



KIRKBY REUNION 2018

The Puteri Pacific, Johore Bahru

6-8 July 2018

KIRKBY REUNION 2018 – REPORT

The Organising Committee (OCKR)

At the conclusion of Reunion 2016 K. Kesavapany (1955-1957) was appointed as the organiser of the Kirkby Reunion 2018. Initially the proposal was to hold the Reunion in Singapore but the challenges were so great it was decided to hold it in Johore. Kesavapany asked the Persatuan Alumni Malayan Teachers' Training College, Kirkby, Liverpool, England (Alumni) to help in the organisation of the Reunion in Johore Bahru. A small committee (OC) consisting of Kesavapany as Chairman, Punithavathy Kuladeva (Puni) (1953-1955), Harbajan Singh (1954-1956), and Dato V.L. Kandan (1955-1957) representing the Alumni, as members.

Date, Venue and Registration Fee

The OC decided that the Reunion should be after Hari Raya and the dates Friday 6 July to Sunday 8 July were chosen. Selecting the venue presented many challenges. Singapore was ruled out. Kesavapany visited Johore a couple of times and with the assistance of Puni settled for The Puteri Pacific, Johore Bahru as that hotel gave a competitive rate of RM450 per person on a twin occupancy basis, which took care of two nights' accommodation with breakfast and the two dinners. Taking into consideration other expenses of the Reunion, registration fee was fixed at RM590 per person for twin or triple occupancy and RM790 for single occupancy.

Bank Account and Budget

With Kesavapany in Singapore and the event to take place in Johore it was decided to use the Alumni's bank account to facilitate receipts and payments for the Reunion. With that, a preliminary budget was prepared anticipating an income of RM81,355 and expenditure of RM83,180 with a deficit of RM1,825 that could be more than covered by the surplus of more than RM5,000 from the Reunion 2016 in Sunway. The final Statement of Income and Expenditure will be submitted after approval by the Alumni ExCo.

On 6 February 2018 invitations were issued for participation in the Reunion. 100 Kirkbyites and 25 accompanying persons registered to attend the full Reunion. 3 Kirkbyites and 2 family members registered for and attended the two dinners only. The full list of attendees is in the Souvenir Programme that was distributed to the Participants at the Reunion. There were three registrants who were unable to attend. They are: YM Tunku Abdul Aziz bin Tunku Ibrahim (1954-1956); Mr Nadarajah Kandiah (1958-1959); and Mr Nadarajah Kanagaratnam (1960-1961).

Departure & Arrival

On Friday 6 July 2018 at 9.00am 65 Kirkbyites and accompanying persons left in two buses from the meeting point at A&W opposite AmCorp Mall in Petaling Jaya and arrived at The Puteri Pacific, Johore Bahru at 3.30pm. Those who went to the venue directly had arrived by then. All headed for Registration and collection of 'goodie bags' containing the Programme, sponsored batik shirt/blouse and receipts for payments made. Registration concluded at 6.00pm.

Photo Session

Group photo session was held at about 7.00pm in the Permata Ballroom of the Hotel. Every participant received a copy of it the next night. Mr S.S. Chandran, brother of Sasi Devi Mahadeva (1956-1958), sponsored the cost of the Group photo.

Souvenir Magazine and Supplement

A colourful and very informative souvenir magazine was produced. Highlights of this Reunion's souvenir magazine included a message from YAB Tun Dr Siti Hasmah bt Mohd Ali and a special supplement on the Archive Resources for Knowsley (ARK). Also included in the Souvenir programme is an up-dated list of Kirkbyites with their contact particulars. *(Please check the entries therein for errors and omissions and report to Kandan)*

Programme

Friday	6 July, 2018	3.00pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	Arrival & Registration Photo session Reunion Dinner
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Cheque for the Tabung Harapan Malaysia • Audio/Video Presentation of the ARK Exhibition in Kirkby 2017 • Entertainment by the Dream Girls
		11.00 pm	Good night
Saturday	7 July, 2018	6.30am-8.00am 8.30am-6.00pm	Breakfast (I) Singapore Tour (II) Johore Tour
		7.00pm	Buffet Dinner Audio/Video Presentation of the ARK Exhibition in UM, KL 2018.
		11.30pm	Entertainment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singalong • Group Dances • Band accompaniment Auld Lang Syne
Sunday	8 July, 2018	6.30am – 9.00am 9.00am 12.00pm	Breakfast Dialogue Session Goodbye

Tours

A tour of Singapore organised by Kesavapany consisting of 67 persons and a tour of Johore Bahru consisting of 44 persons organised by Puni were special features in this Reunion.

