

# MK TOGETHER

A Living Archive Milton Keynes Exhibition,  
co-curated with Sagar Kharecha



*Bridge Street, New Bradwell – Celebration of George V Silver Jubilee, 1935*

In recent years it has been difficult for many communities to gather in person. This exhibition celebrates different communities across Milton Keynes as they come together: in protest, in commemoration or in celebration.

For this exhibition, Living Archive Milton Keynes has worked with local documentary photographer Sagar Kharecha. Sagar is dedicated to recording life in Milton Keynes in all its diversity. He describes himself as a ‘hyperlocal’ photographer and he is fascinated by all aspects of life in the city.

Living Archive collects, preserves and shares the stories of Milton Keynes. We aim to build a sense of place, using old memories to create new ones by bringing communities together. We believe that ‘everybody has a story to tell’ and we want to tell the stories of every community in the city. We have a wealth of material in our diverse archive, covering many years of Milton Keynes history. In 2024 we will celebrate our 40th anniversary.

We are always keen to connect with individuals or community groups who would like to record or share their stories. We also invite writers, musicians, artists and other creatives from across the city to use our archive as a source of inspiration. Do get in touch with your ideas about how we might work together.

[admin@livingarchive.org.uk](mailto:admin@livingarchive.org.uk)



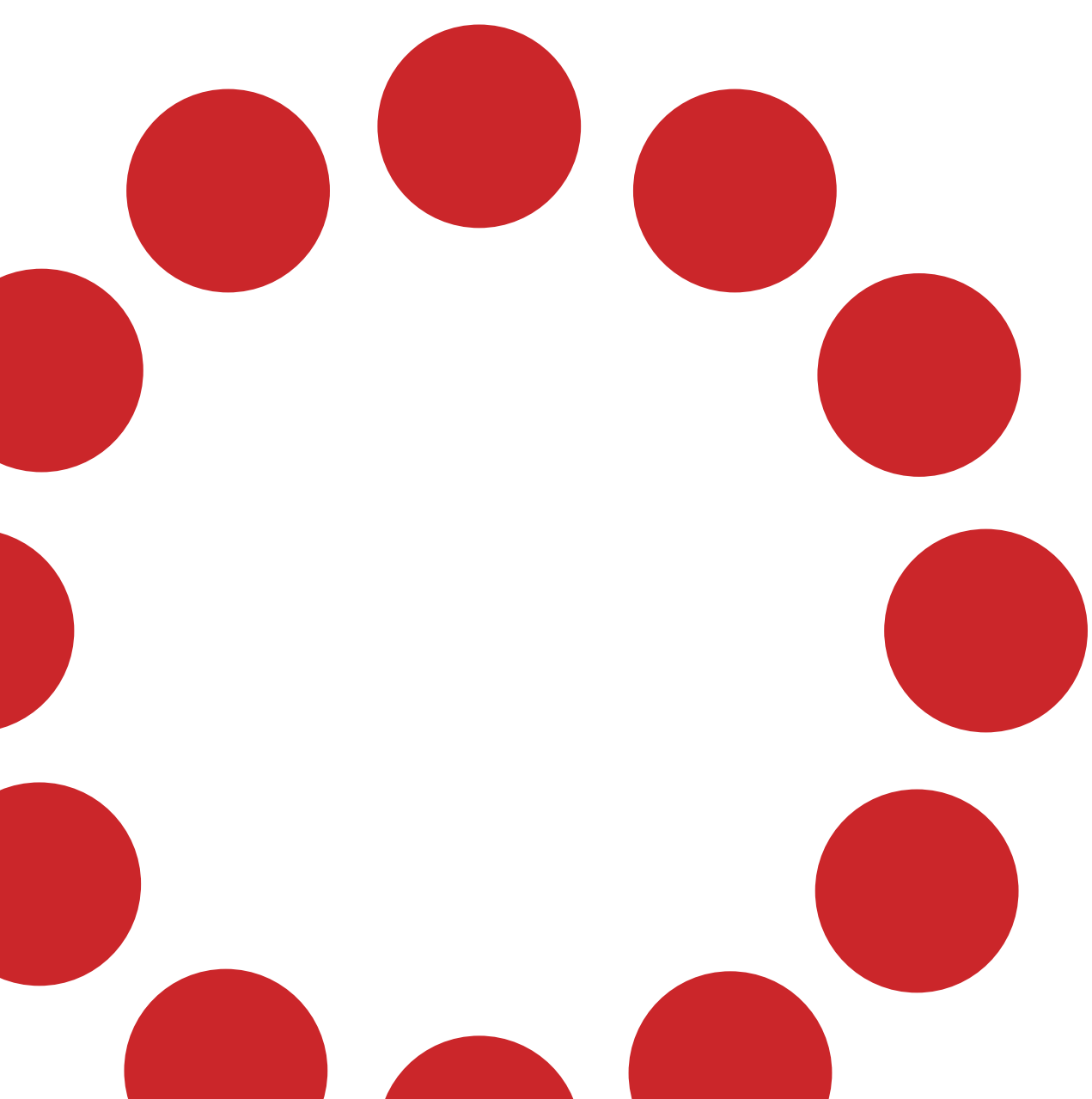




## **African Diaspora Parade** (July 2022)

The African Diaspora Festival parade, organised by the African Diaspora Foundation Milton Keynes, celebrates cultures from across the continent of Africa, from Eritrea to Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Ghana. The musicians played “When The Saints Go Marching In” as the diaspora danced in traditional clothing or adorned in their respective flags.

[africandiasporafoundation.org.uk](http://africandiasporafoundation.org.uk)





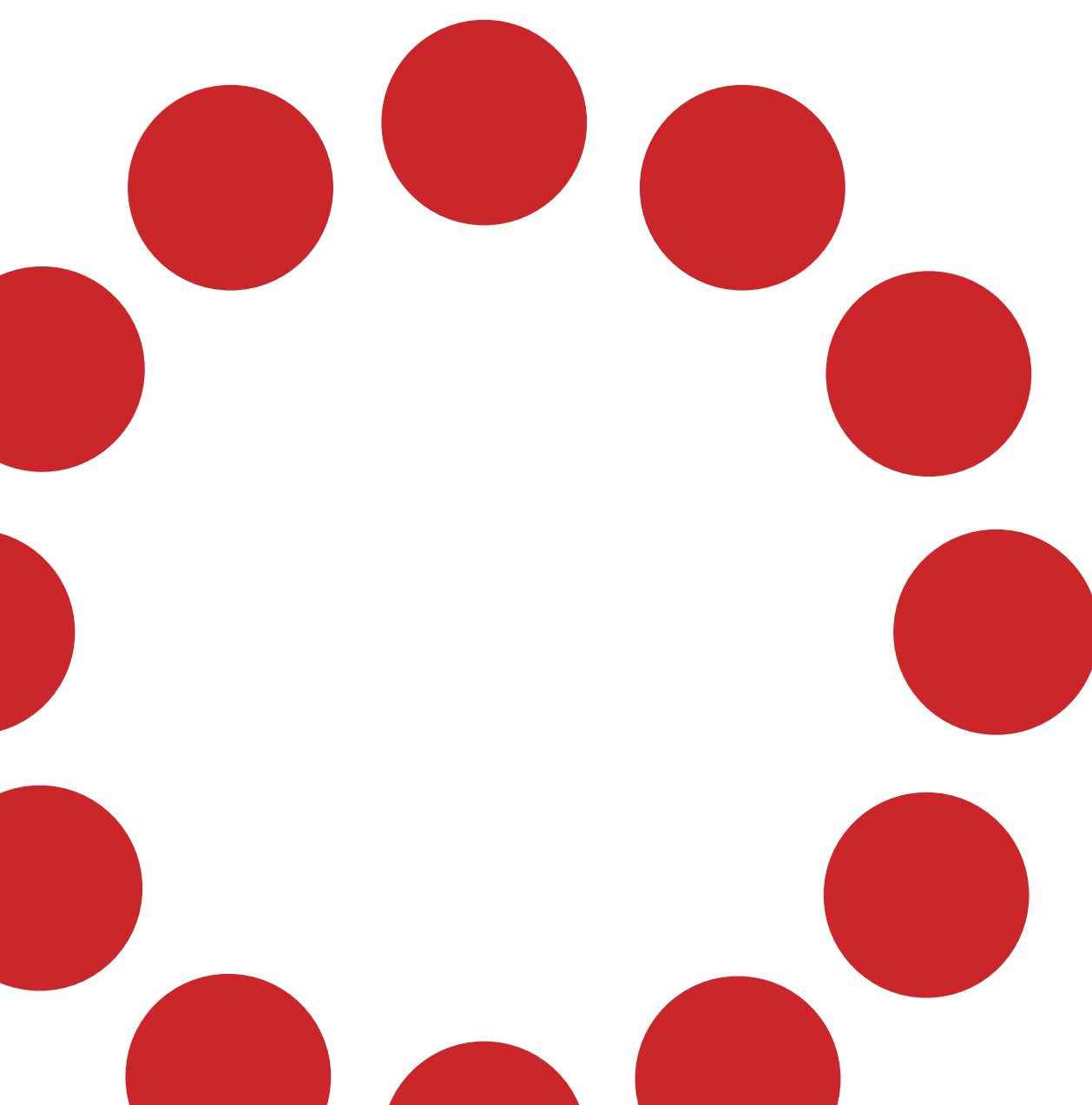


## **BLM-MK, Dancing in the Rain** (June 2020)

The Black Lives Matter protest in Milton Keynes was organised in response to the worldwide anti-racism movement prompted by the death of George Floyd. Taking place whilst many lockdown restrictions were still in place, organisers had to follow strict guidelines.

