



**SUDARSHANAM-NI Annual Report**

**DECEMBER-2023 TO MARCH 2025**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE ABOVE DURATION**



The trustees are pleased to submit the report and accounts for Sudarshanam Hindu Samajam for the period December 2023 to March 2025.

#### Name, address and Constitution of the charity

**Charity Name:** Sudarshanam NI Hindu Malayalee Samajam  
**Charity Number:** 104670  
**Address:** 331, Spectrum Centre, Shankill Road, BT13 3AA

#### Structure, Governance and Management

Sudarshanam NI Hindu Malayalee Samajam is a voluntary charity organisation formed in October 2014 whose main objective is to bridge the cultural gap between Indian and Northern Ireland Culture, thereby providing an integrated welcoming environment where communities come together to educate, spread awareness and celebrate their festivals and traditions.

Sudarshanam Hindu Samajam provides a common platform for communities to come together, comprehend, celebrate and promote the eternal truth and teachings of Indian culture. The liability of its members is limited in that every member of the organisation undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £20 as monthly subscription towards the rent for weekly get together.

Our annual general body meeting was held at Spectrum on 04 December 2022 when we elected the following members to be a part of our Administration team.

#### Admin committee selected on 14 April 2024:



Position	Member
Chairperson	Pradeep Thankappan
Vice Chairperson	Shreyas Valsan
Secretary	Giriraj
Joint Secretary	Geetha Shabu
Finance Coordinator	Gokul
Cultural Coordinator	Sonu
Daily Program Coordinator	Aswathy
Antrim/Ballymena Program Coordinator	Aneesh Krishnan
Committee Members	Sukhesh Kutty & Theertha
Youth Representatives	Aditi Saneesh



The legal governance of Sudarshanam Hindu Samajam is the responsibility of the charity trustees.

Sudarshanam Hindu Samajam registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

Trustees are appointed as required. Potential new Trustees are identified and invited to join by agreement of the existing Trustees. Trustee meetings are held during the year at which the activities, direction and finances of the organisation are discussed.

#### **Introduction:**

Sudarshanam Hindu Samajam NI is a charity organisation working towards promoting Hindu culture and among Indian Malayalee communities and promoting cultural relationships and exchanges between various communities in Belfast.

Sudarshanam Hindu Samajam is non-denominational. Sudarshanam Hindu Samajam has a child protection policy. Everyone working with the children has been Access NI checked.

Sudarshanam Hindu Samajam has a Vulnerable Person Safeguarding Policy. The trustees wish to record their gratitude and appreciation to the elders, core serve team, children's teams, house group leaders and the many other people who serve the organisation in various capacities and without whom the organisation could not function.

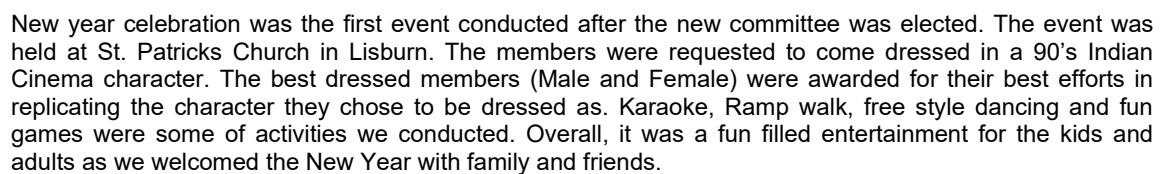
#### **Objectives and Activities of the Charity**

The main purpose of the Sudarshanam Hindu Samajam is to preserve & extend the knowledge of Hindu Culture, profound of Kerala Hindu community in Belfast, in particular, and around Northern Ireland in general. This is not restricted to the Indian population but disseminated to the local community as well. We want to ensure the new generation of Indian do not lose the Kerala Hindu culture of their motherland.

#### **Activities – December 2022 to November 2023**

We are proud that we were able to organise the following events which showcased the tradition and culture of Malayalee Hindu community.

