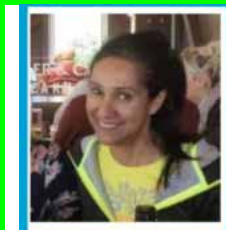


Mylene writes from Hokkaido



Autumn is a beautiful time in Japan

Autumn Leaves Where Nature's Palette Puts on a Show of Red, Orange, Yellow, Gold, Brown, Maroon, Rust, Ochre



Most people know that spring in Japan is associated with cherry blossom viewing. Similarly, when autumn arrives, it's time to admire the beauty of the changing leaves. Whether in the woods, mountains, parks or simply taking a scenic drive to enjoy the vibrant foliage, this tradition is known as momiji.

I decided to visit Tenjin-yama Park located not far from the heart of Sapporo, the capital city of Hokkaido, for momiji.

Wandering through the park felt like strolling through a vibrant tapestry of warm hues. The serene landscape and crisp air created a feeling of calmness, but also a hint of melancholy, reminding me that this fleeting display of colours and fallen leaves represents the transitional nature of the season. Autumn is a time of letting go and moving forward, a time of change, all integral to life's cycle.

Autumn also marks a change in our eating habits. As the temperature drops, there's a tendency to eat warming comfort foods. This season is when fruits and vegetables are at their best, and our bodies often crave more sustenance to keep energy levels up during the colder months. In short, it leads us to gain a few pounds!



Tenjin Mountain with ski slope



A Clinical Trial Unit under the Metabolic, Advance Cardiac Imaging and Research Division,

was officially launched, this morning, during a ceremony held at the Trust Fund for Specialised Medical Care, in Pamplemousses.

The establishment of the Clinical Trial Unit (CTU) represents a significant milestone in the advancement of the national healthcare system, with the primary aim of promoting evidence-based medical practice and strengthening local research capacity. Furthermore, the Unit seeks to enhance patient access to innovative therapies, uphold the highest standards of ethics and safety in research, and position Mauritius as a regional hub for people-centred clinical research.

The launching ceremony was presided over by the Minister of Health and Wellness, Mr Anil Kumar Bachoo in the presence of the Junior Minister, Ms Anishta Babooram; Member of Parliament, Dr Sandeep Prayag; the Director, Hatter Cardiovascular Institute, Prof Derek

Yellon; the Co-founder and Clinical Director, Prof Sir John Malcolm Walker; the World Health Organisation Representative to Mauritius, Dr Anne-Marie Ancia; and other eminent personalities from the medical and research community.

In his address, Minister Bachoo emphasised that modern medicine requires a combination of scientific knowledge and clinical skills to achieve optimal outcomes for patients. Medical knowledge evolves rapidly, and information taught at university or found in textbooks may become outdated by the time doctors graduate, he said.

According to him, reliance solely on research conducted in other countries may not fully reflect the local population's genetic background, lifestyle, or environment. Consequently, the establishment of the CTU will facilitate locally relevant clinical research, promote evidence-based decision-making, and ensure that advanced treatments are developed and adapted specifically for Mauritian patients, while simultaneously creating employment opportunities and advancing healthcare innova-

tion.

The Minister also underscored that the Unit's operations are supported through international partnerships with University College London (UK) and the University of Cape Town, thereby placing Mauritius amid a respected global research network. He expressed confidence that the CTU will enhance patient care by easing access to innovative therapies, training and upskilling local doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals, and expanding research into specialised areas such as oncology in the future.

Clinical Trial Unit

With the setting up of the CTU, Mauritian doctors and healthcare professionals will have the opportunity to participate in high-quality clinical studies, ensuring that new medicines, treatments, and medical technologies are rigorously tested and adapted to meet the specific needs of the local community.