The Singapore tour was marred by expected traffic delay at both ends of the Cause-Way and inordinate delay at the Immigration, especially at the Singapore end. However, the very enjoyable Banana Leaf Lunch hosted by Singapore Kirkbyites with Bollywood entertainment and later the walkabout in the famous Garden by the Bay more than made up for the initial inconvenience.

The Johore tour group had a pleasant tour of sights in JB town and enjoyed a seaside lunch at Lotus Desaru Resort and Spa.

Cheque Presentation for Tabung Harapan Malaysia (THM)

At the formal Western menu dinner on Friday 6 July, as Organising Chairman, Kesavapany welcomed all present and the Member of Parliament for Johore Bahru, YB Encik Akmal Nasir,

who had been invited to receive a cheque for the Tabung Harapan Malaysia. Kesavapany mentioned that this was a contribution by a group of Kirkbyites, all in their 70s and 80s, who wanted to show their support for THM. The appeal was started by P. Ramakrishnan (1959-1960), worked on by T. Balasubramaniam (1958-1959) and had exceeded the target. Ramakrishnan and Balasubramaniam then handed over the cheque for RM30,000.00 to YB Encik Akmal, who was also presented with a copy of “Kirkby College – A Heritage (Revised Edition 2015)” by the Alumni President, Dato V.L. Kandan.

Video Presentation

On both nights there were video presentations. Cynthia Lim (1960-1961) with the help of two non-Kirkbyites (Jack Lim and wife, Lynn Yong) edited and produced the video clips:

- (a) The **Commemoration** event in Kirkby, UK, 30-31 August 2017 – screened on Friday, 6 July.
- (b) The **ARK Exhibition & Forum** held in University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, on 7 April 2018 – screened on Saturday, 7 July.

Those who had not attended both these events were able to share the excitement and nostalgia experienced by the participants there.

Entertainment Programmes

In this Reunion we did not have any outside entertainment. It was completely in-house, thanks to Angeline Ong, Angeline Chang, and Cheah Lean Aing

On the first night, we had a variety show from our own Kirkbyites:

- (a) “A Medley of Songs” choreographed by Cheah Lean Eng
- (b) “Corona Can Lima” was led by Jim Lee and Mimi Foo

On the second night, we had the following:

- (a) “Chicken Dance” led by Angeline Chang
- (b) “Mama Maria” & “Bengawan Solo” led by Jim Lee & Mimi Foo
- (c) Singalong led Angeline Ong
- (d) Dancing to the music of Vincy Kuay’s Band

With Auld Lang Syne (with a big number still present!) the party ended at 11.00pm

Dialogue Session on Sunday 8 July

Dato V.L.Kandan, President of the Alumni Chaired the session.

Kandan called the House to order at 9.00am in the Delima Room of the Hotel, welcoming and thanking all for the good attendance. Almost all participants attended. He reminded them that no honorifics need to be observed while together at a Reunion.

The President covered four main points:

A) The Quest for Identity and Permanence

Kandan described the events that led to this stage: that we now have two depositories for Kirkby memorabilia – the Archive Resource for Knowsley (ARK) in Kirkby, England and the National Education Museum in Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), in Tanjong Malim.

This happened through the Commemoration of Kirkby College in Liverpool and the visits to UPSI to store our ARK exhibition materials and a full set of original Panduan.

He also announced UPSI might be holding a Kirkby Exhibition sometime in September this year.

