



Community Voice

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Southall Food Hub hits the market



During the summer our food distribution project was in a position where we were able to buy fresh fruit and vegetables wholesale from the Western International Market and also bulk buy food from Costco and other super-markets.

Prior to this we had been reliant on food being delivered to us by large organisations, who distributed surplus food and we never quite know what was coming or how much food we would have.

Thanks to the Young Ealing Foundation (YEF) this all changed.

YEF successfully applied for a large grant that allowed groups to buy large quantities of food to distribute themselves. This grant from DEFRA, allowed us to purchase food that we could use each week. We have also received wonderful support from The National Lottery & Community Fund.

Ben, Idina and Janpal visited the Western International Market regularly to purchase items used in local cooking ie onions, garlic, ginger, chillies etc and this proved to be massively popular. In total, we bought and distributed over 10 tonnes of food over 8 weeks and this was in addition to our normal weekly food suppliers.



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‘Skipping Sikh’ comes to Southall



On 18th June the ‘Skipping Sikh’, Rajinder Singh, came to our food project at St John’s Church hall.

The famed 73-year-old from Berkshire was on a visit to Southall to support organisations that had been helping residents through the pandemic period.

We were presented with a magnificent cake and indulged in a bout of skipping with our famous visitor. Although we are all for healthy living, it soon became apparent that our skipping techniques were not in the same class as Rajinder Singh’s !

Southall Food Project gets busier

Our weekly food distribution project in Southall has got busier with the passage of time

We started off on day one providing deliveries to 57 families but that number has now grown to over 180 deliveries each day and until recently we relied upon seven Ealing Community Transport vans to deliver the food across Southall. This provides food to 700+ people per day, who were experiencing food insecurity.

We have had great support from St. John’s Church, Southall Lions Club, Akshay Patra Foundation, Ealing Mutual Aid Group, Felix Project, City Harvest and our great colleagues from Young Ealing Foundation.



Ealing Hospital 72nd Birthday



The ‘Save The NHS Campaign’ arranged a 72nd birthday party and protest outside Ealing Hospital today. There were speeches by politicians and community alike, including Rupa Haq MP and Dr Onkar Sahota.

SCA and Southall Black Sisters also spoke about the importance of the hospital to our local communities and how we need to preserve its services, particularly as the Covid-19 pandemic increases in severity.

We even had a sing-a-long and finished with a rousing effort from Eve Turner.

Let’s do everything we can to support our local hospital !

Move to food collection service

After moving our Southall Food Hub to St John's Church in August, we were immediately faced with challenges about retaining our volunteers, many of whom were going back to work or study and also about having sufficient transport to deliver food twice weekly.

We therefore made a decision, in September, to move to a once weekly collection only service. Although this resulted in a slight initial dip in the numbers of families receiving food, we now have over 140 food bags prepared for collection every Tuesday by our great group of volunteers.



Hands of Tudor Rose in Southall



The 'Hands off Tudor Rose campaign arranged a protest and awareness raising event on Wednesday 8th July. It involved speeches from the St Anselm's car park and we all joined in an occupation of South Road in solidarity with the Blacks Lives Matter movement.

The speakers included Ursula James, Earl Smith, Harsev Bains, Suresh Grover, Dorothea Jones and Revd Mark Poulson.

The Tudor Rose is intimately connected with the development and history of our African-Caribbean community and our campaign was showing why it was urgently needed in our growing, multi-cultural Southall

The growth of high rise, high density housing blocks around Southall has become a visible issue for many residents in recent years.

One of the reasons why the Tudor Rose campaign struck a chord with so many people was because it represents one of the few buildings in Southall which has a community history. Replacing the building with more housing would have been unthinkable.

It was therefore with great delight that we learned on 29/7/20 that Ealing Council had decided not to pursue demolition of the building as part of that areas development plans. Great news for all campaigners and Southall.

