



Community Voice

Editorial Team:

Janpal Basran,

Babie Kapoor

Anti-Racist Plaque Ceremony



SCA and partners arranged a great anti-racist event on 13th July outside Southall Town Hall. For many, it was their first face-to-face meeting in nearly a year.

SCA, The Monitoring Group and the Ealing Trades Union Council arranged for the ceremony to install replacement plaques outside Southall Town Hall.

The whole event was chaired by Suresh Grover and the speakers spoke with great authority and knowledge about racism, inequalities and collaboration.

Our great thanks to everyone who attended including many residents and activists. Thanks also to the LBE Chief Executive, Paul Najsarek and the deputy Council leader, Cllr Deirdre Costigan.

The event was well attended but more importantly had superb contributions from a powerful array of speakers, who included:

Celia Stubbs, Chaggar family, Clarence Baker
John McDonnell MP, Virendra Sharma MP and
Claudia Webbe MP

Councillor Peter Mason, Leader of Ealing Council
Councillor Julian Bell

Harsev Bains, Eve Turner, Revd. Mark Poulson
Ursula James, Ahmed Mohammed, Kulwant Rai
and Janpal Basran.

Towards the end, SCA was also presented with a thank you plaque signed by people who had benefited from our food distribution project.



Southall Community Alliance, Southall Town Hall, 1 High Street, Southall, Middlesex, UB1 3HA

Tel: 020 8574 8855

email: southallcommunityalliance@hotmail.co.uk

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School visits to Town Hall



We hosted two school visits on Tuesday 13th July with year 5 and 6 pupils from Blair Peach Primary and Dormers Wells Junior schools coming to the Town Hall.

Janpal and Suresh Grover talked to the children about Southall history, anti-racism, respect and the events of 1979. It became clear that there is a growing fascination with local history and even schools are now focusing upon this.

The children were very well-behaved and engaged and we look forward to arranging other visits soon. We arranged a community quiz for the children to start the morning and to introduce the main subject matter. Hopefully, we will be able to arrange for other school visits in the future.

GOSAD-Food Project

There has been an enormous demand for emergency food aid during the pandemic and local community and faith groups have worked with the Council to meet this need.

SCA and partners had a food hub in Southall but there were similar food distribution efforts in other parts of Ealing.

Golden Opportunities Skills & Development (GOSAD) worked from Greenford Hall to pack and distribute food to residents in the north of the borough. This is evidence of the great commitment and flexibility of the voluntary sector to provide an emergency response.

Well done to Mukhtar Handule and all GOSAD colleagues !



Havelock Family Centre



Havelock Family Centre has been a source of support for residents on or near the Havelock Estate for many years. The friendly and user centric services provided by HFC are well known and the organisation is excellently managed by Neelam Rahi, who is a stalwart of the Southall community sector.

Under Neelam's leadership the organisation has redeveloped their Aleka House premises on Havelock Road and now have a fantastic building from which to work.

SCA is currently working with Havelock Family Centre on a project called 'Southall Connect' and a pre-lockdown picture of the great work of the organisation are attached. Congratulations to Neelam and her team for their great work in the community.

Young Ealing Champions

The pandemic has clearly shown that there is an urgent need for youth facilities particularly those that provide space for young people to meet and enjoy activities together.

The Young Ealing Foundation has started a campaign to challenge the decision to dispose of the Young Adults Centre in Southall for precisely the above reasons.

This campaign is being led by Young Ealing Champions and they are currently seeking signatures for a petition to present to the Council. The young people leading the campaign have been fantastic and we should all support the plan to prevent yet another of Southall's key assets from being sold for housing.



Punjabi Theatre Academy at Questors



The Punjabi Theatre Academy arranged a great joint production at the Questors Theatre in Ealing on Saturday 10th July. The production called 'India Gate' focused upon Indian independence and was a quality and entertaining theatre production.

Theatre and culture have been massively hit by the pandemic and indoor performances have not been allowed until recently. It was quite strange that upon arrival we saw people eating and socialising, as would have been normal 18 months ago. A sign of how the times have changed. Tremendous credit to Mr T.P. Singh and all colleagues for arranging this innovative entertainment.

As well as a Southall contingent at the theatre the SCA chair, Mr Harsev Bains, was also present.

Southall Heritage Walk

We arranged a Southall heritage walk on 15th July to combine healthy exercise with an improved understanding of local history. The event was arranged jointly with the Gunnersbury Park Museum and we took a group of walkers from Southall Town Hall to St Johns Church in the Green.

The walkers were very attentive and took in a lot of information about local buildings and history and the walk ended with a fun community quiz.

Colleagues from Gunnersbury Park Museum also arranged a fascinating stall containing pictures of documents from Southall of yesteryear.

Southall has undergone huge physical change and it is important that there is a record of that change for the future.



SCA & laptop distribution

The pandemic has caused many of us to learn new ways of communicating with each other. The use of digital or virtual meetings is very frequent but many small organisations still lack the skills and sometimes the equipment necessary to fully participate.

To help overcome this problem, SCA has been distributing free laptops to organisations working with disadvantaged residents.

We were delighted when Margaret from CAME and Yuusuf Guuled from HADEA came to the Town Hall recently to collect laptops they could use for their community organisations.

We hope that this will allow many more Ealing residents to receive urgent digital help and support.



Southall Volunteer Celebration



The pandemic has motivated large numbers of Southall residents to become volunteers and assist in community activities. This generosity has been one of the amazing human responses arising from this national emergency.

A volunteer celebration was arranged on 29 June at St Johns Vicarage by Near Neighbours and St John's Church. These volunteers included community activists, Council staff, young people, teachers etc.

A great event to recognise the hard work and efforts of volunteers from so many different backgrounds. It is really gratifying for the volunteers to see how their efforts have been valued

NHS 73rd Birthday

A birthday party for the NHS was arranged by the Ealing Save our NHS Campaign on Saturday 3 July outside Ealing Hospital.

Many campaigners and politicians came to show solidarity with the need to preserve hospital services and there were some great speeches.

The event was led by Eve Turner and the event was supported by Virendra Sharma and Dr Rupa Huq MP's and Dr Onkar Sahota. In addition there were many people who had attended previous birthday events.

We all need to work together to maintain and improve health services for our communities in Ealing and Saturday showed the depth of emotion that exists around this issue.



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