As the historic protest march ended, a few remained at Station Square to talk and reflect. Soon after, a heavy downpour fell. Music started playing and the youth embraced that moment rather than shelter away. It felt like a moment of eternal joy.

[Blacklivesmatter.com](https://blacklivesmatter.com)





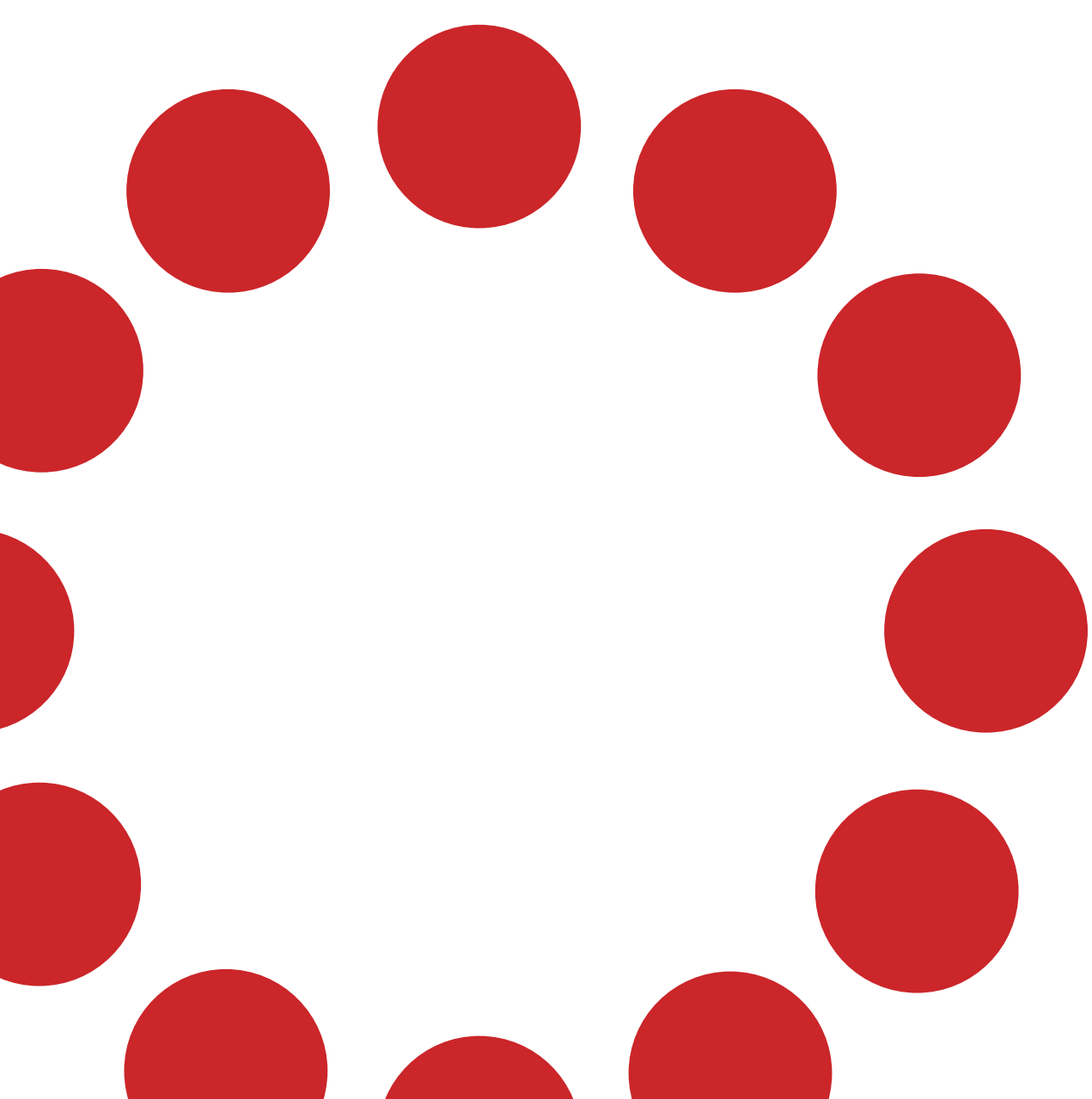


## **Free Tibet Day** (April 2022)

Hosted at Nipponzan Myohoji Monastery near Willen Lake. Free Tibet Day promotes the liberation of Tibet and celebrates Tibetan culture and Buddhist teachings. At this event, Milton Keynes Mayor Khan was honoured with the raising of the Tibetan flag.

