



'Spring 2025'

Newsletter

thelaoassociationuk@gmail.com

N°12



About the LAUK

The Lao Association in the United Kingdom (L.A.U.K.) is an entirely voluntary organisation, primarily founded to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the Lao persons or persons with Lao origins resident in the United Kingdom, including the advancement of education and the relief of poverty and distress.

We strive to maintain, promote and introduce the Lao tradition, language and culture within our community and wherever possible throughout the broad spectrum of British Society.

Mr Thavisak Souphakhet

LAUK Advisor

Executive Committee Members 2024

LAUK Patro

Tiao Ingkham Rangsi Oguz

President

Linda Ratanavong Hagues

Vice President

Oliver Oguz

General Secretary

Kristian Sakulku

Treasurer

Sithideth Souriyadeth

Executive Members

Virunee Viravong

Anthony Sihapanya

Nini Thongsalak

Advisor

Daravanh Nokeokumon

Meet Our 2025 Committee Members

Linda Ratanavong Hagues

LAUK committee member since July 2018, though have been attending LAUK events since its inception. As an Executive Assistant primarily focusing on fundraising, marketing and finance, I have work for International Humanitarian Agency CARE International which operates in over 120 countries including Laos.

Oliver Oguz

Born in the UK to Lao heritage, I am a lawyer by profession with a background in organising cultural events. My mother came to the UK as a refugee and is now Patron of Laos in the UK. I'm honoured to serve as Vice President of the Laos Community and to support our committee as we respectfully continue the work of the generation before us. Together, we aim to celebrate and preserve our rich culture with heart, humility, and unity.



Sithideth Souriyadeth

Qualified accountant with the ACCA and been treasurer of LAUK since August 2011. Works for an international IT recruitment business headquartered in the City of London.



Virunee Viravong

Sabaidee everyone, I am a Senior Software Engineer currently living and working in London. I've been going to LAUK events since I was little and my father, Virasene, was a previous president. I'm excited to bring my technical skills to help the Lao community. My favourite food is *laap*, or *khao soy* Luang Prabang-style, washed down with an ice cold Beer Lao of course!

Anthony Sihapanya



Kristian Sakulku

Sabaidee my name is Kristian and I'm excited to join the LAUK Executive Committee. I'm of dual Lao heritage – My father is Lao and my mother is Austrian. I was born and raised in London and often visited the VLC Centre in East London over the years. It's very important to me to be connected with my Lao heritage, I love continuing to learn about Lao culture and traditions and have visited Laos several times. If I had to choose a favourite Lao dish it would be *_laab tao_*, I miss it when I return to the UK. I enjoy cooking and am most proud of my *sai oua* and *mok gai*.



Nini Thongsalak

Hi My name is Malavane Thalongsak. You may recognise me or my name because my mum is quite a present and long standing member of the Lao community in the UK. This is my first year on the Lao committee board and I'm hoping to bring a lot to the table in terms of helping out with key events in the Lao calendar.

I'm very pleased to be a part of this community and hope that we can grow as a unit in the UK.

Also very happy and privileged to work alongside some great people from the Lao descent.

Message from the President

Sabaidee and welcome to all members of our Lao Community.

Since taking on the chairmanship following the LAUK AGM last June, I have been trying to implement a few changes to the Lao Association in order to keep the community thriving, enhance cooperation and promote:

New Committee:

The new committee is comprised of young, enthusiastic Lao first-generation children

Updates:

1. Update to the constitution
2. Creation of new website
3. Creation of new logo

Future activities:

1. Speaker events
2. Family fun day

Past Activities

BBQ on the Beach

August 2024

Attendance at the Lao National Front for Development Meeting for Lao Diaspora

November 2024

Joint ASEAN societies Annual Reception

December 2024

LAUK Christmas Party

December 2024

Meeting with Lao Desk Office, Foreign Commonwealth Development Office

February 2025

Pi Mai Party

Date

Saturday 12 April 2025

Venue

Winston Churchill Theatre
Ruislip, London

Ticket price

Adults £20

Children over 12 and Students £15

Under 12 free

Tickets can be purchased online

Programme

10:30 - Doors open

11:00 - Monks blessing

12:00 - Lunch offering for monks

Thank you to all who came to our LAUK Pimai 2025 party on 12th April.

- Hosts Kristian and Audette
- Our speakers Duangmany Gnotsyoudom, Hugh Evans, Sally Sakulku
- Mor Porn Virasene who guided us through the baci ceremony
- Dravanh guided us through the Song Nam ceremony
- Virunee's band playing live music
- DJ Loong Oot
- Traditional dancers
- Nini and Nunu Front of house
- All the people who donated prizes and Oliver and Anthony for sourcing
- Air who prepared the buffet
- President Linda and the executive LAUK committee; Anthony, Kristian, Nini, Oliver, Sithideth and Virunee
- Winston Churchill theatre and team for hosting us

In Memorium

Sayaphone Khounsombath - February 2025

For Religious News, Please Visit:



Wat Pra Singh

88 High Street,
Runcorn,
Cheshire
WA7 1JH

[Visit Facebook
Page Here](#)

Wat Buddhapadipa,

14 Calonne Road,
Wimbledon Parkside
SW19 5HJ

[Visit Facebook
Page Here](#)

Wat Buddharam,

77 Blake Hall Road,
Wanstead,
London
E11 3QX

[Visit Facebook
Page Here](#)

Wat Cittaviveka,

Chithurst Buddhist Monastery,
Chithurst,
Petersfield,
Hampshire,
GU31 5EU

[Visit Website Here](#)

Amaravati Buddhist Monastery,

Great Gaddesden,
Hemel Hempstead,
Hertfordshire,
HP1 3BZ

[Visit Website Here](#)

Dulwich Festival - Artist Open House



9-18 MAY 2025

DULWICHFESTIVAL.CO.UK



@dulwichfestival @artistsopenhse

Virunee will be exhibiting some of her artwork alongside fellow members of her tennis club, as part of the Artist Open House event in the Dulwich Festival.

A portion of her artwork will be illustrations of various parts of Lao culture, so if you're in the area, please go along and visit, and maybe pick up a nice memento of your favourite Lao things.

The festival will be running over 2 weekends in May, and it is free to attend any of the open houses.

Refreshments will be available from the tennis club bar over both weekends, so relax, unwind, and enjoy the best of both worlds – art and tennis!

Dates: 10-11 May, 17-18 May

Location: Old College Lawn Tennis Club, 10 GALLERY ROAD SE21 7AB

[More Information Here](#)





Refill, Reuse, Rethink: The Walkthrough Refill Shop in Crystal Palace

Tucked away in Crystal Palace's Triangle, The Walkthrough Refill Shop is making sustainable living accessible for everyone. Specialising in organic package-free food staples, cleaning products, and personal care items, this little haven invites you to shop with intention and reduce waste. Rebecca started the shop with learned habits of bulk buying from her Lao father and wanted it to be easy for everyone to do.

Bring your own containers or grab one in-store, and fill up on everything from pasta, pulses and spices to washing-up liquid and shampoo. With friendly staff always ready to guide newcomers through the refill process, it's a welcoming stop for both zero-waste veterans and those just starting their sustainability journey.

By supporting The Walkthrough Refill Shop, you're helping to build a cleaner, greener world.

Pop in and take part in the refill revolution. A small change in your routine can make a big difference.

Location: The Walkthrough, Jubilee House, Haynes Lane, London SE19 3AN

[More Information Here](#)



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