The CTU will operate under strict ethical and scientific standards. All studies will



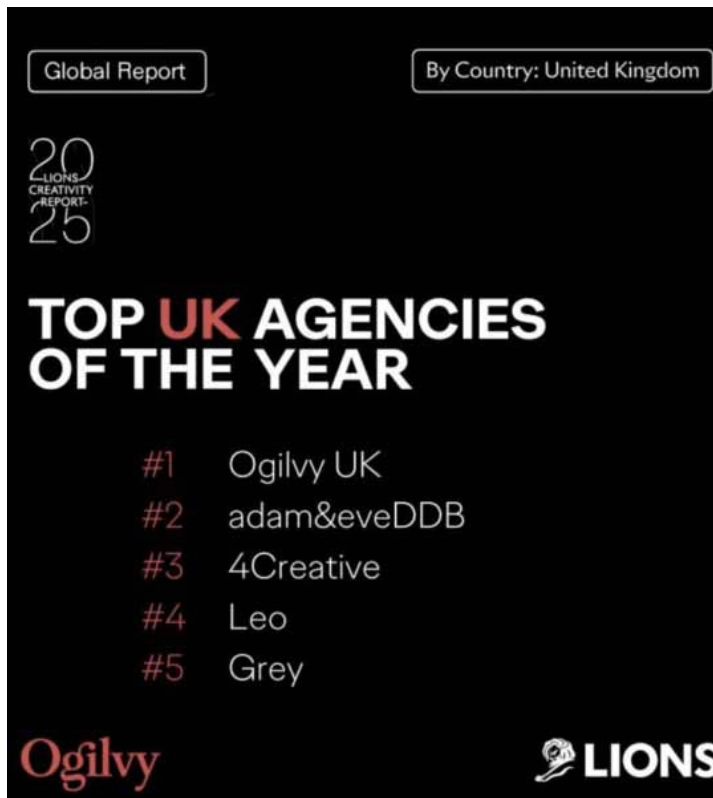
require approval from an independent ethics committee, and patient safety will remain the top priority. Participants will provide informed consent and their data will be kept strictly confidential. Trained doctors and nurses will closely monitor the trials, as per Good Clinical Practice guidelines.

The CTU will also collaborate with local hospitals and international partners to conduct research directly relevant to the Mauritian population, initially focusing on cardiac and oncology trials. This approach will integrate research into everyday healthcare practice and improve treatment outcomes, ensuring that patients benefit from innovative and high-quality care.

Advertising Exhibitions

Ogilvy obtains Top Place

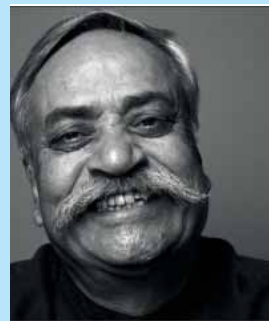
By Yvonne Goder-Persand, LLM



Congratulations are in order for my sister, Benita Goder-Dent, who has worked exceptionally hard along with a strong team since 2012 at Ogilvy UK, one of the largest advertising companies in the UK as Awards Director before moving up to be Creative Excellence Director from 2022.

Ogilvy UK won first place at the Cannes Lions 2025 Creative Rankings Report and third place in EMEA (Europe, Middle East, and Africa).

Ogilvy India tragically lost Piyush Pandey an advertising pioneer aged 70 years old and brother to Indian actress Ila Arun.



Benita Goder-Dent

Mauritian Diaspora Promotes the Sega

The Voice of Mauritius' International Plans

By Yvonne Goder-Persand, LLM

We attended the Phoenix post Carnival Party organised by Voice of Mauritius (VoM) on Friday 24th October 2025 at Belair House in Dulwich, S.E. London.

The event was an intimate gathering focusing on progressing Mauritian culture, art, charity work in the UK, with provisional plans to expand internationally in 2026. Voice of Mauritius (VoM) is a charity created by George Lauricourt in 1992 and registered in the UK from 1994. VoM are extremely welcoming and anyone wishing to learn about Mauritian music, food and particularly Mauritian dance as in the traditional Segga, is encouraged to make contact with the Association.

VoM have been prominent figures in the Notting Hill Carnival which is mainly dedicated to embracing Caribbean culture. However, many black cultures are unaware of Mauritius's similar background to the Caribbean owing to mixed races and varied traditions in our country.



Maia Lauricourt addressing assistance at VoM event

In both countries Creole, Bhojpuri and Hindi are spoken

The Creole Segga music and dance are similar to Trinidad's Calypso. Both countries' folk music are performed at the annual Notting Hill Carnival. The West Indian Soca Music & Dance have much in common with the Mauritian Segga Music & Dance. The Soca's beat is to the tune of the Drum whereas the Segga's beat is to the tune of the Ravanne. Both the Drum and the Ravanne put one in the mood to get up and shake.

Understandably, the Notting Hill Carnival, from tradition wishes, to promote the West Indian culture in the UK.