Nipponzan Myohoji are a small Japanese Buddhist order dedicated to the building of peace pagodas world wide and the chanting and drumming of the Daimoku for world peace and social justice, especially in relation to nuclear disarmament.

[mkbuddhism.wordpress.com](http://mkbuddhism.wordpress.com)



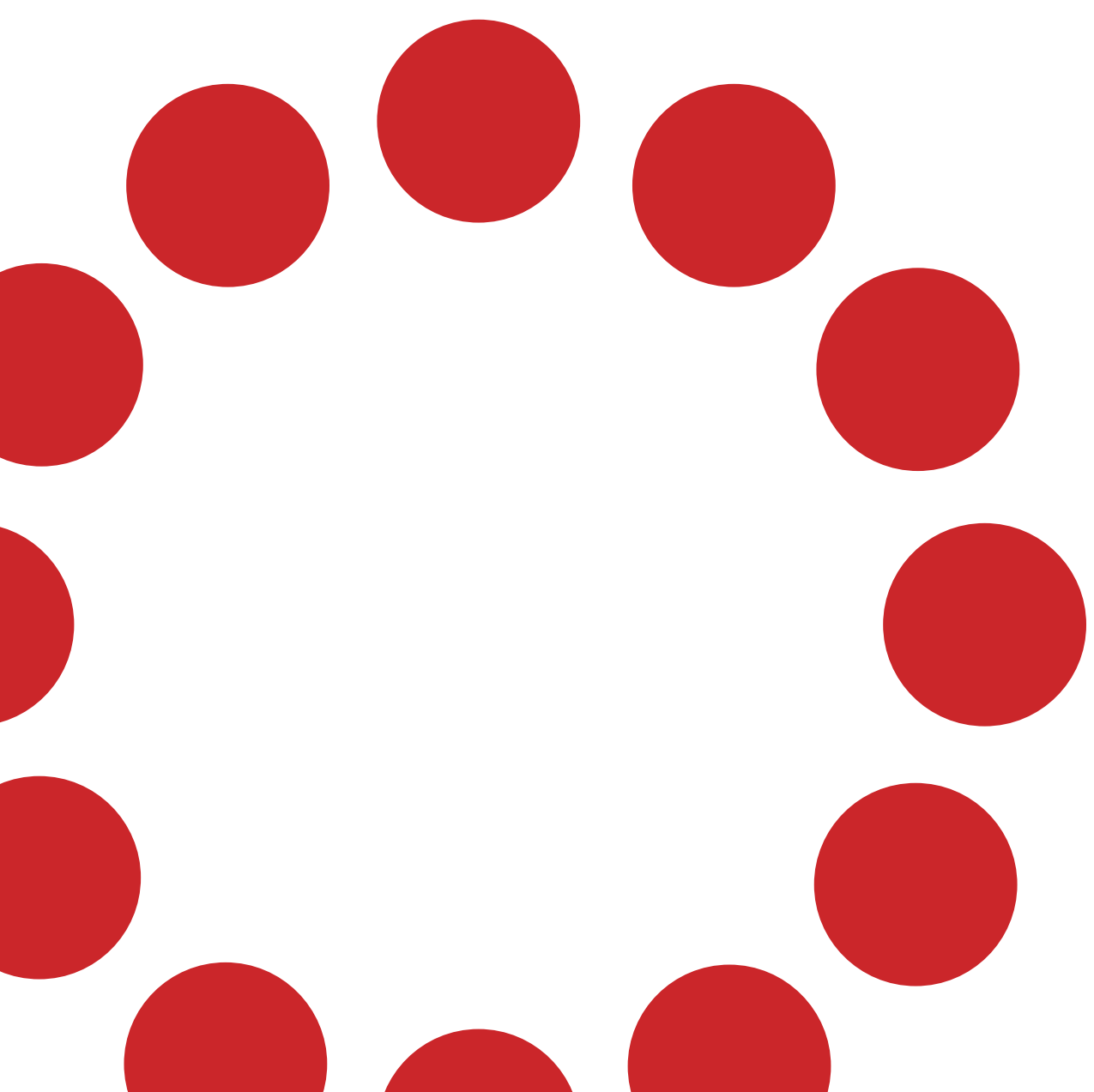




## **Hussain Day Procession** (September 2022)

Organised by the Zainabiya Islamic Centre in Bletchley, an interfaith procession makes its way through CMK to Campbell Park. The procession honours the sacrifice and courage of Hussain Ibn Ali, the grandson of the Islamic prophet Muhammad.

