent gouvernement telles que l'augmentation de la pension aux personnes âgées, l'application du rapport du PRB et le paiement de la compensation salariale. SAJ a aussi parlé de la décision du gouvernement d'octroyer un salaire minimum à tous les travailleurs.

Publication

Sadek Ruhmaly signe son livre: Odysées Chroniques de Souillac 2012-2017



C'est à la librairie mauricienne Petrusmok, sise Hennessy Park Hotel, Curepipe, qu'a eu lieu en début de semaine le lancement du livre de Sadek Ruhmaly «Odysées – Chroniques de Souillac 2012-2017». L'auteur, Docteur-ès-Sciences de formation, poète et écrivain, a eu l'honneur de présenter son ouvrage et de le dédicacer pour les membres du public qui avaient fait le déplacement pour cette soirée exceptionnelle.

Ces chroniques consacrées en partie à «des gens de peu» (évidemment sans grosse fortune et sans grosse peinture) valorisent ces derniers et font la démonstration que l'humain a toujours besoin de l'autre, quel qu'il soit et quoi qu'il fasse,

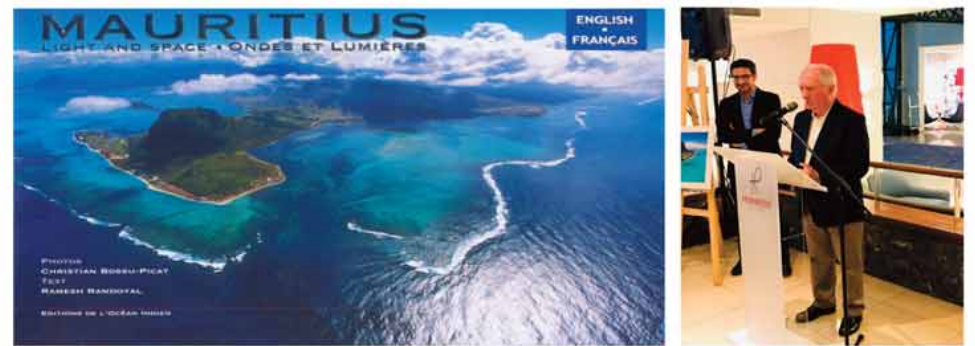
où qu'il se situe sur l'échelle sociale. Mais il est plus que cela dans ces chroniques qui taquinent le mystique, le voyage à l'intérieur de soi. «L'écriture des 'Chroniques de Souillac' se situe dans un registre de vagues d'énergies, dans son état naturel, dans une quête de l'inattendu, dans un vécu anodin au milieu des gens et des esprits du lieu.»

Animé par Dr Issa Asgarally, la cérémonie de lancement a été agrémentée de lectures de certaines des chroniques par Jacqueline Pilot, Finlay Salesse et Dominique Avice. Le livre est en vente à Rs 375 l'exemplaire.

Bio: Sadek Ruhmaly, né à l'île Maurice, est Docteur-ès-Sciences (USA), spécialiste en énergie (Oxford), et mathématicien-économiste. Il est Poète du Monde, publié en France en 2011 et en 2014.

Nouvelle Parution

Christian Bossu-Picat remet ça ! «Ondes et lumières» se met en mode bilingue pour sa sixième édition



Presqu'un quart de siècle pour l'ouvrage éponyme de Christian Bossu-Picat sur Maurice, lancé dans la plus grande simplicité à la librairie Petrusmok au Hennessy Park Hotel en la présence du directeur des Editions de l'océan Indien, M. Yashvin Hassamal et d'un parterre sélect d'invités.

L'intérêt de cette nouvelle édition du monument photographique de Christian Bossu-Picat où Maurice et Rodrigues paraissent sous leurs plus beaux atours, est double: elle peut se lire simultanément en anglais et en français et bénéficie, au niveau du texte, de la plume percutante et envoûtante de Ramesh Ramdoyal. C'est ainsi que les lecteurs auront entre les mains le bel ouvrage cartonné : *Light and Space/Ondes et Lumières*.

Le livre de Christian Bossu-Picat entre dans la ligne d'une aventure éditoriale qui l'a amené à produire plus de vingt-cinq livres d'images sur des pays aussi différents et éloignés que le Népal, le Costa Rica, les îles du Cap Vert, les Seychelles, le Burundi, Curaçao. Longtemps établi à Maurice, Christian Bossu-Picat collabore à de nombreuses publications dans des domaines aussi variés que la photo aérienne, la promotion touristique, la décoration intérieure. Il apprécie particulièrement la collaboration avec les grands chefs de cuisine pour lesquels il photographie de magnifiques recettes de Maurice et des Seychelles.

Pour l'écriture du texte, très recherché, les Editions de l'océan Indien ne pouvaient trouver mieux que Ramesh Ramdoyal, poète, conteur et romancier «qui évoque à travers ses oeuvres, l'île Maurice et sa population multiculturelle.»

«Light and Space/Ondes et Lumières» se vend à Rs 795 l'exemplaire.

Dodo

The Mauritian presence in the UK

The language of angels

Readers will have seen articles in French on Page 4. There were complaints from Mauritius News readers about such pages to the effect that those were unable to read and understand the language. We must say that French is part of our Mauritian heritage. Most Mauritians, probably almost all, speak French in Mauritius. It has never been heard that a Mauritian student has ever failed in French at School Certificate and GCE (OL) exams in Mauritius, while many could not secure a certificate because of their poor command of English.

French is still spoken in Mauritius while the Creole language (which finds its root in French) is the language of communication among the people of Mauritius. So, we request our readers' indulgence for the articles in French which are as much for the first generation as for those who are studying it. I must personally admit that French is a very beautiful language, and we like listening to the Parisian accent as much as that of Marseilles (Remember Marcel's Pagnol's Marius?)

When I first came to England, so many moons ago, I was told by a beautiful young Danish au pair girl that, when she was a child, she believed that angels communicated among themselves in French. Language of Angels! L'Académie, prenez note), This must be the greatest tribute that can be paid to the French Language, and by whom? By an angel herself with her beautiful satin complexion, blue eyes, copper colour hair and all.

Water under the Bridge

Over the 50 years (and more) that we have been in England, so much water has passed under the bridge! So many events have taken place, in our lives, good and bad, leaving us with sweet or bitter memories. The sweet memories are probably for those who came here single and who have, over the years, built themselves happy families with children, grandchildren, in-laws etc. They left in the knowledge that they did well in their country of adoption.

Many of the first Mauritian migrants of the 1960s came with large families together with them or who joined them later from Mauritius. That was the period when Mauritians were coming to the UK in large numbers, by French liners (of Messageries Maritimes), via Marseille and by planes. The British Government, owing to the

continued influx of migrants from the commonwealth countries, was forced to introduce the Commonwealth Immigrants Act (CIA) in 1962, not to abolish immigration but to control it. This CIA did not stop the Mauritian migrants from pouring in. They came by special weekly charter flights, via France and Ireland. Once in the UK most of the charter flights visitors disappeared into the décor to be known as illegal immigrants without any documents, Les sans-papiers, as those in France were known. They were part of the black economy, working without NIC etc.

Illegal migrants who were caught were detained and repatriated. It was very tough to be sent back home. Most Mauritian here were then economic migrants and having come perhaps on borrowed money for the trip could not face the grim situation of life at home. The country itself, prior to independence in 1968, was facing serious economic crisis with an explosion of the population. For sure, those deported Mauritian would not be able to honour the debts contracted by parents. Some on the run from deportation chose to commit suicide in England. I know of one very young Mauritian, barely in his early 20s, was so depressed that he threw himself on the rail at the Mile End underground. The Police found his Mauritian passport on his body that was mutilated by the wheels of the underground train.

No Blacks

That was very tough for most compatriots who came here for a better life, at a time when rooms were heated with paraffin. Central Heating was a luxury beyond the means of most landlords who agreed to let rooms to the migrants. It must be remembered that those were the days then when notices were displayed outside many properties: No Blacks. There was no Council for Racial Equality (CRE) then.

But it must be admitted that the thousands who came as nursing students, in spite of their immediate homesickness, were better off. They had sheltered accommodation at the nurses homes with good heating, good company, some cooking their own Mauritian food, and all. Some boys used to brag about the girlfriends they made and the parties they organised. Good for them!

Factory work

Not such luck for the other Mauritian migrants who, even with A-levels had to accept factory work to start off. No office job open to them, yet. They organised themselves as best as they could. Many of the elders, after building a solid environment for their offspring in the UK, have now gone, leaving behind sad memories of their struggle to make it here. They started life here with the whole family accommodated in one single room (with a common stove on the landing for the cooking) to end up with their own

houses providing each child with his/her own room, and even a spare one for guests. By working very hard, doing even three jobs



Conservative MP for Fareham Suella Fernandes, a lawyer by profession, addressing the House on the Brexit issue. She is a diehard Brexiteer. On her website she says "We have been presented with a golden opportunity as a country. Our withdrawal from the European Union will mean for the first time in a generation the British people, not Brussels, will control our law making, borders and who we trade with."

a day (morning, daytime and evening) some have managed to buy more than one house. Such sacrifice cannot be repeated by those who follow.

The Mauritian community in the UK constitutes a minority among the other ethnic minority groups who are in very large numbers, like the Asians and the Afro-Caribbeans. It has not been easy for such a tiny minority as ours to shine on the mainstream of British life. We are so few in numbers that the little we achieve may stand out as good examples for others in the community. We can practically count them on the fingers of the two hands.

In this connection I can remember Mauritius News writing about Ralph Toofany, first Black Mayor and first black Sheriff of Lincoln still a councillor, Simon Bhadye, Mayor of Spelthorne, Dan Putty Mayor of Basingstoke, still a councillor, (It won't surprise me they all came as nursing students to end up as senior officials in the profession. For example former Mayor Simon Bhadye, who is still a local councillor, is chairman of the Ashford & St Peter's Hospital Foundation Trust.

The elders, though, never made it in national politics to Westminster. Lilette Ebrahimkhan did not secure a Conservative nomination, but selected Uma Fernandes (born Mootien) still did not make it when she stood as a Conservative candidate for Brent. However, her daughter Suella Fernandes is an MP for Fareham, Locks Heath, Park Gate, Portchester, Sarisbury, Titchfield and Warsash.

Peter Chellen

The three former Mauritian UK Mayors



Ralph Toofany, far left above, is a Labour councillor of Lincoln County Council since the 1980s. He was elected as the first black Mayor of Lincoln and later the first black Sheriff. He is now the Doyen of the Council having served as a councillor for over 30 years

Simon Bhadye is a local councillor of Spelthorne, and was Mayor 10 years. During his term as Mayor he arranged for he twinning Spelthorn with Mauritius.

Conservative Councillor **Dan Putty** (far right above) was elected Mayor of Basingstoke in 2013. He is still serving as a Coucillor of Hatch Warren and Beggarwood of the Borough. We had the pleasure to attend his installation in office on his inauguration as Mayor.

Map of Mauritius

UK-born nationals of Mauritian parentage may locate on the map the locality their parents come from. Mauritius has been called the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, Pear shaped Island, Sugar Bowl Island



The well-wishers messages continued from Page 2

From Japan with love: Mylene's collaboration assured



Mylene (centre) with Japanese friends at table on a visit by mother Gladys and brother Marco from the UK

Good Luck to The UK Mauritian's Gazette as the new organ for the Mauritian community in the UK.

Being myself UK-born and having enjoyed at home, during my young days, the presence of its departed sister Mauritius News, I know that such a publication as The UKMG can give pleasure to the younger people, especially those who want to keep in touch with their roots.

I have enjoyed writing for MN and I shall be pleased to do so for the new one as well.

Best wishes to all for the Christmas and 2018.