B) Recording Kirkby History and Heritage

The gathering noted that:

- i) An outcome of the ARK Exhibition & Forum brought attention to the resources that could be found among Kirkby graduates.
- ii) The message from Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Hj Mohd Ali in our Reunion 2018 souvenir programme calls for Kirkbyites and Brinsfordians to “lead in the teaching of good grammatical English”. A joint venture between Kirkby and Brinsford Alumni is in the offing.
- iii) We have been updating contacts with surviving Kirkbyites.
- iv) Jack Lim, a toastmaster, has expressed interest in doing a documentary or a feature film on Kirkby College.
- v) Some stories are already recorded in the Kirkby College Heritage book; but there must be many untold ones – and these could be sent to the Alumni for evaluation. The ARK supplement included in the souvenir programme has an email address for communication with the ARK Centre in Kirkby.

C) Establishment of a Kirkby College

- i) Kandan’s proposal to establish a Kirkby College by the alumni did not move forward.
- ii) To avoid confusion with regard to the Kirkby International College, the Alumni name was

changed to a lengthy “Persatuan Alumni Malayan Teachers’ Training College, Kirkby, Liverpool, England”. To make it easier for those handling cheques, the Account name has been shortened to “Alumni Kirkby College – England”.

D) Establishment of Co-operative Society

This had been abandoned by the proposer, Kesavapany

Income & Expenses

There was sufficient income to meet the expenses of the Reunion and still have a surplus. The meeting decided that, upon audit, the surplus will be retained by the Alumni as revenue for its future activities. Future Biennial Reunions will still be organised by volunteers under the guidance of the Alumni.

8. Acknowledgements

Kandan concluded by saying that the most difficult part was to say ‘thank you’, lest he left out anyone who deserved to be recognised and went on to record his thanks to:

The Puteri Pacific Hotel, Johore Bahru, Its Sales Manager, Puan Azlinda Yaakap, Sales Executive Encik Zairemi Zulkapli and Events Manager Mr Nishan, for their fullest cooperation and assistance throughout.

The Chairman of the Reunion, **K. Kesavapany** and his Singapore Kirkbyite Colleagues, especially for lunch and Bollywood entertainment that was a surprise to all – it was hosted by **Urmila Nandey**, a former First Lady of Singapore, from batch 1952-54 and other Singapore Kirkbyites. It was a delicious spread in the Eurasian Community Centre - with delightful local entertainment on stage too!

Punithavathy – who attended to all the detailed arrangements in Johore Bahru.

Cynthia Lim – for the video presentation

Kathryn Yong – who was MC for the first night

Angeline Ong who was MC for the second night and led the Singalong

Performers in the Entertainment Programme led by Cheah Lean Aing from KL and
Angeline Chang, Jim Lee and Mimi Foo from Australia

Puan Sri Emily Yap and **Dato Kamalanathan Ratnam**, Sponsors – for the shirts/blouses:

S.S.Chandran, brother of Sasi Devi Mahadeva – for the group photo

P. Ramakrishnan and **T. Balasubramaniam** – who initiated the appeal for donations for

Tabung Harapan Malaysia that reached their target of RM30,000.00.

Tan Ling Suan – the Alumni Secretary, very efficient and diligent who constantly sends reminders and suggestions to the President

Hj Mohd Kamaruddin – the Alumni Treasurer who is always prompt in attending to all financial matters most efficiently.

Chong Hong Chong – who is always working in the background and ever willing to help in any way possible

Haswani – Kandan's office secretary who had tirelessly helped in the preparations

9. Plans for the Next Reunion

It was suggested that our Reunions should from now be held annually rather than biennially.

The proposal to hold it biennially was approved by a vote of 39 to 24.

To pick the venue for the next Biennial Reunion between Ipoh and Kuantan, Kuantan was the winner with a vote of 33 for Kuantan and 20 for Ipoh.

On a final note, due credit should be given to our co-organiser, V.L. Kandan, who with his team in KL, had shouldered most of the preparations in the Registration of participants, the souvenir Programme and goodie bags. Of course all the participants in this Reunion should give yourself a loving pat for the support and cooperation you have rendered – the Reunion could not have succeeded without your presence!

K. Kesavapany

Chairman

Organising Committee of Kirkby Reunion 2018.