[ksimiltonkeynes.org](http://ksimiltonkeynes.org)





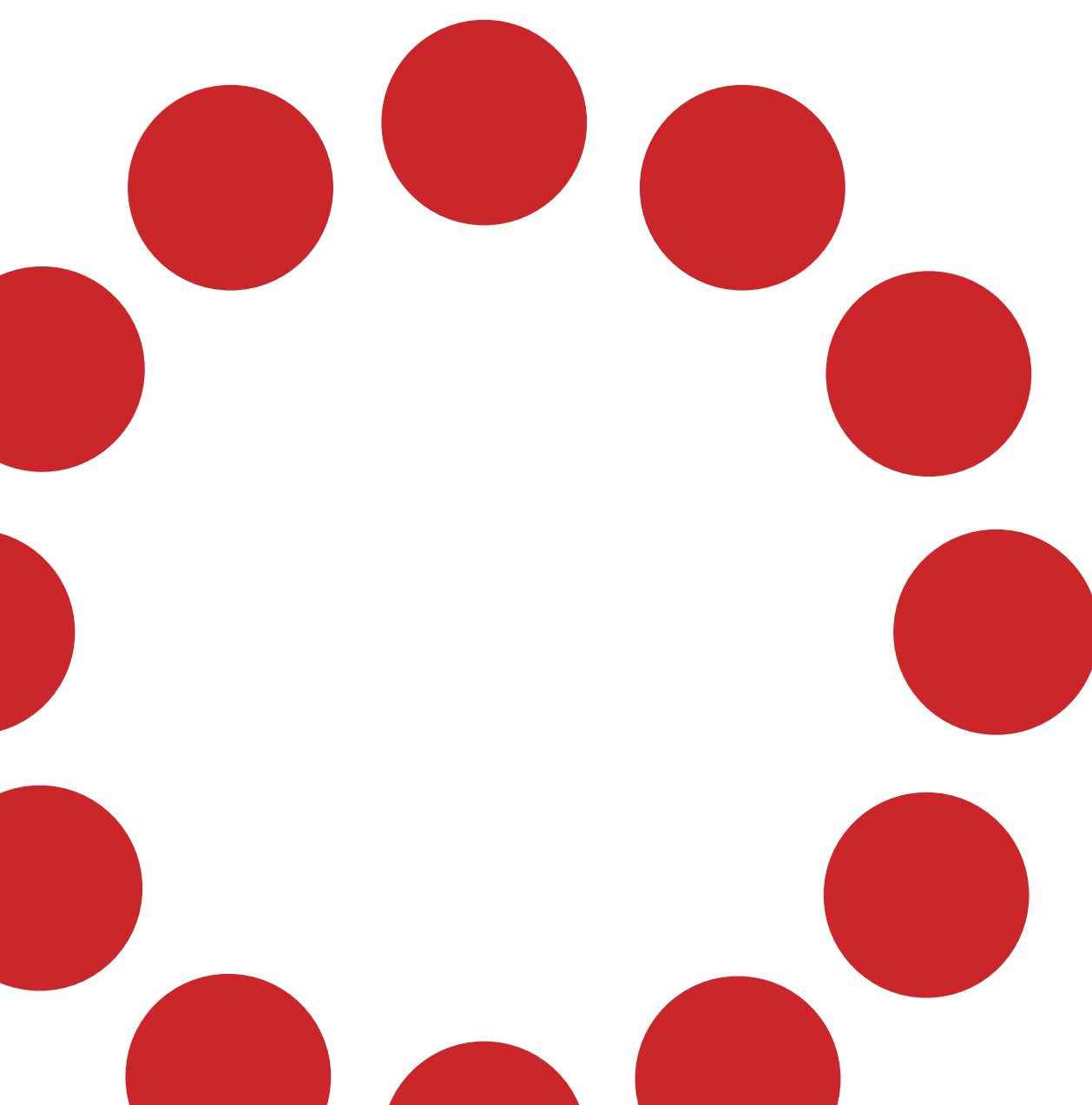


## **India Day Milton Keynes, West Bengal Parade** (June 2022)

The West Bengal parade team were waiting to perform their routine in the Campbell Park amphitheatre where music was playing. The youth got in sync and started dancing. The ballerina outfit juxtaposed with traditional dress shows a cultural integration between Indian and British identity.