Mylene Lamy, Japan

Editor's Note: Mylene runs her own school of English in Japan

A meaningful flag for Mauritius

If other countries can have meaningful symbols on their flags, Dodo Island can have a dodo featured on its flag to stand out from other flags.



Designed by PC

Denis Piat, France

Rueil-Malmaison, le 12 décembre 2017

Bravo et félicitations pour le lancement de ce nouveau journal "UK Mauritian's Gazette" (UKMG) pour les Mauriciens en Grande Bretagne ou ailleurs.

Je pense que c'est une excellente idée car, ce journal contribuera à resserrer les liens entre les Mauriciens de toutes les communautés résidant en Europe.

C'est un lien nécessaire et salutaire. Nous avons tous les mêmes valeurs et chacun d'entre nous nous avons une estime réciproque envers l'autre, quelque que soit ses origines ou sa religion. Il y a toujours un esprit de solidarité qui doit être entretenu entre Mauriciens à l'étranger, un peu comme une flamme qui doit rester allumée.

Et je crois Peter que tu es l'homme idéal pour mener à bien cette louable mission à travers les lignes de ton nouveau journal.

Encore une fois, un grand BRAVO ! et vives félicitations !

Longue vie à "UK Mauritian's Gazette" !

Denis PIAT

Denis Piat is the author of <Ile Maurice: Sur La Route des Epices (*Mauritius: On The Spice Route 1598 - 1810*) and of *Pirates et Corsairs à l'île Maurice (Pirates and Privateers in Mauritius)*> The English versions: *The Spice Route* and *The Pirates and Privateers of the Indian Ocean* are available from AMAZON and Waterstone local bookshops

Ahmad Macky Mauritius

It is a great pleasure for me to see the birth of the new paper namely THE UK MAURITIAN GAZETTE. Many people are unaware that this-newly born paper will represent and defend the interests of over 100,000 of our compatriots residing in UK and other readers as well.

As a British qualified journalist myself who has lived, studied and worked in the UK media from 1966 to 1992, I am well aware of the social and ethnicity problems our compatriots have been and perhaps are still facing even without any help till certain good Samaritans manage to invent a means by founding a newspaper to fight injustice. Thus the voices of victims of exploitation at work, victims of racial discrimination in society, and others can be heard loud and clear across the media.

It is an accepted fact that the solutions to combat certain problems that our compatriots are facing such as housing, jobs and immigration have never been an easy exercise. We have to tackle these problems in partnership with the media, the human rights organization, NGOs and other philanthropic organizations

So it is high time that the Mauritians living in UK have a newspaper of their own. With this paper they can come closer and exchange their news and views as well as other matters of interest they wish to share instead of living as lonely wolves behind closed doors after their daily hard works.

This is why THE UK MAURITIAN GAZETTE may offer comfort as well as a sort of security and watchdog for their safety in a distant land.

I shall make it a duty to contribute articles to THE UK MAURITIAN GAZETTE for the benefit of my compatriots living in UK.

Now that I am settled down in my native country of Mauritius since 1992, there are lots to be said about the traditions and transitions Mauritius is facing today. As Mauritius will celebrate its 50th anniversary of Independence on the 12th March 2018, we shall have lots of news, views and reviews for all of you

This message will be incomplete if I don't wish all of you there a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. Congratulations to The UK Mauritian Gazette and its creator, the indefatigable Peter Chellen whose media contributions outside Mauritius is unique and almost legendary.

AHMAD MACKY



Devinia Sookia USA



Devinia celebrates the festive season with a bowl of soup as she says in her message below

WELCOME 2018

What could be more exciting than welcoming the new year with a new publication for the UK Mauritian community. "The Mauritian's Gazette" is coming with news and information about UK Mauritian events. Those who have missed the old "Mauritius News" will once more be happy to read about the community. So many have approached me and expressed their sadness over the disappearance of that newspaper and their concern for the lack of a reliable UK Mauritian publication.

As an old regular contributor of "Mauritius News" I (Devinia Sookia) would like to share my happiness with you all on the launch of the new publication. Let us all give our full support to "The Mauritian's Gazette".

Now let us analyse year 2017. There is a consensus that 2017 has been a bad year due to the election of Donald Trump, the bloodshed in Syria, climate change, food shortages, endemic corruption and the number of people living in extreme poverty in the world.

Polls show that 9 out of 10 Americans believe that global poverty has got worse in 2017 and there has been an increase in children's death. However, if we take a close look we will realise that since 1990 more than 100 million children's lives have been saved through vaccinations, breastfeeding promotions, and diarrhea treatment.

Fewer humans are now living in extreme poverty than in 1980. According to experts poverty is defined as less than \$ 1.50 per person per day adjusted for inflation. Undoubtedly poverty will continue in the coming years and centuries. Children will continue to die and income inequality will remain. All this seems traumatizing. However strange as it seems there is hope for the future. There is improvement in aid and healthcare. Despite severe malnutrition some remarkable progress is being made to fight many diseases.

So let's keep our hopes high for the future and welcome year 2018.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all HAPPY NEW YEAR. Let us drink to 2018 whether with some champagne, a glass of wine or a good bowl of cafe au lait.

Devinia Sookia, USA

Editor's Note: Devinia is an attorney in the US. Before moving to the States she practised law in England and was a contributor to the Asian Times and The Caribbean Times in London.

The Coat of Arms of Mauritius



Welcome to The UK Mauritian's Gazette



page as instances some of their pictures that we are able to retrieve from our archives.

Apart from being a newspaper, we have been involved in quite a bit of community activities, from appealing to the Home Office against the deportation of Mauritian nationals to ourselves accommodating homeless Mauritian students, to paying the college fees of some of them to the London School of Law. (The school can bear witness)

We helped with the organisation of an annual one-day football competition among several Mauritian teams, we helped the Federation of Mauritian Associations in their efforts to put up the annual fairs at Walthamstow, and we organised our own Open Air Mauritian Day on Clapham Common, we held a very successful Miss Mauritius GB at Wandsworth Civic Centre.

When I was asked to help organising the one-day Football competition among 10 teams, there was no money to hire the five pitches on Clapham Common, to pay for the ten referees, to buy the Cups, Trophies, medals and all. I helped to raise the fund to meet all expenses with quite a bit of leftover for the competition to go on annually.

These are but a few examples of our community-minded vocation, to face challenging tasks when required. We have for, some time been talking about another title following the disappearance of Mauritius News from the UK scene as a hard copy. I must admit that I have had my hesitation to start off, but I must thank our contributor Yvonne Goder whose wedding picture appears on Page 17 and who told me "you have done it before and you can do it." Well, thanks to such encouragement I am at it. Publish and be damned! as they say. I am taking the risk, but it's a calculated risk, not simply a stab in the dark.

Well, I am back to my desk editing another title for the Mauritian community, The UK Mauritian's Gazette (The UKMG).

In November 1983, I started Mauritius News (MN) and it had a run of 32 years to December 2015, when the last issue was published. Not bad for a modest community paper, especially one catering for a tiny community, a minority among the other ethnic minorities of the UK, as I explain elsewhere in this issue



The first ever UK Mauritian newspaper edited by Peter Chellen on Peckham Road in Camberwell in November 1983

What has happened to MN itself? you may rightly ask. It is now a cyberspace publication having gone online with no circulation in the UK, as decided by the new ownership of the publication.

I am at my desk for another helping, i.e. helping the paperless community to have an organ, surely not by myself for another 32 years because I am not too sure I shall be around by then. But the new title, The UK Mauritian Gazette (The UKMG) can be around given the fact that the community is now full of young people who may possibly wish that we should have a voice, to have a mouthpiece when none exists at present. All the other publications which competed with MN during those 32 years have fallen by the wayside, but MN as I say is still in cyberspace at the very moment. In due course, we may have a group of 'Friends of The UK Mauritian Gazette' to ensure that the publication should have a lasting existence. The UKMG will be a legacy to the young from the elders.



MN Editor met SAJ at Hendon in year 2005 for an interview. SAJ's MSM had lost the General Election that year to Labour and Navin Ramgoolam was the new PM

Though small in size as compared to other ethnic



We set up the Père Laval Benevolent Society for interfaith prayers with Mauritian priest Rev Marcel Fangoo as celebrant. Where are the young girls reading the Bidding Prayers at the altar of St Georges Cathedral in Southwark!!!

Over the years, we have seen those young people growing up, becoming parents themselves with children of their own. I wish to publish on this

groups, we have a large number of Mauritians with their children born here in the UK, going even into the third generation if we consider the

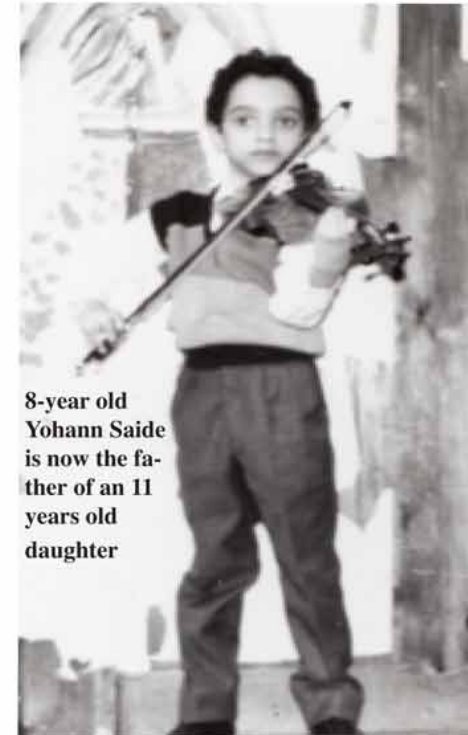


Josh of Islington with his arm around Labour leader Jeremy Corby. A vote JC can rely on

mass immigration into Britain from Mauritius took place in the 1960s, in the wake of the island's independence. How big is the Mauritian community in the UK? I hope to elaborate on this shortly.

I suppose we need quite a bit of resilience to start up again, but fortunately we are not starting totally from scratch. The market is still here, but perhaps still better with a younger generation fully media conscious via Facebook etc.

For the older generation settled here, there is always some thought for the motherland and the relatives at home at this period of the year. Thinking of home I cannot refrain from thinking



8-year old Yohann Saide is now the father of an 11 years old daughter

that when I started Mauritius News in November 1983,

Sir Anerood Jugnauth was the Prime Minister of Mauritius. And thirty-five years on he is still



Those sega dancing kids are now parents themselves with children of their own.

in government, now as Minister Mentor. For the past 35 years (since he first took over as PM, Sir Anerood Jugnauth (SAJ) has been practically holding, through the ballot box, the office of PM except for a term or two when Labour Navin Ramgoolam took over as PM, and when he himself went to Réduit as President of the Republic.

In the course of this year SAJ decided to step down as PM and the office passed on to the leader of the MSM Party commanding a majority in the National Assembly. It so happened that the MSM leader with a majority in Parliament is his own son Pravind. He took over as PM. There was a big outcry, especially from the press, of this handing over by the father to the son. But then Pravind was quick to remind the nation that in England Tony Blair handed over to Gordon Brown and David Cameron handed over to Theresa May without any fresh election and

without any qualm.

However, SAJ took a lot of stick from the newspapers for dynastic politics. But, apparently, he did what he usually does under such circumstances, he told the press that he would shower it on them. One paper printed a picture of the statue of the Belgium little boy watering the country, but replacing the boy's head with that of SAJ. Now that they have all quietened down, he has told the country that his job is done and he won't ask for votes at the next election, some two years away.

We do not write to ingratiate politicians for favours but we write as we see the situation. It's a fact that when we started the publication in November 1983, we nominated SAJ as Man of the Year (MOTY). PM in the MMM government since the previous June, he split from his MMM partner Paul Bérenger, the most popular political figure of the time. SAJ created his own MSM party in 1983 and went to the poll to win the election and carried on as PM. It was a great risk to take and he made it at the poll. This was why we thought he deserved the MOTY title in 1983.