<b>2024-2025 Event Calendar</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Sound &amp; Light Hire</b>	<b>Food</b>
31 Dec 2023	New Year Party	St. Patrick's Church	Biju Sound & Systems	
15 Jan 2024	Makaravilakku	Spectrum Centre	-	Internal
8 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Shivarathri Puja	Member's Residence	-	Internal
2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024	Cancer Charity Event	Action Cancer	-	-
14 April 2024	Vishu Celebrations	Spectrum	Carnmoney Church, Glengormley	Internal
30 April 2024	Belfast Marathon	-	-	-
02 Sep 2023	Onam Celebrations	St. MacNissi's Parish Centre	Adam's Sound & System	Internal
10 Sep 2023	Sri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations	Spectrum	-	Internal
24 Sep 2023	Ganesh Chaturthi	Spectrum	-	Internal
15 Oct – 24 Oct	Navaratri celebrations	Member's Residence	-	Internal
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 2024	10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration	Methodist college	-	External



## A large group of students and staff posing for a group photo in a hall. Many are wearing traditional Indian attire, and several are making the 'Namaste' gesture. There are plates of food on the floor in the foreground.

We at Sudarshanam made special arrangements to celebrate the auspicious Makaravilakku 2023 at Spectrum Center on 15 January 2023. The members decorated the venue and performed padipooja.



Ayyappa bhajans were conducted where the kids and adults participated with divinity. Adults and kids shared their divine experience of Shabarimala pilgrimage.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 – Action Cancer Charity Event**



Sudarshanam participated in the Action Cancer Charity Event that was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024. Sudarshanam team put up a food stall for the event selling delicious Indian delicacies and made a profit of £137.80 from the stall. Sudarshanam is proud in being part of this charity event where Action Cancer raised £2,550 in total from the event.



### 8th March 2024 – Shivarathri Pooja



Maha Shivarathri ("Great Night of Lord Shiva") is the most important event in India's spiritual calendar. Maha Shivarathri festival honours Lord Shiva, also known as "Mahadeva". Lord Shiva is the oldest revered God in Hinduism, and Maha Shivarathri is a major festival which widely commemorates the conquering of darkness and ignorance in life and is also the night of marriage between Shiva & Shakti (Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati).



#### 14 April 2024 – Vishu celebrations



Vishu is a cultural festival celebrating the Malayali New Year in Kerala, India. The festival is marked by family time, preparing colourful auspicious items and viewing these as the first thing on the Vishu day (Vishukkani). In particular, Malayalis seek to view the golden blossoms of the Indian laburnum (Kani Konna), money or silver items, cloth (pattu), mirror, rice, coconut, cucumber, fruits and other harvest products. Days before Vishu, people start bursting fireworks at their houses and it concludes with lot of fireworks on day of Vishu. People wear new clothes (Koti) and they eat a feast called Sadhya. In Kaineettam, elders give a small amount of pocket money to children.

At Sudarshanam, we had organised a variety of cultural programs including a Vishu kai neetam and Sadhya. The highlight of this year's Vishu was that we welcomed people outside of Sudarshanam to join us and embrace our culture. A delicious Sadhya was prepared by the Sudarshanam family members. We collected around £1,400 by selling the Vishu tickets, through sponsorship and by selling raffle tickets.

Another highlight was that Sudarshanam donated £780 to Sabarinath. Sabarinath was a 23 year old Malayali student from Trivandrum who came to Queens University Belfast to study. Unfortunately, his whole body was paralysed due to an autoimmune disorder, due to lack of food and nutrition. Shabharinath was at the Musgrave Park Hospital for his treatment and rehabilitation therapy. We were overwhelmed and wanted to contribute towards his journey back to India. Sabarinath safely went back to India in the month of April. Sudarshanam wants to express its gratitude to all its members for the heartfelt contribution in helping Sabarinath go back India safely.







Onam is an annual harvest and cultural festival related to Hinduism that is celebrated mostly by the people of Kerala. A major annual event for Keralites, it is the official festival of the state and includes a spectrum of cultural events. Onam Festival falls during the Malayali month of Chingam (Aug - Sep) and marks the homecoming of legendary King Mahabali. Carnival of Onam lasts for ten days and brings out the best of Kerala culture and tradition. Intricately decorated Pookalam, ambrosial Onasadya, breathtaking Snake Boat Race and exotic Kaikottikali dance are some of the most remarkable features of Onam - the harvest festival in Kerala.