India Day Milton Keynes (IDMK) is a cultural, community-driven, not-for-profit, non-political and non-religious organisation of the Indian Diaspora in Milton Keynes. The aim of IDMK is to showcase the “unity in diversity” of all communities through a cultural event held during the middle of British summer (usually the last weekend of June).

[idmk.org](http://idmk.org)





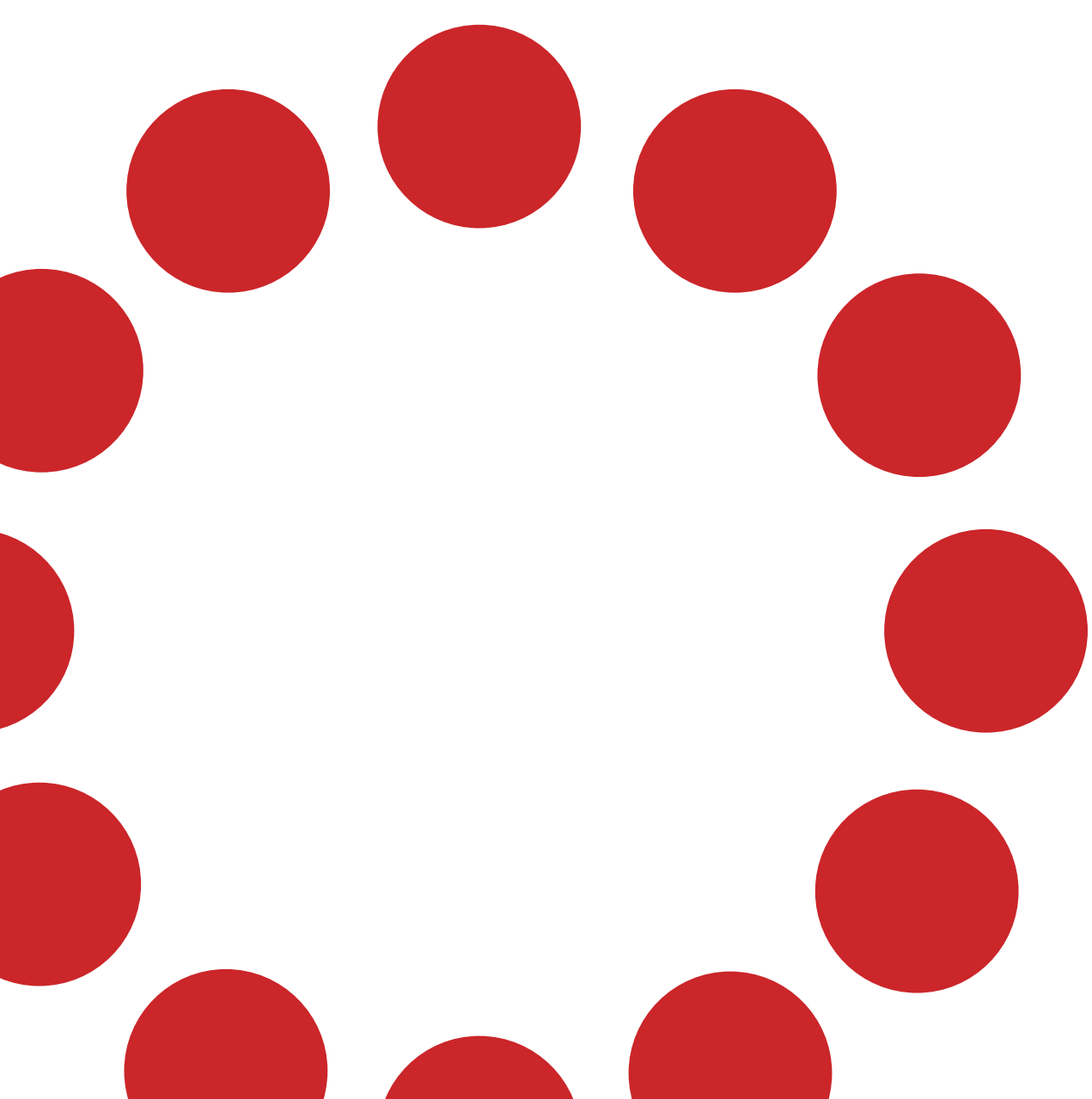


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Following a last-minute run through of their dance routine and neatening of dresses, the women of the West Bengal Parade team shimmer atop the peak of Campbell Park.