SAJ repeated a similar feat in a coalition against the joint forces of Navin Ramgoolam (Labour) and Paul Bérenger (MMM) in November 2014 against all odds and against all expectations. He himself had declared in a Tv interview that he did not have a chance against those two formidable adversaries. Navin Ramgoolam was already in Government as PM and everybody was talking of a 60-0 Labour/MMM victory against SAJ and his coalition party, considered as outsiders in that race. Well, SAJ won, throwing the Labour into disarray, and sent Navin Ramgoolam into the wilderness.

Again, we thought that for his outstanding achievements at that November poll, he could be nominated Man of the Year 2014. This time we sent the article to Le Mauricien in Mauritius for publication, as we no longer had any Mauritian paper here in the UK

All that is said to state that SAJ has shown great resilience and strength of character to stay on the ground for over 50 years. This is the sort of resilience that we wish to ourselves in embarking on The UK Mauritian's Gazette. Talking of the Man of the Year, this title could be awarded to UK Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, a man far behind in the public opinion, considered to be as a loser, has turned out to be such an amiable figure. Except for his sort of left-wing politics, no one seems to be able to find fault with him. He certainly has got the young people to follow him. A magazine has recently placed him among the most well-dressed persons in the UK. At one time, we could think that he was competing with former Labour leader, the late Michael

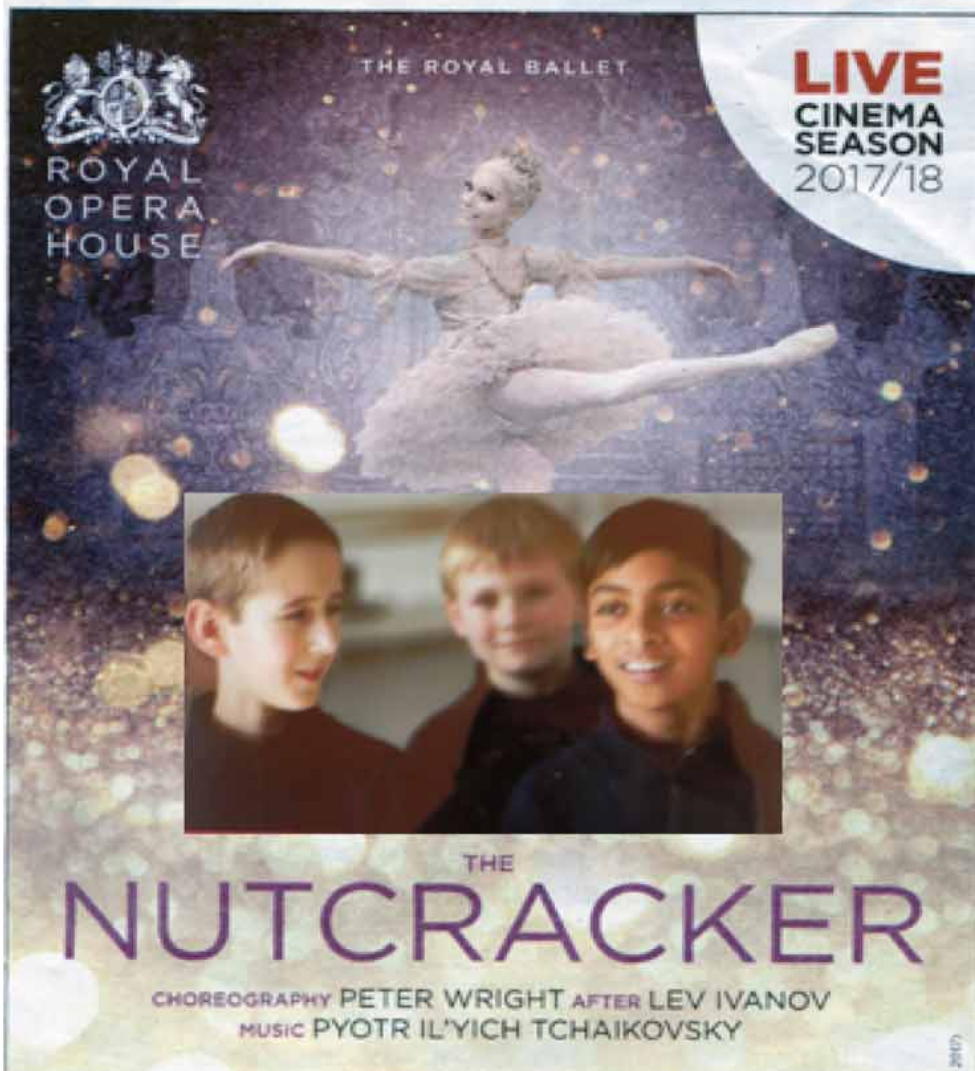
Foot, as regards his wardrobe. What do you know! He is now being talked about as an example of a well-dressed man.

His great credit yet, as announced by the Oxford Dictionary, is that thanks to his influence on the young people, the English language has a new word: Youthquake, declared as the 'Word of the Year' by the OED. Young UK Mauritian Josh (Joshua) of Islington, pictured with him is a case in point regarding JC's influence among the young people. Could you imagine young Josh putting his arm around the shoulder of any other political leader?

JC has been given epithets of all sorts. I think he deserves a better recognition as Corby Hood. Like Robin Hood, he wants to take from the banks to give to the poor!

With the Season's Greetings
Peter Chellen, Managing Editor

Other UK Mauritian's in the limelight



Sacha V. (far right in the Picture) is in fact under the limelight at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. He is among the young dancers from the same famous School of Dancing chosen to be part of the cast of the show running at Christmastide and the New Year

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Melissa Nathoo



Melissa Nathoo's parents are from Mauritius. She presents the Film Review programme on ITV. As a journalist she has interviewed such personalities as Formula One Champion Lewis Hamilton and film star Denzel Washington. She is former Miss Mauritius (GB) competition organised by Mauritius News in London.

Rav Wilding



Rav Wilding's father is Mauritian and his mother is English. He is a television presenter and has presented the various editions of Crimewatch, and other programmes. A weight lifter, he has been a soldier, a policeman, a Detective Constable in the Metropolitan Service. He too has competed in the TV shows Strictly Come Dancing and Mastermind. He won an edition of the Weakest Link TV Quiz as well as the 'Ready Steady Cook' competition. A brave person, he spent three months in an Australian rain forest for a television programme.

Selina Permalloo



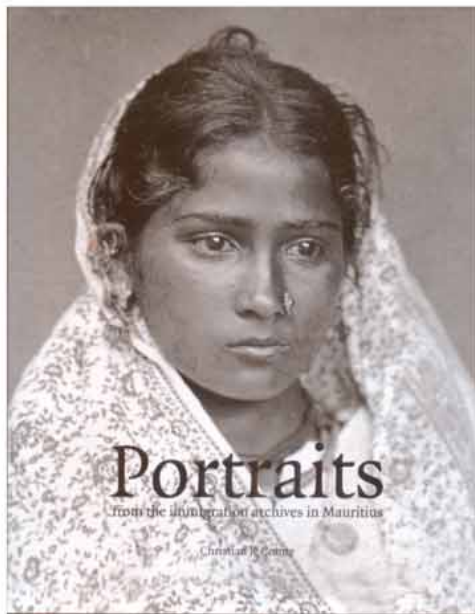
Selina Permalloo's parents are also from Mauritius. With a passion for cooking she entered and won the 2012 edition of the BBC TV Masterchef competition. She has opened her own restaurant Lakaz Maman in Southampton where she was born. She has two cookery books to her name: 'Sunshine on a plate', and 'The Sunshine Diet'. The second book contains recipes to help people to lose weight and feel good.

Mauritian reminiscences (A page from the history of Mauritius)

The Depot Photographers

150 years ago, Depot photographers were appointed by Ordinance No 31 of 1867 to service Indian Indentured Labourers

Editor's Note: Depot was a place at Immigration Square in Port Louis where Indian indentured labourers on landing on the island were taken to, before being allocated to Camps on various sugar estates



The 'depot photographers', officials assigned to the Immigration depot in Port-Louis to photograph Indian immigrants in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 31 of 1867, have been instrumental in perpetuating the collective memory in the way artists of the French Navy (such as Nicolas-Marie Lozanne, Bigot de la Mothe, Barthelemy Dequeveauvillier) whose drawings and sketches have immortalized scenes of life in various colonies, particularly in the port area.



The position of 'Depot Photographer' was created in the 1860s when there was a need to differentiate a 'new immigrant' (under contract) from a 'former or old immigrant' (a non-contractual who had completed his or her years of service under contract).

As a result, Indian immigrants who came under contract from the official beginning of the importation of contract or indentured labour in 1834 to the second half of the 1860s were not photographed.

It follows that the archives department at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute does not have any photos of all the ancestors of the Indo-Mauritian families who came before the entry into service of

these photographers, especially of those who had passed away in the meantime. However, those who had chosen to elect residence in Mauritius after their contract and were alive at the time of entry into photographic service could fully prevail of this service.

The legal framework covering the service of the Depot photographer

At the end of his five-year contract of employment, the Indian labourer could either renew his contract for a new period of time or disengage. In the event of disengagement, he acquired a new status, that of 'old immigrant', got a 'ticket' which allowed him to identify himself and to be identified.

However, the lack of a photo accompanying the entry written on the ticket posed problem and gave rise to abuses: "many ticket holders were attacked and had their tickets stolen." (Christian le Comte, 'Portraits from the immigration archives in Mauritius')

Christian le Comte then enumerates the measures taken by the colonial administration to address the problem. "In 1864 it had been suggested that a portrait should be added to the old immigrant's ticket as many ticket holders were attacked and had their tickets stolen. On 30 September 1864 the proposal that 'all immigrants who did not re-engage themselves on the expiration of their contracts' shall receive a new ticket with a photographic portrait, was approved and sanctioned by Government Order No 4278. It was also suggested that the immigrants didn't object paying 4 S. for the portrait." (Ibid)

Confirmation of the service of the Depot Photographers Ordinance 31 of 1867 will confirm the practice of photographing Indian immigrants at the end of their 'industrial residence': "According to Ordinance 31 of 1867, any immigrant having completed the 'industrial residence' (a residence of five years in the colony) with an official discharge, redemption (with a payment of £1.12 per annum of service due), release or exemption had to be registered as an 'old immigrant'. As a proof of his status, the old immigrant would receive a ticket with his portrait." (Ibid)

If the farm worker did not renew his contract, the combination 'ticket-portrait' would still be useful to him. It would facilitate obtaining from the police a pass allowing him to move freely across the island.

"If the immigrant was free of contract, this ticket would allow him to obtain a pass, by registering at the police station of his place of residence." (Ibid) The procedures in the above case were as follows:

"The Indian labourers are required to present themselves at the photographic branch of the immigration office, in order that photographic portraits of them may be taken. One of these is then attached to the descriptive ticket given to the labourer of whom it refers, to serve him as a proof of his identity, and of his having acquired some sort of status in the island; and another copy is pasted into one of the registers, at present unindexed, to which I have just referred, with the object of rendering it easier for the Protector of Immigrants to trace his career, and, if he offends in any way, to facilitate his detention." (Ibid)

Focus on the art photos of Abraham Sinapa

Christian le Comte introduces in his book "Portraits from the immigration archives in Mauritius" a series of photos of Indian immigrants shot by Abraham Sinapa. The author underlines the qualities that he discovered in the photographic work of the latter, and explains what led him to appreciate Abraham Sinapa's photos:

"Comparing these photographs with modern passport pictures, these old portraits are full of information, expression and aesthetic value. The images selected in this book not only identify these immigrants, but also tell us about their background and the diversity of their stories.