Sometimes, it can be politically challenging to welcome other cultural traditions. Though Mauritius is part of Africa, the island has a variety of customs and traditions which may look foreign to the West Indian way of life. But the common heritage is Creole and this is expressed in our food, music and even the lingo we speak. There are more similarities than differences.

George Lauricourt, several years ago, took his group of segga dancers to participate in the annual West Indian Carnival in West London. The VoM dancers were already locally well-known. They took part in the Greenwich and Woolwich festivals. George was an active resident connected with the local councils and it was easy for him to obtain backing to join the big do at Notting Hill.

George passed away in 2020 and the Mauritian flag has been taken over by his granddaughter Maia. As a true member of the Mauritian diaspora, Maia wishes to popularise the segga internationally. Her group may visit Mauritius sometime next year.

Editor's Note: In the picture on the right, Late George Lauricourt is seen with Hon Nick Raynsford, MP for Greenwich and Woolwich, and Peter Chellen, Mauritius News Editor.

George had organised a Sports Day on the Woolwich Sports Ground with the participation of the local council and of the local residents, Mauritians and non-Mauritians.

Before emigrating to the UK, George was a member of Mauritius Police Force. The Police annual sports day was held at the Lines Barrack in Port Louis. George was their star athlete. He won every racing events of the day to the great enjoyment of the crowd. It went on for some years.

What a memorable time!

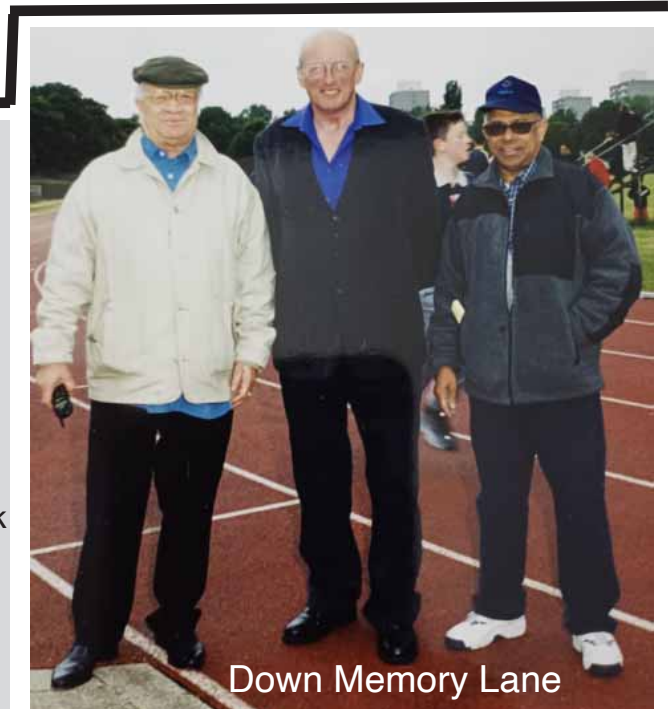
P.C.



Late George Lauricourt and the VOM segga dancers

VoM team are looking forward to the Notting Hill Carnival in August 2026 with a possible visit to Mauritius. This may be a tight schedule to keep.

We hope Voice of Mauritius' international expansion be successful to promote their love of music and dance, and their charity activities for the betterment of the community.



Down Memory Lane

Football

EPL Round UP October 2025

With almost a quarter of this year's Premier League season gone, Arsenal lead after an undefeated run following their loss to Liverpool in gameweek 3. It's seven wins and a draw from their first nine games and they're currently a very tough team to beat.

Arsenal have only conceded three goals this season and their precision at corners has provided 11 goals already. With a number of quality signings added in the summer, the Gunners have the opportunity to build on their lead, especially with their rivals experiencing mixed fortunes.

Champions Liverpool are struggling for points and form following successive defeats. Their summer signings clearly haven't settled yet and the established players are also off form. Hugo Ekitiké and Dominic Szoboszlai are the only two who have performed consistently so far.

Arne Slot needs to quickly find the formation, tactics and line-ups that get the best out of this group of players if they want to successfully defend their title. Manchester City are also considered a title contender and sit in the top six but, they're far from the imperious team that won four titles in a row. They've already

lost three games and don't even resemble a Pep Guardiola team at times.

This season, they've defended in a low block, conceded possession and hit long balls, which we've never seen from a Guardiola team before. It maybe reflects the different playing styles we're seeing from so many Premier League teams this season; playing out from the back is almost gone, with the long ball back in favour.