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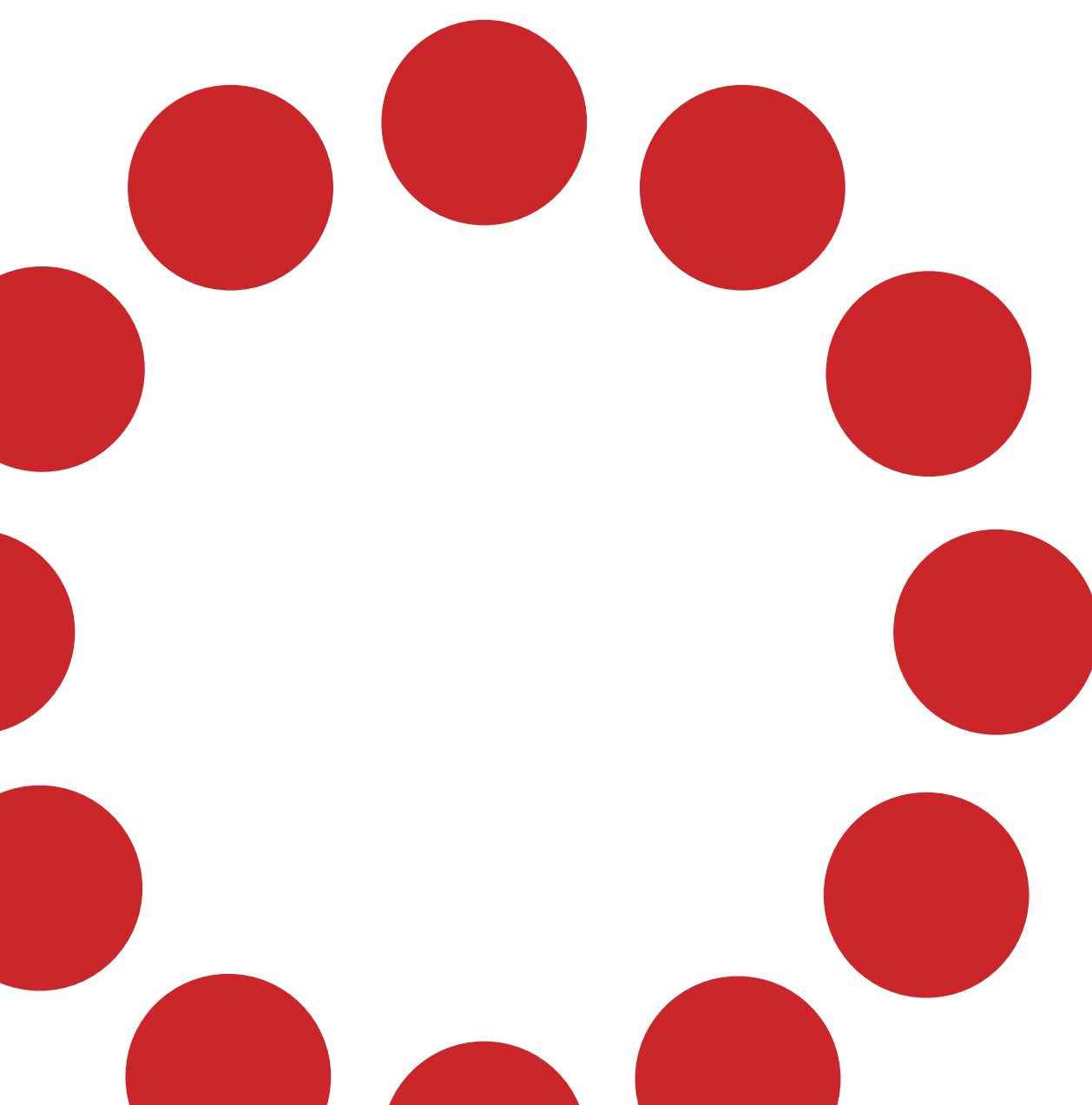


## **Murugan Temple Ceremony (May 2022)**

A beacon of the Tamil community, Neath Hill Murugan Temple conducts the foundation-laying ceremony for phase 2 of the Temple design. This ceremony instilled blessings and prosperity into the very ground for generations to come.

The Murugan Temple Trust is a registered Charitable Trust which fosters Hinduism and aims to perform charitable deeds to people in their hour of need. The Trust is fundraising to build the first traditional Hindu Temple in Milton Keynes.