Sinapa captured the subjects of his photographs in poses that allow us to assume an intentional artistic effect. He then intervened on the images, mainly through sharpening and softening the features of the sitter, to create expressive and beautiful portraits.

It was the retouching of the portraits, the enhancing of an image that, contrarily, needed to be realistic, that prompted the author's research about the photographer's identity.

Confusion

To avoid confusion about the photographic collection at MGI Christian le Comte suggests a new approach to photo archives concerning Indian immigrants who came to Mauritius and currently under the custody of the Indian Immigration Museum of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute.

The most common confusion concerning photos is that assimilating the subjects of the photos to indentured labourers. In fact, the photos are those of 'disengaged' (agricultural workers whose contract of employment had come to an end and were no longer under indenture).

"There is a general misconception about the photographs in the archives that are kept in the Mahatma Gandhi Institute in Mauritius, which are believed to be the portraits of indentured laborers. This is not so." (Ibid) These photos, he recalls, are duplicates of those accompanying his carrier's 'ticket' of disengagement.

"The photographs in the collection of the records of Indian immigrants in Mauritius are duplicates of the pictures that were attached to a ticket that was given to immigrants, a sort of passport." (Ibid)

The author of the book states that immigrants who served as agricultural labourers before the start of the photographic service at the immigration depot will be photographed "several years (even decades) after completing their first indenture" (Ibid) and that it was only in the early 1880s that "some immigrants start to be photographed approximately 5 years after their arrival (on the completion of their indenture)." (Ibid)

However, whatever the moment when the sub-



jects were taken in photos, the latter were forcibly 'old immigrants' who had completed their indenture (but who could also, after the exercise of taking photos, renew their service on a contractual basis). The photographs could also be those of people who had never been under contract or indenture, "such as in the case of children and those looking after them." (Ibid)

Photographers assigned to the immigration office in action

The first photographer with the task of producing duplicate portraits of Indian immigrants was Lecorgne. The latter won the contract for a period of five years. "The terms were: 'To provide for five years two photographs of each immigrant, one to be affixed to the ticket, and the other to be preserved in the Immigration Office ...'. (ditto) The photo supplier is also responsible for "providing the small tin-box, which is to be slung round their neck, and containing their papers". (Ibid)

After the five years ending in October 1869, Lecorgne had provided 116,333 photos. At the end of Lecorgne's contract, the colonial administration decided to set up the photography service for Indian immigrants at the immigration office and created a photographic branch for this purpose.

This section, properly equipped, was under the responsibility of an official, one Mr. Carbonel. "The colonial government then decided that Mr Carbonel should be employed, with a fixed salary, to take the photographs and be provided with apparatus and chemicals." (Ibid)

With the support of the photographic service by the colonial administration, the costs of photos were reduced by half. "For the immigrants, the cost of the portrait was reduced to 2 S. (as a reference, the cost of a third class train ticket from Mahebourg to Port Louis was 3 S. and the average salary of an old immigrant was 16 S. per month)." (Ibid)

The 'depot photographers' who came after Carbonel were George Britter, replaced after his death in 1879 by Abraham Sinapa who officiated from 1879 to 1893, after which "on 27 July 1893, his assistant Daniel Sénéque was appointed depot photographer.

The term used in the Mauritius Blue Book to designate the post held by Daniel Sénéque is 'Head Photographer, Immigration Department'. He had two assistants - P. Narsoo and J.P. Pierre. Abraham Sinapa (sometimes spelled 'Sinnapa'), named 'Head Photographer' on March 29, 1879, received a monthly salary of Rs1,260 against Rs 860 and Rs 600 respectively to his two assistants, L. Sénéque and P. Narsoo.

D O D O

Public Holidays 2018 - Mauritius

1 Jan	Mon	New Year's Day	12 Mar	Mon	National Day
2 Jan	Tue	New Year Holiday	18 Mar	Sun	Ugadi
31 Jan	Wed	Thaipooosam Cavadee	1 May	Tue	Labour Day
1 Feb	Thu	Abolition of Slavery	16 Jun	Sat	Eid al-Fitr
13 Feb	Tue	Maha Shivaratree	15 Aug	Wed	Assumption Day
16 Feb	Fri	Chinese New Year	14 Sep	Fri	Ganesh Chaturthi
			2 Nov	Fri	Arrival of Indentured Labourers
			7 Nov	Wed	Divali
			25 Dec	Tue	Christmas Day

The Dove of Peace for those whose vocation is to destroy and kill in this world



Air Mauritius

1967 to 2017



A message from the airline's management - June 2017

Our airline was incorporated on the 14th of June 1967, just a few months before Mauritius became independent. Our assigned mission was to bridge the country to the world and accompany its social and economic development while we remain financially autonomous. We have been faithful to this mission for half a century now.

Today, Air Mauritius is one of the largest companies in the island, employing around 3,000 Mauritians. Our network covers 25 direct destinations and we serve more than one hundred via hubs on four continents.

Our service reflects the Mauritian sense of hospitality and has been rated 4 star by Skytrax. Every year we carry around 1.5 million passengers representing nearly half of the

passenger traffic to and from Mauritius. Moreover, every year we carry 32 tons of cargo in and out of Mauritius.

This year we will take delivery of our first brand new A350—900 XWB which will become our flagship aircraft. It is part of an order for 8 new aircraft. In 2018, we will also upgrade the cabin products on all our aircrafts with new seats, new inflight entertainment systems and on-board Wi-Fi.

Now, as we celebrate our 50 years of dedicated service, we eagerly look to the future as we pursue our journey and write the new chapters of our history together with our partners and valued customers.

In the June message above Air Mauritius' management announced that the airline "will this year take delivery of its first new A350-900 XWB which will become our new flagship aircraft." Air Mauritius actually took possession of its two new acquisitions, Le Morne Brabant landed at SSR Airport on 24 October and the Pieter Both on 26 November.

The Key Figures in the Creation of Air Mauritius: Three Persons must be remembered

Air Mauritius was in fact created in 1967. An airline for Mauritius, what a preposterous idea for a country with a population of just over half a million people, a tiny island in the throes of great economic crisis, with severe unemployment and an exploding population, How could such a project be viable with such a small population, with the few people able to go abroad travelling by ship on the Messageries Maritimes which was much and much cheaper? Air travel was a luxury for the wealthy and high-income bracket people. Overseas visitors to the island were small in numbers to occupy a few hotels. The Tourist industry was yet to be born.

All the same, Air Mauritius itself was born out of the vision of PM Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR). He talked of his dream to his friend Amédée (Dédé) Maingard, a senior partner and Board Director of the Rogers Group of Companies, a man of

great calibre and high stature, an entrepreneur par excellence with capital. Himself a man of vision, he immediately saw the potential and possibilities of such a venture. Creating an airline without any plane, and worse without money to buy any, this was a dish that Mr Maingard relished on his plate as a man of action. He set about creating Air Mauritius from zero. SSR wanted the airline to be known as Air Maurice. But two other Mauritians, identical twin brothers, Sydney and O'Brien Davis, had already appropriated themselves of this name as their trade mark. So SSR and Dédé Maingard had to content themselves with the name of Air Mauritius which, it must be admitted, did not sound great then in French and Creole speaking Mauritius..

Well, in a nutshell, that was the situation: A national airline conceived by PM SSR and put into execution by action man Amédée Maingard. So, the creator of Air Mauritius, as we know it, was created by Mr Maingard whose bust is to be found outside Rogers House on the JFK Street. It may be advisable that this bust should now be brought to the front of the Air Mauritius Tower on the same street. If not the same, at least another one be provided.

Well, we say above that three persons must be remembered at

this juncture when the airline commemorates 50 years of its existence. We have mentioned SSR on whom much will be said in our next issues commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Mauritius itself as a sovereign nation on 12 March 2018.

In our next edition we propose to write a few words on Amédée Maingard, the man who actually created Air Mauritius. But what about The Third Man (not to confuse with Orson Welles' film), the man who actually built up the structure and the administration for such an organisation to emerge from its eggshell to grow into a giant Paille-en-Queue to fly over all oceans to distant destinations. The Third Man is Sir Harry Tirvegadum. Whatever people may think of him we have to give him his due. To my knowledge, without any airplanes and without any passenger service, the company started with only two men on the ground. The airline's message above indicates that the Company has now a personnel of some three thousand employees on the ground in the country.

Read Sir Harry Tirvegadum story on Page 12 and on Page 16 MN as a partner of long standing.

Peter Chellen

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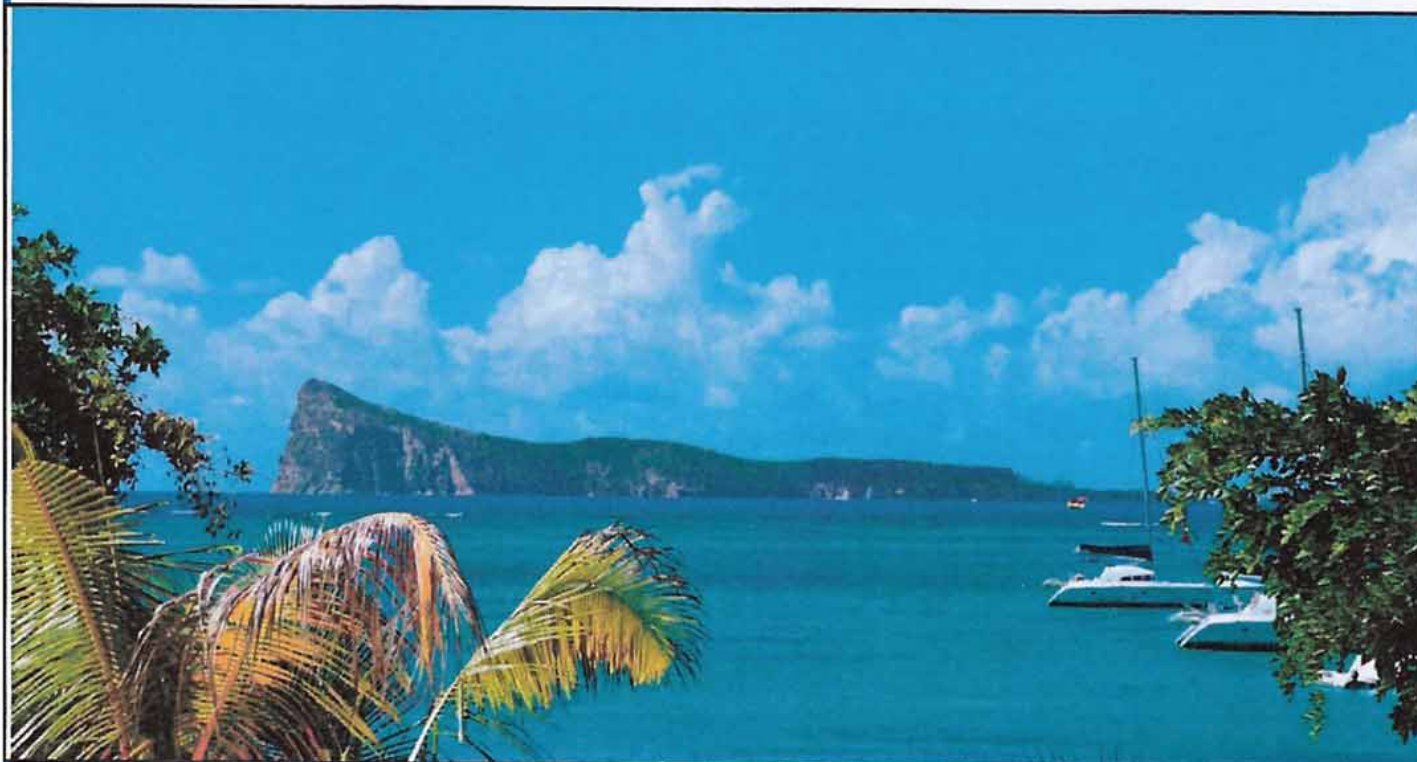
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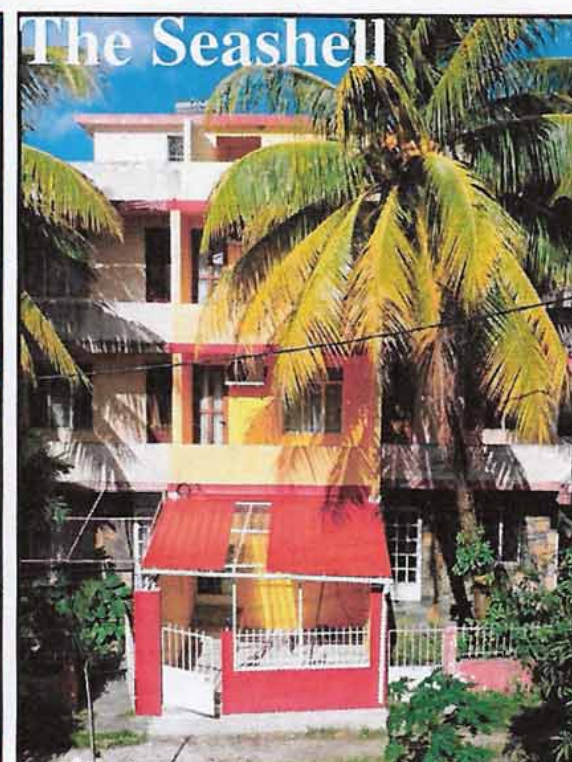
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OBITUARY