At Sudarshanam we celebrated Onam on 15 September 2024 with all our members. Thiruvathira by the ladies of Sudarshanam and scrumptious sadhya prepared by the members was the highlight of the celebration. We also conducted Onam games like Vadamvali (tug-of-war), Kulam Kara, Musical chair etc. Overall, it was a fun filled day for all of us at Sudarshanam.



#### **26 Aug 2024 – Sri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations**



Lord Krishna's birth is celebrated as Janmashtami. Lord Krishna's devotees celebrate the day with great devotion and reverence. He is seen as a symbol of divinity, love, and righteousness. His life and teachings inspire devotees to lead a life based on dharma (righteousness), karma (action), and bhakti (devotion).

The kids from Sudarshanam were dressed up as little Krishnas and Radhas. There was traditional Krishna Bhajans and everyone were immersed in the festive atmosphere.

#### **6 September 2024 - Ganesh Chaturthi**



Ganesh Chaturthi is a ten-day festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Ganesh (Ganesha), a Hindu deity and god of wisdom and prosperity. As one of the biggest Hindu celebrations in India, Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated all over the country with massive public and domestic events. We at Sudarshanam performed a small puja and bhajan on this auspicious day invoking Lord Ganesh's blessings. The kids actively participated by dancing and putting up a play demonstrating the story of Ganesh.





### 3 October – 12 October 2024 – Navaratri Celebrations



Navaratri is an annual Hindu festival observed in honour of the goddess Durga, an aspect of Adi Parashakti, the supreme goddess. It spans over nine nights. We celebrated Navaratri for 9 nights at various houses volunteered by our members. This was a suggestion from our ladies group to organise bhajans and puja on all 9 days of Navaratri in 2021 and we have continued this as this was welcomed whole heartedly by all the members. Apart from the spiritual Vibe it had brought , this created a special unity , happiness and satisfaction for all of the attendees .we would like to continue this as part of our annual events calendar and would encourage all new family members to come forward and take part from next year.

## **2nd November 2024 –10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**



Our signature event of 2024 was our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations to mark the success of our journey embarking it's 10<sup>th</sup> year which was colorfully celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 at Methodist college, Belfast.

Reflecting on the success of our 10th Sudarshanam Anniversary, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for each of you who joined us in celebrating this special milestone. To Mary Peters, our Chief Guest, and Brian Kingston, MLA, our Guest of Honor, we are truly thankful for your presence, which brought meaning and distinction to this occasion.

To all our invited guests, families, friends, and supporters, thank you for being with us and for the incredible support you showed. Your participation elevated our celebration to new heights, and we are so grateful for the energy and encouragement you brought.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our talented Sudarshanam members for their inspiring cultural performances, showcasing the vibrancy of our shared heritage. The evening would not have been the same without the remarkable K-North concert, which added an unforgettable layer of artistry and energy to our celebration. Their inspiring performance truly set the tone for a memorable night, bringing joy to all. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Mass Events for the outstanding sound and lighting system, which enhanced each moment and made our event seamless and professional.

A special acknowledgment also goes to our dedicated Sudarshanam family members, whose hard work, dedication, and passion embodied our organization's spirit and vision. Each of you played an essential role in making this celebration unforgettable, and we are immensely proud to share this journey with such an exceptional group.

We are profoundly grateful to our generous sponsors, whose ongoing support fuels our mission and enables us to share our passion with the community.





### **Regular Sunday Sessions**

Regular Sunday sessions continued as usual at the Spectrum Centre. Spectrum Centre was not booked for regular activities during the summer months. This was mainly due to the fact that a lot of Sudarshanam members planned long holidays during summer months to visit India. Sunday sessions continued in the usual pattern without much changes. Yoga continued without much interruption.

Purna Vidya Classes could not pick up the momentum due to various factors and we are working hard to revive it to the original state. As part of restructuring Purna Vidya, we had arranged "Train the Teachers" program last year. Thanks to Our Purna Vidya Teacher from England, Vasumati Ji who had shown Great interest in sharing her wisdom to our teachers.