Another trend this year is the long throw, which is proving a great source of goals. Most teams now employ it and while it's not seen as sophisticated, it's causing havoc for defences. It also gives less talented teams goal-scoring opportunities that are otherwise hard to create in open play.

These facts alone may account for the good form shown by the newly promoted teams, Sunderland, Burnley and Leeds. They don't concede easy chances and have already picked more points than their counterparts from the previous three seasons, with the former in the top four!

Manchester United have benefitted from this type of play to finally record successive wins



recently. Ruben Amorim is another coach who isn't getting the best out of his team and their form has been indifferent all season. It's hard to predict what you'll get from them each game, and the same can be said for many of the other so-called big teams.

It's hard to make match predictions this season, and Arsenal will hope they can take advantage of their opponents' current uncertain form.

Rob Skolar

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mauritians Gain New Work Route to Canada

A recently launched labour-migration initiative, by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), will offer employment opportunities in Canada for Mauritian workers and their families. The programme, announced this autumn, seeks skilled and semi-skilled workers in the agricultural, oil, hospitality, mining, healthcare, construction and transportation industries.

Those selected will receive the required assistance to apply for the regulated jobs with full labour protections and family relocation options to Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba provinces. This programme offers the selected Mauritian workers the opportunity to apply for permanent migration status through existing migration initiatives.

Further Information: IOM Press Release

(<https://www.iom.int/news/mauritians-work-canada-through-new-labour-migration-programme>)

Mauritius Pushes New "Diaspora Engagement Strategy"

Have you heard of the Mauritius Diaspora Engagement Strategy? This scheme offers incentives to professionals, entrepreneurs and investors living abroad to invest, mentor start-ups, and return for short-term or permanent placements. Incentives can include fast-tracked residency permits and tax exemptions. Officials say the plan seeks to "connect the Mauritian mind and capital abroad with opportunities at home".

The scheme may benefit skilled professionals or retirees seeking to contribute to Mauritius without uprooting entirely. Find out more: Diaspora for Development Brief

(https://diasporafordevelopment.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CF_Mauritius.pdf)

We Shine at London's Autumn Festivals

Mauritian people and culture shone yet again at London's Diwali on the Square festival this October. Thousands descended on Trafalgar Square for the event hosted by Sadiq Khan, London Mayor, with Mauritian performers among the highlights. The community also hosted a Mauritian Dodo Diwali Family Party in North London, complete with live sega, Mauritian food stalls and guest artists flown in from the island.

Event highlights: Diwali on the Square 2025

(<https://www.london.gov.uk/events/diwali-square-2025>)

Mauritius Financial Strategy Invites Diaspora Expertise

Mauritius' government and private-sector partners have launched a five-year strategy to grow its financial services hub, following a report by the Ministry of Financial Services and Economic Planning. The plan aims to redefine the nation's financial services industry, eventually positioning Mauritius as the leading International Financial Centre (IFC) for Africa and Asia, anchored by sustainability, technology and excellence.

Finance and fintech professionals in the diaspora may have the opportunity to engage with Mauritius' evolving financial ecosystem — either through consultancy work, remote projects, etc. Further details: Sovereign Group Financial Strategy Summary (<https://www.sovereign-group.com/news/mauritius-unveils-ambitious-five-year-strategy-for-financial-services-sector/>)

Rob Skolar

The tongue has no bone, but it is strong enough to break a heart. So be careful with your words.

Two leading figures remembered by members of the Mauritian community

From Michel Marain



Remember Sylvio Link? He was a regular performer at every Père Laval get-together after the mass.

Though he passed away just after the annual mass over a year ago, members of the community still remember him and perform his favourite sega song: *Rum la na pas bon mais to continuer boire*. Members of the Mauritian community to put up a show shortly in his memory.

Marie Reid's funeral was held on 13 October 2025 at the Golders Green Crematorium. She was 72 years old, She was a very sympathetic person and highly respected. She helped to organise the Annual Père Laval Mass at the St Boniface Catholic Church in Tooting Broadway in September last. She was also a leading figure for the get-together after the mass. She will be greatly missed, state the sympathisers



Local colour: China Town Festival 2025 (A feast of chinese tradition and cuisine)

The festival was held on 25 and 26 October. Did more members of the other communities attend than Sino-Mauritians?