Mrs Leonilde Gregoire



It was with a great sadness that we learned of the death of Leonilde (born Laurenc), the devoted wife of Marc Gregoire, personal friend, and contributor to Mauritius News.

Leonilde passed away on December 11 in Battersea at the age of 84 after a long illness. Her funeral took place on December 21 at the Putney Heath Cemetery.

Leonilde will be greatly missed by all those who loved her, especially by her ideal husband Marc. Leonilde was herself an ideal partner to Marc for the 46 years of a happy married life.

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Marc, and to all those who mourn her death, here in England and in Portugal (her home country).

Many relatives and friend, old and new, have given Marc immense support in his moment of great sadness. He is thankful to all of them but, as he says, they are numerous to mention. However, he wishes to express his particular gratitude, without causing offence, to five persons who have been with him from the start to the end. He wants to say a special thank-you to his solicitor, Julian Cooper, his brother-in-law Jao Laurenc, close friend Maria Martius, and to his long-standing friends, Nonos Vassodeven & his wife Chimee, who have stood by him like a solid rock.

P.C.

Deaths (Mauritius)

Passed away recently

Jean Serge Arthus Baya
 Mrs Marie Eliette L'heureux (Chiffonne)
 Jean Valery Edouard
 Mrs Marie Gisele Couttee (born D'eau)
 Mrs Cantamane Bhottoo (born Sookur)
 Mrs Marie Imelda Julie (born Debout)
 Miss Seewoorani Gobin
 Mrs Barbeeta Chooramun (born Lapion)
 Khandasamy (Coomaren) Ramasawmy
 Mrs Rosemay Topize née Mootosam) (73),
 Mrs Busmutea Huradon, (81),
 Mrs Ah Tah Moi NG Yan Woon (born Ah Fat) known as Madame André (91)
 Ranjit Singh Bissessur (Ton Ranjit) (74),
 Chandrasen Sonoo, (Garson) (66),
 Saraswatee Sookaloo (born Mahadawoo) known as Fidou (53)
 Khandasamy Ramasawmy (54), Known as Coomaren.

Message from the Mauritius Tamil Maha Sangam (UK)

We thank you all for your help and contribution during this year.

We hope to continue working together to make 2018 another success year for MTMS.

Our next function is Thaiposam Cavadee which will be held on Wednesday 31st Jan 2018. Codi Ettram (the start of fasting) will be on Monday 22nd Jan.

For more information, please check our website www.mtms.online

In Memoriam

Usha Devi P.Vulakan



Usha Devi Puthuvulakan (born Chuttoo) passed away on July 20 at the age of 34 in Tooting, South London. She had not been well for some time.

On her funeral memorial card is a beautiful quote from the Bhagavad Gita: "The spirit is neither born nor does it die at any time. It does not come into being, nor cease to exist."

"There is no flower as beautiful as our Usha," is a wonderful tribute on the card. We sympathize with the parents on this great loss.

Usha was born in May 1983. She was only six months' old when Mauritius News was created in November that year. We have known her since then because her father Singh was with us at the very outset as a faithful supporter.

The loss of Usha will be on the parents' mind at this time of the year and we wish them to know that we have them in our thoughts with affection.

P.C.

From

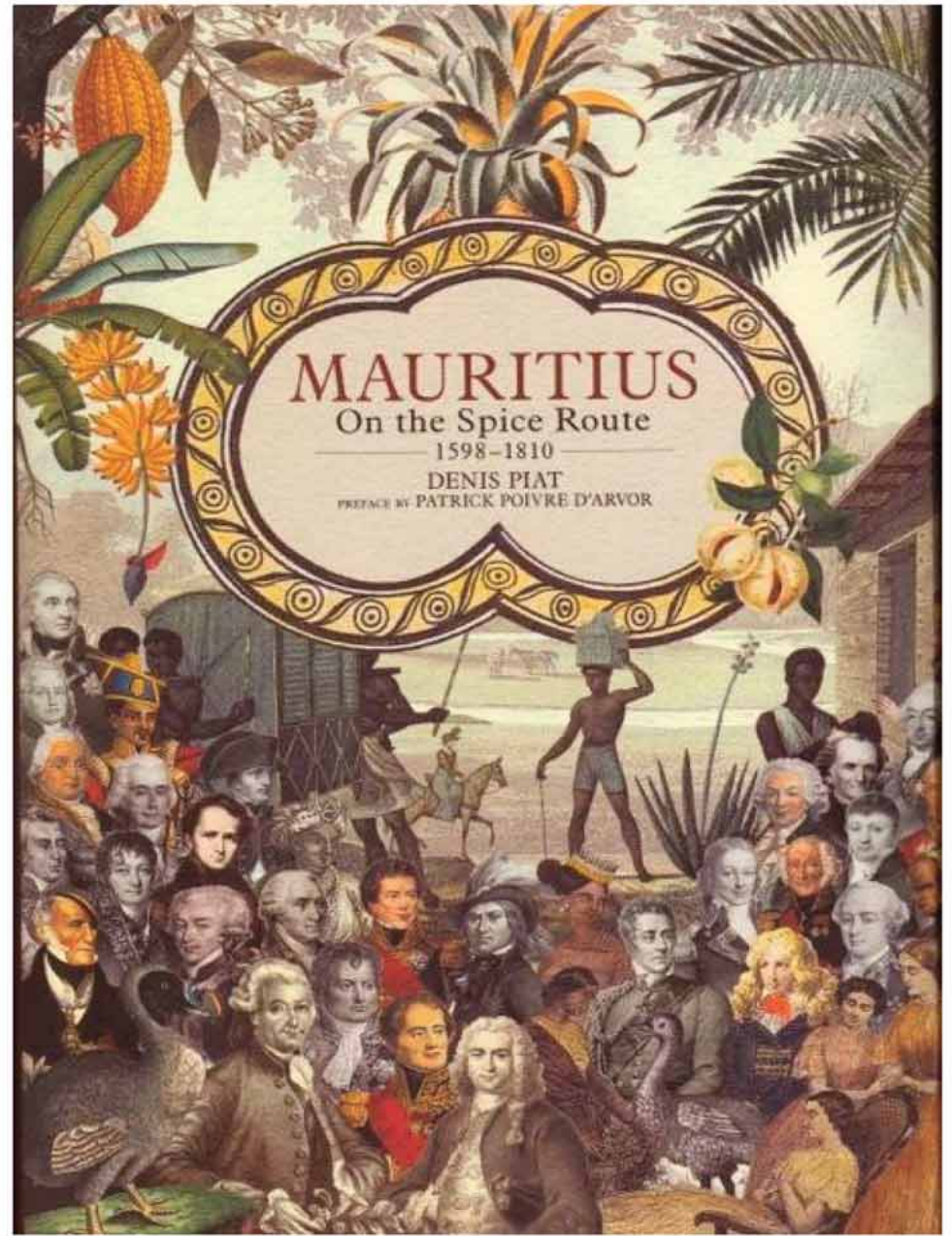
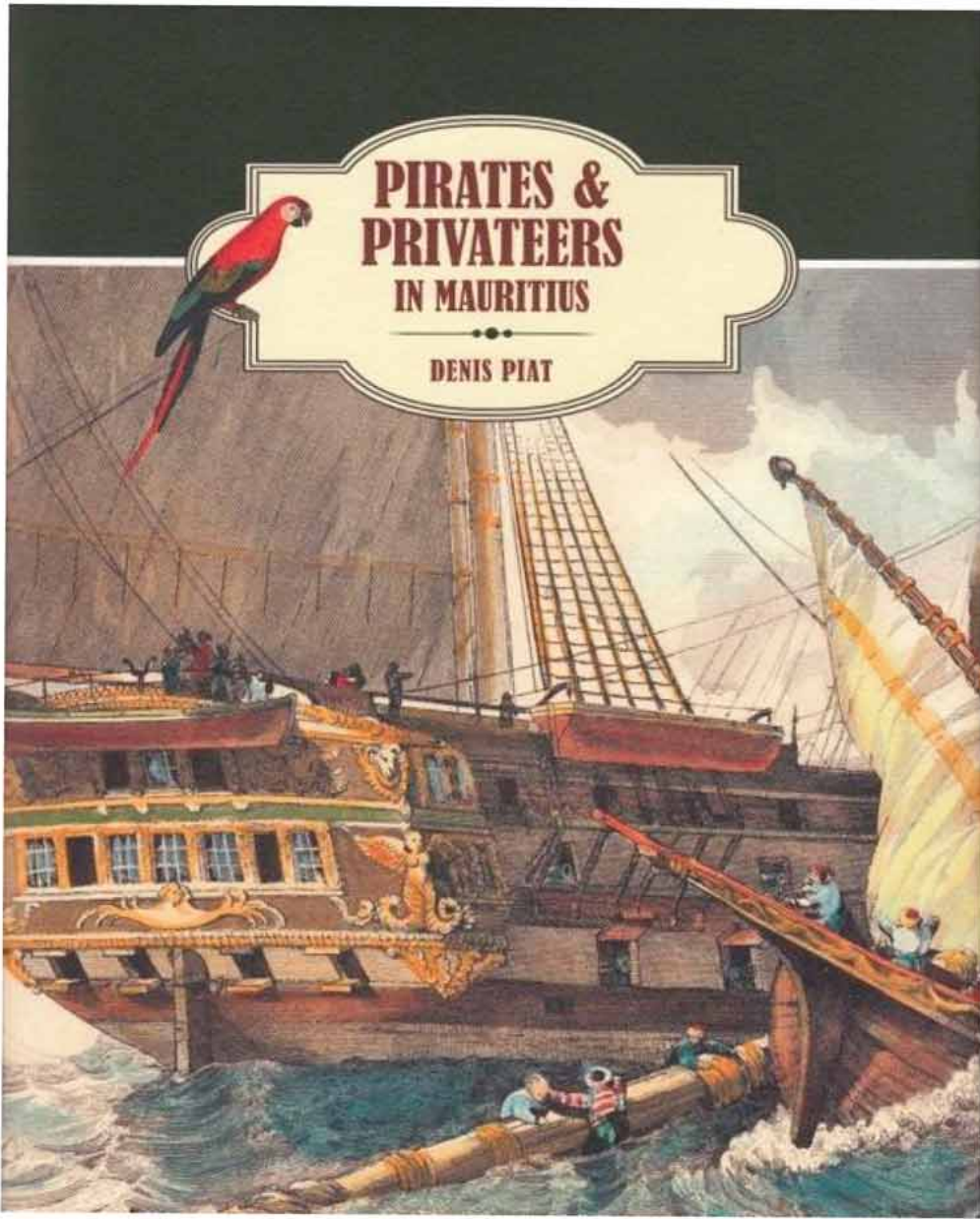
The Père Laval Benevolent Society