Our Admin team under Pushpa (Chairperson) and Suchitra's (Vice chairperson) leadership have spent quite a good amount of time in Virtual meetings etc to coordinate various activities, Sunday sessions and Food/snack rota. Our Sincere gratitude to all Admin team members.

Also, thanks to all local community leaders, PSNI and the Spectrum Centre for providing their continued support for all our activities.

Our Great Appreciation to Vidhya Ponnuli for all her efforts in systematically looking after the accounts, tracking the subscriptions, paying off expenses and coordinating all banking activities.



### **Public benefit**

Our main Beneficiary for 2024 was Air Ambulance NI to whom we donated **£790** through Belfast City Marathon Run.

### **Outcomes:**

- ☐ Maintaining Hindu Culture among our community by creating awareness.
- ☐ Showcasing the importance of our festivals and significance of various rituals.
- ☐ By involving local groups, helps in reducing hate crime, racism and prejudice thereby creating a sense of togetherness and contribute towards shared community.
- ☐ Encouraging cultural integration and bridging gap within our Local communities.
- ☐ A great way in bringing people together and create sense of purpose.

### **Membership growth:**

During the year we had 9 new families joining Sudarshanam and 6 families have left us.

As we grow exponentially, it's essential that we strengthen our relationship, know each other better, their strengths and weaknesses, help each other, share knowledge and ideas so that we all stand unite in all our activities and initiatives.

### **Achievements**

- Participated in the Action Cancer Charity Event.
- Participated in Belfast Marathon and raised funds for Air Ambulance NI
- Successfully celebrated 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our extended family together.

### **Challenges**

- ☐ Bringing our new members to regular Sunday sessions.
- ☐ Keeping the momentum of Purna Vidya classes. We need to restart the classes in a regular fashion for our Children to be aware of our cultural heritage.
- ☐ Collecting pending Subscription dues.



### **Income and expenditure account for the period from Dec 2023 to March 2025**

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>££</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>££</b>
Hall rent	3,526.66	Monthly Subscription& Building fund	8,660
Action cancer expenses	277.43	10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary net income (278-Cash)	1,332.59
Vishu-Music & Kaineetam expense	185	Net Income from Vishu 2024	61.07
New year 2025	1,142	Gross income from action cancer	415.23
Onam 2024	345.24	Gross income from New year celebration	970
Marathon food& Air ambulance	790	Miscellaneous	24
Marathon 2025- Outstanding payment	115	Marathon 2024 Gross collection	560
Miscellaneous expense	226.38		
	<b>6,607.71</b>		<b>12,022.89</b>
<b>Operating profit/(loss)</b>	<b>5,415.18</b>		
Balance brought forward ( Bank Balance-31/03/24)	<b>7,928.8</b>		
<b>3</b>			
Profit during year	5,415.18		
Cash from previous committee C/f	26		
<b>4</b>			
Cash of previous committee deposited into bank during year	1000		
<b>Net asset Balance carried forward in 31/3/25</b>	<b>14,608.01</b>		

### **Cash and Bank balances as at 31 March 2025**

	<b>££</b>
Opening cash balance as at 31 March 2024	1,264
0) Cash deposited into bank account	(100)
Cash in hand generated in FY 24-25	278
<b>Total Cash balance as on 31 March 2025</b>	<b>542</b>

**Total income** for the period April 2024 to March 2025 is £12,023.

**Total expenditure** the period April 2024 to March 2025 is (£6,608).

### **Income against expenditure**

There was an operating profit of £5,415.18.

### **Cash in hand as at 31 March 2025**

Cash in hand is £542. (Includes £264 from previous committee & £278 Current year cash generated)

**Total Balance as at 31 March 2025**

**Total Bank Balance carried forward is £14,066 & Cash balance of £ 542- Grand total: £ 14,608**





### **Conclusion**

Sudarshanam team is grateful to all its members for their hard work and dedication to keep Sudarshanam activities going without any breaks. Efforts have been made to address the points members have raised during the general meetings. We are looking forward to the coming years to strengthen our relationship and create an atmosphere that helps younger generation benefits more from our existence. Also, we should strive hard to make a more profound positive impact in the community relations in all our activities.