[miltonkeynesmurugantrust.com](http://miltonkeynesmurugantrust.com)



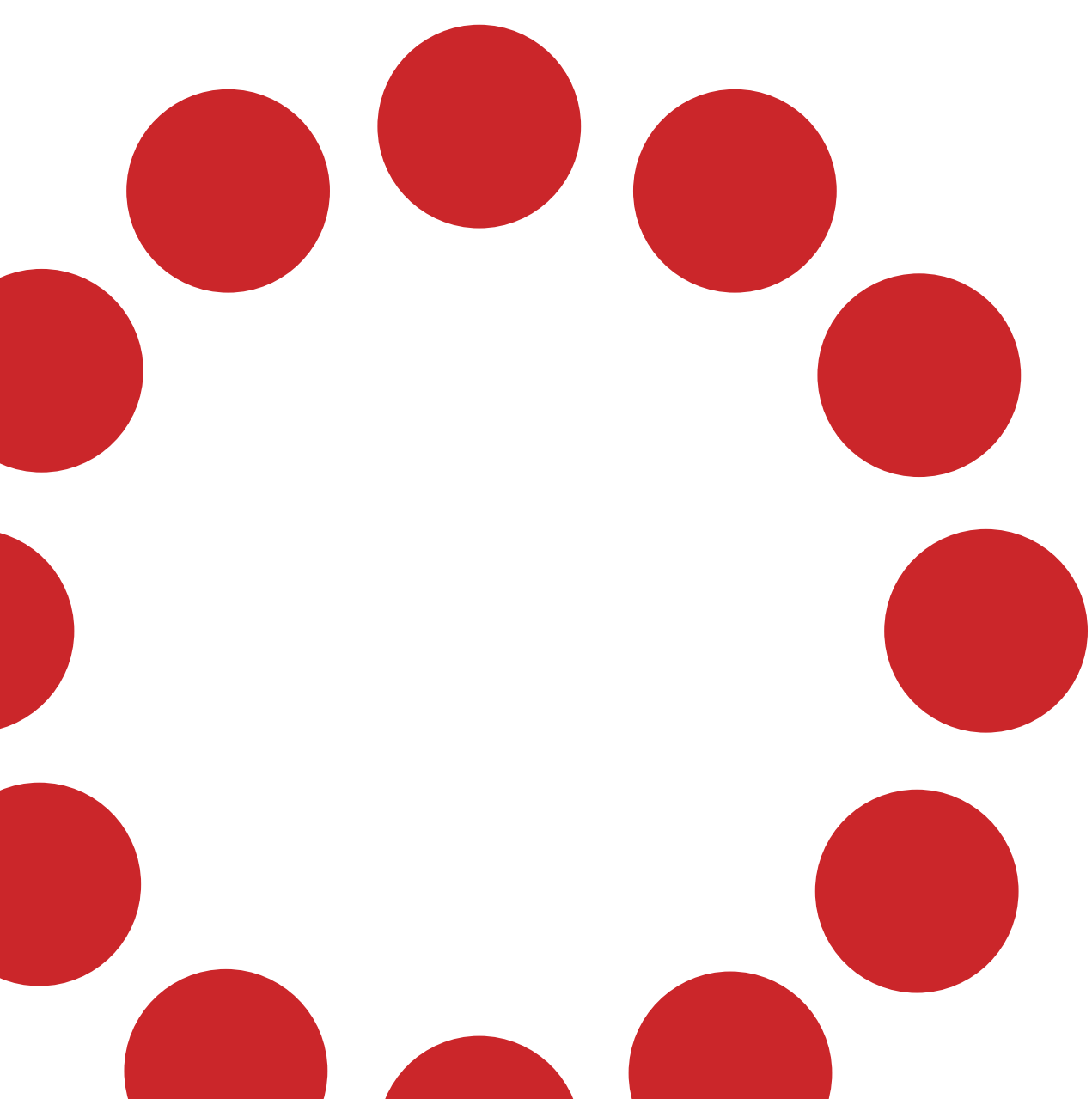




## **Platinum Jubilee, MK Rose** (June 2022)

2022's Platinum Jubilee celebrations culminated at the MK Rose, whilst also marking the long awaited announcement of Milton Keynes' city status. Residents, dignitaries and military cadets are encircled by commonwealth flags as the city choir sings the national anthem.

[miltonkeynesrose.org.uk](https://miltonkeynesrose.org.uk)







## **Traditional Music Gathering (Bhajan)** (June 2021)

As the lockdown restrictions eased, a musical gathering was held as a relief against the prolonged isolation. Music would go on for hours at a time, ultimately concluding after midnight.

In many Hindu traditions Bhajans are a form of congregational singing and bonding. They give the individual an opportunity to share a music-driven spiritual experience and the community a mutual sense of identity, for people to share food, meet and reconnect.