May your Christmas be Merry and your New Year be Happy

Season's Greetings from The UK Mauritians' Gazette

Wishing all members of the UK Mauritian community and friends a Merry Christmas & and a Very Happy Year 2018

<p>Association Chrétienne des Mauritiens à Londres (ACML) Nous souhaitons à tous nos membres, amis et la communauté mauricienne un Joyeux Noël et une très Bonne Année 2018</p>	<p>Mauritius Tamil Maha Sangam (MTMS) UK The executive committee of MTMS wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018 and a Peaceful Sankranti</p>	<p>Mauritius Islamic Welfare Association (MIWA) and Noor ul Islam Send their warmest greetings to all Mauritians and freinds of Mauritius for a very successful 2018</p>
<p>Mauritius Hindu Association (UK) Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, a Prosperous New Year 2018 and a Joyful Sankranti From: Sunil Mungur & his family (Chairman)</p>	<p>Overseas Sino-Mauritian Association Convey their best wishes to members and all compatriots for a Happy Christmas and the best of 2018</p>	<p>Père Laval Association (UK) Send their best wishes to all of you for a Joyous Christmas and a very fruitful 2018</p>



The two books by Denis Piat *Pirates and Privateers in Mauritius* and *Mauritius: On the Spice Route 1598 - 1810* are obtainable from Amazon on line, Waterstones Bookshops, and at the Caudan Waterfront Bookshop in Mauritius.

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Community News

Noor Ul Islam Trust (Comprising MIWA) & Leyton 6th Form College's Interfaith Friends Dinner 2017



Yusuf Hansa, chairman of the Noor ul Islam (centre) with guests

Noor Ul Islam Trust (Comprising the Mauritian Islamic Welfare Associan) of Leyton, East London, in conjunction with Leyton 6th Form College (LSC) held an Interfaith Dinner on Wednesday 15th November 2017 to celebrate Interfaith Week at LSC.

The event was hosted by Cllr Paul Braham and

"Mayor's Team" which consisted of Mayor Yemi Osho, Cllr Geoff Walker, Khailash Khare, Saira Mir, Suleman Aboo and Inspector Alyn Crowley were crowned winners and all 6 team members were given certificates and prizes.

The evening ended with a delicious meal catered by PC Foods.



Quiz winning team, Mayor Yemi Osho and others.

we were honoured to have outstanding speeches from WF Mayor Cllr Yemi Osho, Gill Burbridge (Principal of LSC), Jasmine Danish (Baha'i Community), Tara Khare (Hindu Community), Inspector Alyn Crowley (Chingford Police), Ted Cooke (SACRE) and Harfiyah Haleem (IFEES) who all shared their thoughts on the importance of strengthening interfaith relations.

There was some lively discussion as guests participated in our team based Interfaith Quiz.

It was a very well attended event with guests from different faith communities coming together to either strengthen relationships or make new friends.

Noor Ul Islam Trust would like to express its gratitude to Human Relief Foundation who sponsored the event.

Guest

Rodrigues News

Rodrigues present at the UK National Honey Show

Rodrigues, through Care-Co, was represented at the National Honey Show UeveryK this year at Sandown by Michel Farla, James Lisette and Paul Draper.

Honey from Care-Co Rodrigues was entered in the International Competition for Honey from Overseas –(all countries of the World except the British Isles and Ireland)..

Honey from Saudi Arabia won the first, second and third prizes this year.

The delegation from Rodrigues was hosted by families in the Spelthorne Constituency-comprising the towns of Staines, Ashford and Sunbury.

Spelthorne is twinned with Mauritius and the Mayor of Spelthorne; Councillor Mrs. Vivienne Leighton met with the Rodrigues delegation to learn more about Rodrigues.

The twinning was arranged some ten years ago by

Mauritian-born Simon Bhadye when he was himself the Mayor of the constituency.

See more about Simon Bhadye on Page 5.

What is Care-Co?

Care-Co is described as a Rehabilitation and Production Workshop. All rehabilitation is aimed to result in a person being able to live their life as normal as possible despite a disability of one sort or another. It is under the management of Paul Draper.

Who is Paul Draper?

Paul Draper is one of the Church people who believe that it is part of their mission to help impoverished, downtrodden and disabled people to stand on their feet and to get on with their lives, as best as they can. Paul Draper (an English national), has been a friend

Continued in next columns

Annual Père Laval Mass 2017



The Annual Mass was held by the Père Laval Association UK at the St Boniface Catholic Church in Tooting Broadway on Sunday 17 September 2017. The celebrants were Bishop Paul Hendricks, Honorary President of the Association and Rev Fr Terry Donnelly, Chaplain of the Association (on the right in the picture.) Carrying the banner is France Dooknah in the company of the celebrants.

Continued from previous columns

of mine of long standing, as he says in his message

on Page 2, I met Paul in London in the 1960s when I was working for the Mauritius Students Unit (known in Mauritius then as Le Bureau des Etudiants mauriciens à Londres.). This office was integrated within the Mauritius Commission in 1964, subsequently the High Commission on independence in 1968.

In the sixties, Paul had befriended a few Mauritian nurses in the UK and was already speaking the Creole language he picked up from them. When he went to Mauritius in >> he caused quite a bit of consternation at the airport, and even alarm, when he spoke Creole to the immigration officers. They thought he was a spy! (Sorry, Paul, I have to mention this)

By then I had completed two tours of service (of three years each) at the Mauritius High Commission and I was back to the Prime Minister's Office in Mauritius. (No Ministry of External Affairs yet) I met Paul again in Mauritius. He was helping poor people in

Rose Belle, south of Mauritius, close to the airport, to do handicraft work.

Paul has been in Mauritius (and a Mauritian) for nearly 50 years) engaged in >>>> work. Paul has been on Outer Island Rodrigues for many years, helping disabled people to fend for themselves by running the bee-keeping business to produce world-renown honey.

As Mauritius is commemorating its 50 years of sovereignty on 12 March 2018, it would not be out of place that Paul Draper should receive some form of recognition from the Mauritius Government on the Honours' List for his dedicated voluntary welfare work in both Mauritius and neighbouring Rodrigues Island. May Island Commissioner Serge Clair take note! Paul Draper is putting the Outer Island on the map by taking part in the UK National Honey Show every year. Rodrigues won the trophy once.

More can be said about Paul Draper and we say it in next issue.



Rodriguans, Michel Farla and James Lisette, manning the Rodrigues Stand



James Lisette, Michel Farla, Paul Draper, Councillor Mrs. Vivienne Leighton (Mayor of Spelthorne) & her husband Chris.

An alternative menu for the Festive Season

Christmas is a time for turkey. But it is known that not everyone is partial to turkey especially when the leftover has to be eaten for days.

Perhaps, you may wish to try something which is a favourite of Mauritians, something which you can have at Christmas and for the New Year. You may have chicken for Christmas and meat for the New Year.

Hereunder is a Bryani Recipe

Bon Appétit and as they say in Mauritius: Garde mo part!

P.C,

Bryani (Briani)



The Bryani is believed to have been introduced into India during the Mongol occupation. The recipe below is made with lamb. But Bryani can also be made with goat (kid),

beef or chicken.

10 to 12 servings

- 4 lbs lamb (mutton also be used) or kid (young goat meat)
- 2 lbs large potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 1 cup oil
- 1 lb onions, chopped
- 4 lbs rice
- 6 hard-boiled eggs, cut in halves,
- 1 teaspoon Spanish saffron and ½ cup baling water –or use
- 1 tablespoon powdered tumeric
- 4 cups warm water

Marinade

- 1 tablespoon anise seed
- 1 teaspoon cardamom
- chillies optional
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh coriander
- 1.2 cup chopped fresh mint
- 3 tablespoons (each) crushed garlic and ginger
- 4 cups natural yoghurt
- 1 teaspoon powdered cinnamon
- 6 whole cloves
- 10 curry leaves
- 1 bouquet thyme and parsley, chopped
- 1 tablespoon peppercorns, crushed
- ½ lb butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons oil

Note: Bryani is a dish requiring a long and tedious preparation. To save time, use those small packets of spices especially made for Bryani. Otherwise . . .

Make the marinade:

Crush the cardamom, anise seed, and chillies. Add to the rest of the ingredients and mix well.

Cut the meat into 1½ to 2-in chunks and place in the marinade. Stir well, and let marinade at least 2 hours

Heat the oil and sauté the onion lightly. Add the potatoes and sauté 2 to 3 minutes. (If are using tumeric, add to the pan together with the potatoes.)

Place the Spanish saffron to soak in ½ cup of boiling water.

Place a pot of water to boil. Add the rice and cook for 5 to 6 minutes, then remove from fire and drain.

Select a large saucepan, place a ¼ inch layer of rice on the bottom, and wet with ½ cup of water.

Arrange ½ of the marinated meat in a layer on top of the rice of rice and cover with the onions, potatoes, and eggs in an even layer.

Pour the Spanish saffron mixture in the remainder of the rice and stir well. Place half of the rice on top of the onions, potatoes, and eggs.

Then layer with the other half of the meat and cover with the rest of the rice. Sprinkle with 4 cups of warm water, cover, and cook over low heat, without stirring, for about 1 ½ hours.

To serve, unmould on to a large platter without disturbing the part sticking the part sticking to the bottom of the pan. Serve very hot accompanied by a variety of chutneys, According to your whim you might also include some brèdes étouffées, some achards, or a cucumber vinaigrette,

Reproduced from the Exotic Cuisine of Mauritius by Philippe Lenoir and Raymond de Ravel with the original kind permission of the Editions de l'Océan Indien.

MN, a partner of MK

In its message on Page 10 commemorating the 50th anniversary of its creation in 1967, the national airline's management states "we eagerly look to the future as we pursue our journey and write the new chapters of our history together with our partners and valued customers."

I am glad to say that 'Mauritius News' (MN) had been a partner of the airline since the paper's inception in 1983.

In the very issue of MN in November 1983, the paper carried the Black & White advert reproduced on this page below "THE FASTEST WAY TO THE MOST EXOTIC ISLAND IN THE SUN"

Since that first issue in November 1983, MN has been

carrying an Air Mauritius advert in every edition. We even carried an advert in the publication's Special Edition published in 1988 for 20th anniversary of the Independence of Mauritius, for its 25th anniversary in 1998, and for its 30th anniversary as shown below. As a matter of fact, for the 25th anniversary of the Independence of Mauritius, Air Mauritius was at that time commemorating its own Silver Jubilee, as reflected in the advert below.

In continuously advertising Air Mauritius for the past 32 years during MN's existence here, the paper made of Air Mauritius a household name within the Mauritian community in the UK.

Copies of MN were never thrown away after reading. They passed from hand to hand. Some readers even kept

the copies as a sort of collection. And whenever an edition is taken away from their coffee table by visitors subscribers would ring us for a replacement.

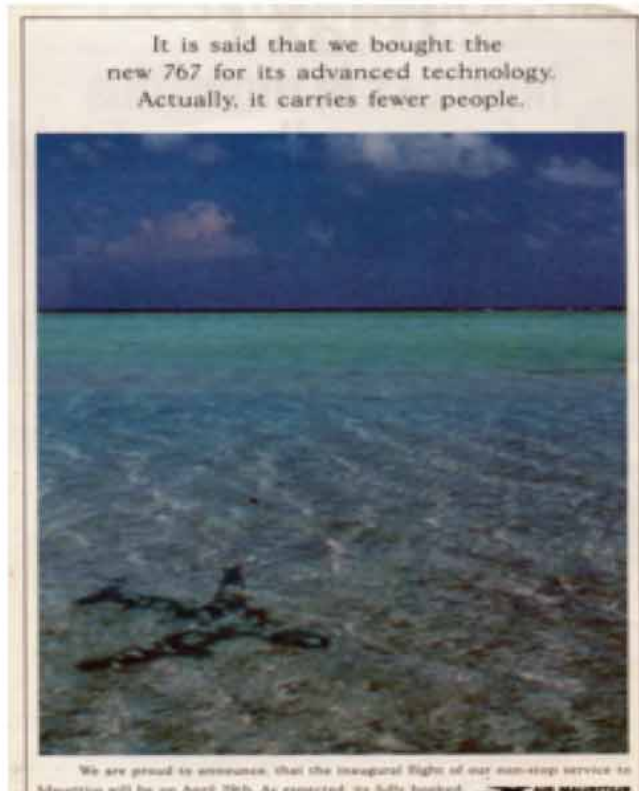
Thus, in a form of psychological sublimation UK Mauritians have been made to think of Air Mauritius first when they have to book a ticket for the home island.

Now that we are embarking on a new publication for the UK Mauritian community with expected readership, as in the past, in France and Germany as well, we trust that The UKMG may continue to be considered by Air Mauritius management as a partner of the national airline.

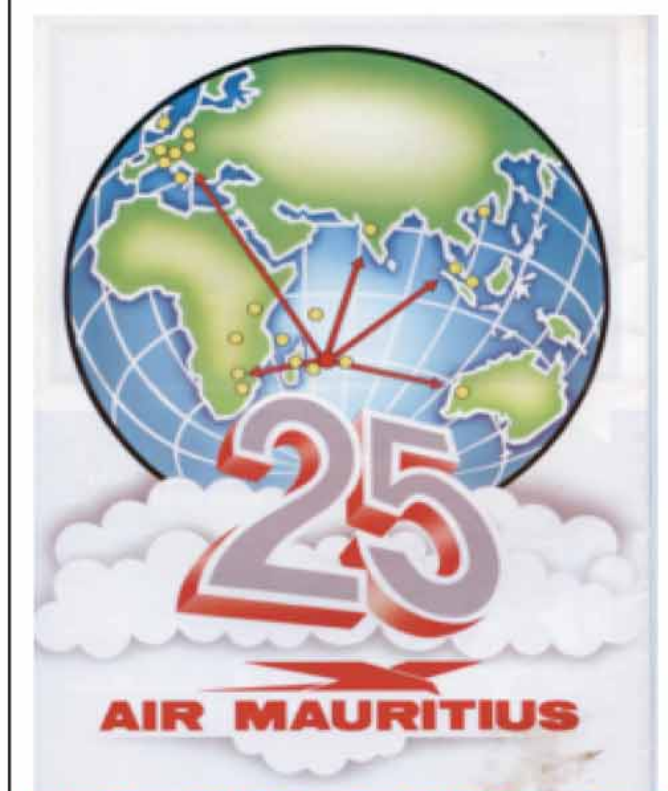
P.C.



Advert in First Edition in November 1983

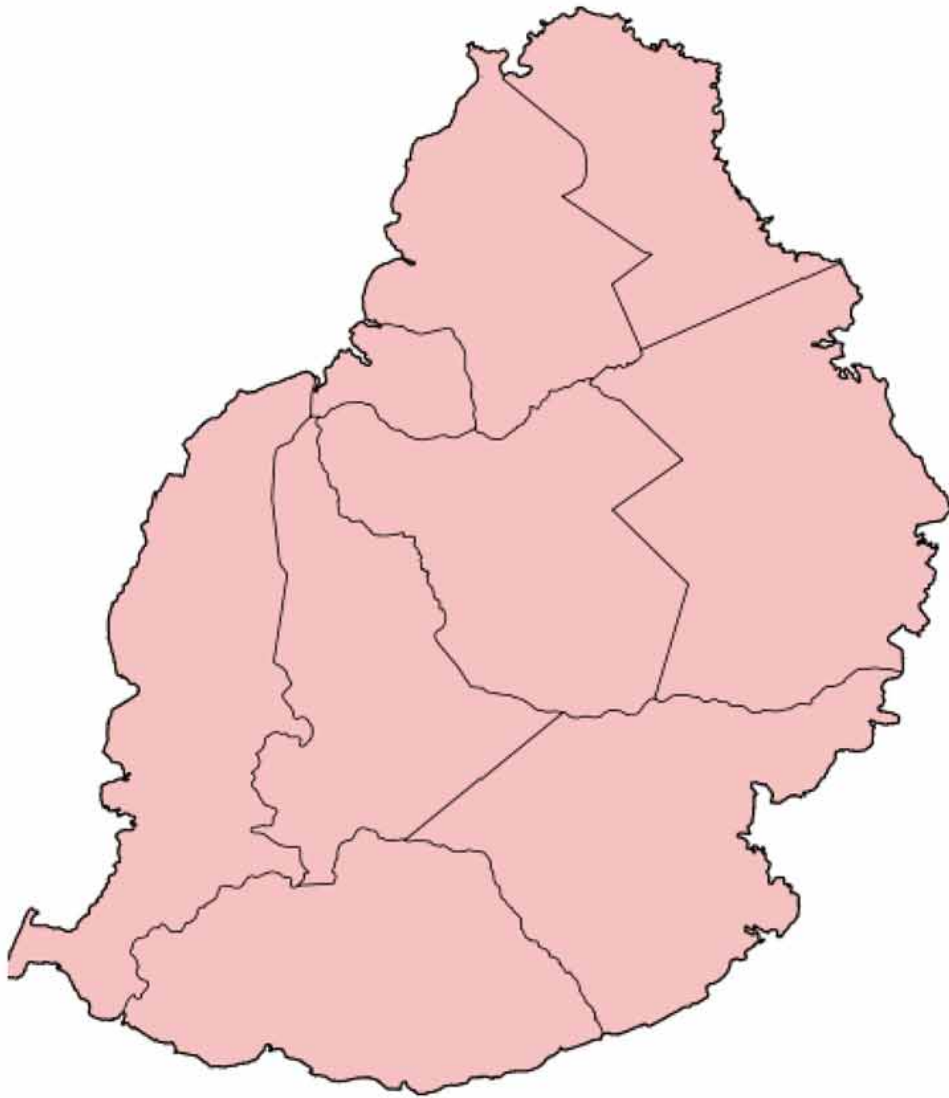


Advert in MN Special Edition 20th Independence anniversary of Mauritius



Ad in MN Special Edition for 25th Independence anniversary

The Nine Districts of Mauritius



Each separated block on this map of Mauritius represents one of the nine districts of the island. Can you name them?

Young Oscar's visit to London Bridge *(See picture in next column)*

Has Young Oscar come to check if the new London Bridge is still there? Perhaps he wanted to know if the Americans have come for it again.

As we know the Americans, in the 1980s, wanted to buy one of the two bridges across the Thames: London Bridge or Tower Bridge to take home. In the end, they apparently settled for Tower Bridge, because it makes sense that if anybody is going to spend big money to buy something worthwhile they would settle for the real thing, especially if the intention is to make money out of it. The idea was to charge a fee to visitors to the site where the Bridge would be reconstructed.

Well, the story goes that when they (the Americans) came to take away the Bridge they had paid for, they took away the wrong Bridge. They demolished London Bridge (instead of Tower Bridge) stone by stone, saving every screw, piling up every bit of iron of the whole structure. They took the lot to the States and reportedly re-assembled the whole bridge like a giant meccano on Lake Hasavasu in Arizona.

But when they found out that they had taken away the wrong bridge, they said that they always wanted London Bridge and not Tower Bridge. They would say that, wouldn't they?

Imagine if they make the same sort of mistake and press the wrong button, they would make mince meat of Planet Earth, leaving no chance to North Korean Rocket Man.

Anyway, Young Oscar's smile seems to say, Don't worry, it is still there! **(Readers may google London Bridge for confirmation of the story of the controversy)**

P.C.

Yvonne's wedding bells still ringing



Yvonne Goder tied the knot jointly with Ashvin Persand on 22nd July, 2017 at the Twelve Apostles Greek Orthodox Church, Brookmans Park, Hatfield. Yvonne has half of her roots in Mauritius and the other half in Greece.

When Yvonne exchanged vows of fidelity in July last, MN had already gone out of existence in the UK and we had no publication to convey our best wishes to her. We are happy to do so in this first edition of The UKMG. Yvonne, Please accept our congratulations and our best wishes for a blissfully married life.

Yvonne Goder has been a faithful and important supporter of our publication. Not only did she contribute to MN but she was also a pillar to our various community activities like the Mauritian Day event on Clapham Common and our Miss GB pageant at the Civic Centre in Wandsworth.

Pictured above, Yvonne (in white) holding a bouquet of roses on her wedding day in the company of her mates.



A belated Happy Birthday greetings to Oscar Darling. Oscar was 8 years old on 19 December 2017

From parents and grandparents

Oscar is among the New Generation with half of their roots in Mauritius and half in England

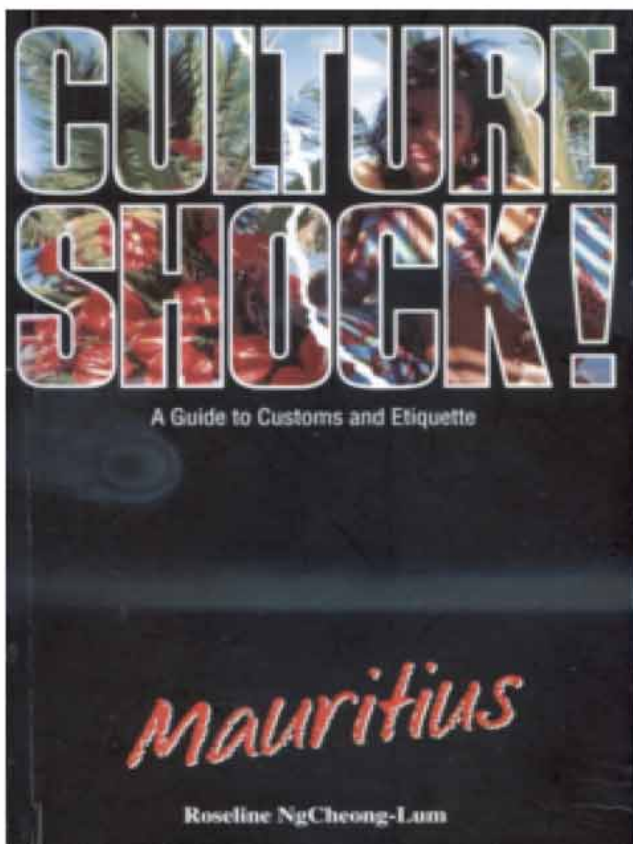
The tribulations of an application to the City Council of Port Louis for a land use authorisation



First floor available for letting

To be allowed to let a property in Mauritius to overseas visitors, the accommodation as small as a single room or as big as the Royal Palm Hotel of Grand Bay, we are given to understand that the law stipulates that the property must provide a landing bay with parking facilities.

In the property situated in Port Louis, pictured on this page, the first floor has been refurbished as a one-bedroom self-contained unit with all the required amenities to be made available for letting as a Tourist Residence



According to the picture(s), it can be seen that a landing bay (with a parking area) is available by the side of the building, faculties which the owner of the property has right of use for the simple reason that the provision of this area was made available by the grant of part of his plot of land at the time of construction.

The owner of the property wants to make this self-contained unit available to overseas visitors, mainly from the neighbouring islands of Rodrigues, Reunion and The Seychelles, to accommodate at most two persons at a time. Modest visitors who usually make use of public transport rather than hiring cars to increase the pollution level of the city of Port Louis (See further comments on page 20)

The letting of such accommodation to overseas visitors requires a permit from the Tourism Authority. But clearance must first be obtained from the local authority before an application for a permit may be considered by the Tourism Authority.

An application for the necessary clearance was submitted to the local council, in this instance the City Council of Port Louis on 30 September 2016 (15 months ago). The City Council turned down the request on the ground that no landing bay and no parking facilities are available. But everyone can see from the picture(s) that a landing bay with parking faculties is available.

A City Council official did actually visit the premises, and no one knows what he wrote in his report for the CEO, head of the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee, to turn down the request.

The regulations also make provision that parking faculties may be arranged in the vicinity if such facilities are not available on the premises itself. Such an arrangement has also been made by the applicant with the owners of a nearby private parking area, and a certificate from the owners was submitted to the City Council. Still, the CEO of the City

Council would not budge from his position. A letter sent to him by the applicant's lawyer about this point has remained unanswered to this day.

The law provides for an applicant to appeal to the Environment And Land Use Tribunal (EALUT) against the unfair decisions of any local authority.

An appeal was submitted to the Tribunal in October 2016, and a second hearing was fixed by the Tribunal for 30 November 2017. A few days before the hearing the applicant's lawyer received a letter from EALUT that the Tribunal was in meltdown and was to be reconstituted. To this day, it appears the Tribunal is yet to be reconstituted.

In the meantime, as they say in Mauritius 'cabri mange salade', whatever this expression means. But more precisely, on est dans la boîte, according to another Creole saying. Money is being lost in many respects and it's no skin off the nose of anybody else except that of the applicant.

Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth is aware of this sort of malpractice going on in the country and soon after he took office this year he set up a Citizens Support Unit (CSU), launched with great fanfare to put an end to administrative shortcomings at all levels.

The applicant sent a petition to the CSU and their reply was that they were unable to deal with matter because the appeal had already been submitted to the Tribunal.

The nation was given to understand, on its launch, that the CSU would be an institution with overriding powers to investigate independently and report in its own capacity like the powers of an Ombudsman. What you know! the doctor is himself sick. The CSU has declared itself bankrupt. One wonders whether PM Pravind Jugnauth is aware of the very shortcomings of his flagship to put an end injustice and unfair play in the country. Copies of the petition and correspondence were forwarded to his office.

Extract from Culture Shock! Mauritius

The general perception is that corruption is not rife as it used to be. Corruption of public officers is perhaps unavoidable in a society where everyone is scrambling to better themselves financially. Sometimes you will find that there is no other course of action but to grease the palm of somebody in authority in order to move your project forward. In fact some officials will sit on your files until you offer them some incentive.

If you come across cases of corruption and have no means to right them, then it is better to just keep quiet. Making the whole thing public might attract antagonism and life could become difficult for you.....

What's to be done? The CEO of the Port Louis City Council still objects, the Land Use Tribunal is in total meltdown, the all-powerful CSU has declared itself powerless!

A quel saint se vouer? one is at a loss! Can anybody, please advise. It is this sort of prevailing mentality and attitude that gives Mauritius a bad name, and which probably prompted Roseline Ng Cheong-Lum, a Mauritian lecturer in Canada, to devote a paragraph on "Kickbacks and Corruption" in her book on Mauritius entitled "Culture Shock! Mauritius" (available at Foyles, London), paragraph which we reproduce on this page. Readers will notice Miss Cheong-Lum's warning: "It is better to just keep quiet. Making the whole thing public might attract antagonism and life could become difficult for you."

Well, the applicant is making the "whole thing public" in the hope that Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth may ask of his flagship, The Citizens Support Unit, as to why they failed to investigate and report. The petition sent to the CSU could be put online for a WWW examination). If we are to keep quiet (as advised by Miss Cheong-Lum) like the proverbial three monkeys (Dumb, Deaf, and Blind) we may as well give up journalism. (However, readers are made aware of the situation if anything should happen to the applicant for the clearance application made to the Port Louis City Council)



The whole edition of this first UKMG issue will be available on the Internet as a Page Turning publication once the link has been created.

The Applicant

In view of such tribulations, can we say Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose !



Picture: P.C.

Regent Street



**With the Season's Greetings
from:**



**The High Commissioner for Mauritius
H.E. Girish Nunkoo**

**Ian Nash, Regional Manager
for Air Mauritius UK & Ireland**



P.C.

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings and well wishes to all my fellow Mauritian in the United Kingdom as well as the wider readership of Mauritius News.

It is my understanding that the UK Mauritian Gazette (UKMG) will take over from Mauritius News as the periodical for the UK-based Mauritian community. I have no doubt that UKMG will play an important role in not only keeping the Mauritian community informed but also upholding its unity and fluidizing the crucial link with our Motherland. I wish the new publication plenty of success in its endeavours.

As we prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our independence in March next year, the Government has embarked on an ambitious plan to graduate Mauritius to a high-income country by 2030. The objective is to move the economy onto higher value offerings and expand our economic space by increasing our presence into the African continent. The participation of all Mauritians, including our diaspora around the world, will be required if we are to achieve this ambitious goal.

The Government of Mauritius is actively working on a National Policy on Migration and Development with the aim of implementing it as from the year 2018. This strategy will focus on several areas, notably on revitalising and modernising the Government's engagement with our diaspora around the world in order to better gauge its needs, wants and potential contribution to the development of our country. The Mauritian community in the UK is one of the most important and active part of our diaspora and, as such, I invite you all to contribute to the realisation of this ambitious yet achievable plan.

As High Commissioner of Mauritius to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I will continue to work towards strengthening the bilateral relationship which exists between Mauritius and the UK, with particular emphasis on enhancing business, trade and people-to-people exchanges.

In that regard, allow me to assure all my compatriots that the High Commission of Mauritius in London will remain at your service for any advice and assistance in our areas of competence.

I would like to avail of this opportunity to extend my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018 to all the Mauritian Socio-Cultural organisations, the Mauritian community and diaspora in the UK.

**Girish Nunkoo
HIGH COMMISSIONER**

As we approach Christmas 2017 my thoughts turn towards both my own family and friends as well as the bigger family that is Air Mauritius and the Mauritian Community in the UK. For Air Mauritius 2017 has been a very special year, we celebrated our 50th anniversary, welcomed two new Airbus A350-900 aircraft into our fleet and reported a record year in terms of financial performance.

It is a true testament to the company, the people who have served it and the Mauritian community that have supported us that Air Mauritius continues to successfully operate as the proud National Airline of Mauritius amidst intense competition.

Closer to home in London we continue to strive to offer you more direct flights from Heathrow and for those who prefer to fly via a UK Regional airport we now have excellent options via Amsterdam to Mauritius in conjunction with our partner airline KLM adding several new regional UK airport departure options to those already offered by Air France via Paris.

I want to thank all those in the Mauritian Community who have supported our service and stayed loyal to their National airline, I do hope that you will continue to do so.

During the festive break, there is much to celebrate and much to look forward to in 2018. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and hope that 2018 will be as good a year for you as I am sure it will be for Air Mauritius.

Best wishes

**from Ian Nash,
Regional Manager UK & Ireland
and from the UK Air Mauritius Team**

For its eco-tourism policy Mauritius should not encourage a proliferation of vehicles on its roads

In Mauritius, the City Council of Port Louis insists that all those who want to make their properties available for letting to overseas visitors must provide a landing bay with parking facilities, however small the accommodation may be, and which may still have all the amenities for visitors. Not all overseas visitors who may necessarily need the use of personal cars during their stay in Mauritius.

However, in spite of the fact that in upmarket Mauritius as a tourist destination backpackers may not come in large swarms, there are still a few backpackers getting off the planes, especially those who have made friends with Mauritians in their own countries, like France, because of the language and the proximity of La Réunion which they visit on the same trip. La Réunion is not fussy about the backpackers especially from mother country France. The backpackers do not need car service. They travel by bus. Mauritius has a very good bus service throughout the island.

The insistence on the provision of landing bays with parking facilities for every type of visitors' accommodation is an anomaly in the law. In the whole wide world, Mauritius must be an exception to make such provisions. Bed and Breakfast accommodations in other countries do not provide any parking bay and well less any parking facilities.

In this respect, we are making it a point to publish one or two pictures of hotels and B & Bs in England that do not have any such landing bays and parking facilities for their guests.

Surely, the Mauritian officials on visit to other countries will have seen that not all hotels and especially B & Bs are provided with landing bays. Hopefully the government will see the anomaly of this provision within the legislation and will wish to have it modified. This sort of requirements applies only to new applicants. Yet, there are old places in Mauritius, the near coast especially which are letting to overseas visitors without any parking facilities.

In the area of Grand Bay, taxi-drivers complain that the Express bus service picks up tourists who would normally travel by cars. So, the overseas visitors have wise up to the situation and use public transport, like buses, instead. The local MP should know that overseas visitors do travel by bus and the Tourism ministry should not insist that modest B & Bs should necessarily provide parking facilities and parking bay for guests.

The old private bungalows let to overseas visitors have no parking facilities. The Tourism Authority does not bother. Yet, life is made a hell for the new applicants to let their properties to overseas visitors. It is right that there should be absolute compliance with the Health & Safety regulations. But this should not be exaggerated. The Tourism Authority cannot and should not ask the same level of compliance from the modest B & Bs as from the big hotel complexes, especially as regards parking areas.

The City of Port Louis is heavily congested at both entrances from the North of the island and from the South. Traffic can hardly move in the morning into the city and out in the afternoon. Although office work normally starts at 9am, some people leave home as early as 6am to avoid having to sit for hours in the traffic queues. So, in spite of the pollution and the heavy congestion, why do the Mauritian authorities insist that overseas visitors should make use of personal vehicles to add to the congestion and the pollution of the island?

London imposes a congestion charge of £12 on private cars coming into the city centre. An additional £10 charge, known as Toxicity Charge, is now imposed on older cars likely to cause more pollution.

Londoners and visitors are encouraged to use bicycles, which are made available in various parts of the metropolis. Several nerve centres have been made into pedestrian areas only.

Why does Mauritius encourage the use of more cars in the City of Port Louis by insisting that provision should be made to accommodate additional cars on the road? Perhaps, one day Mauritius may have to impose similar measures to promote its eco-tourism policy. In the meantime an appeal is made to the Tourism Minister and the Local Government Minister to amend legislation as required to bring the county in line with other destinations.

Peter Chellen

In Mauritius, many hotels have no parking facilities (or in the immediate areas) and the attention of the CEO of the Port Louis City Council has been drawn to this fact. For example, the new Champs de Mars of Port Louis, The Gold Crest and the Gold Nest in Quatre Bornes do not provide nearby parking and landing facilities. In London, we can see the Russel Hotel in Victoria (a B & B), the majestic Amba Hotel in Charing X, the Holiday Inn on Wandsworth Road, near us, do not provide parking facilities. Guests by taxis, and buses. The Mauritian authorities demand parking facilities even for a one-bedroom self-contained flat.



The Russel Hotel in Victoria where guests come by buses



The Amba Hotel in Charing X where guests come by cabs



The Wandsworth Road Premier Inn on the high street, Guests come on foot.



Bikes are available on street pavements to discourage the use of motor vehicles on London roads to reduce pollution.

Apartment to let at Péreybère. For information, please visit <www.mauritiuslet.com>

