



## Community Voice

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### Save the YAC !



As part of the campaign to save the Young Adults Centre in Southall, the Young Ealing Foundation arranged a meeting at the SCA office inviting councillors, Ealing Council officers and the Young Ealing Champions.

Virendra Sharma MP made a very heartfelt and forceful intervention asking that the building be preserved and was strongly supported by the young people.

The YAC is a very important building that could be used to engage and support young people in Southall and YEF, SCA and partners are committed to oppose any plans for sale or relocation. We need more community facilities in Southall, not less.

### Steelband and Samosas

To be honest there were no samosas but SCA and partners did arrange for a steel band to perform outside Southall Town Hall on 4/9/21.

The rhythmic and beautiful music captivated residents and shoppers on the Broadway, many of whom must have heard such music for the first time.

The UFO Steel Band entertained allcomers for about two hours and provided a flavour of the cultural entertainment that is possible in Southall.

This was part of our 'Southall Ever After' project—more on this later !



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## Race Equality Commission in Southall



Members from the Ealing Race Equality commission came to the SCA office on 21st September.

The Chair of the Commission, Lord Simon Woolley, was accompanied by fellow commissioners Mohan Luthra and Mark Poulson. Council colleagues, Joanna Sumner and Evelyn Gloyn were also present.

We had a detailed discussion about Southall issues and also explored ways of seeking further community input to ensure a more comprehensive response so that the broadest picture of race inequality is available.

## Dairy Meadow at the Food Hub

School children from Dairy Meadow School visited the Southall Food Hub on 20th July. The visit to St John's parish hall took place on one of the warmest days of the year but that did not stop the school children from working tirelessly.

The year six pupils helped pack and prepare food bags and parcels for pick up and distribution. They were amazingly industrious and gained a first hand experience of volunteering.

The children were extremely well-behaved and knowledgeable and a great credit to their school. The food hub continues to provide a great service to residents in need of food help.



## Southall Police and anti-hate crime week



Many of you will already know that Southall Police Station was temporarily re-opened whilst Acton station is refurbished.

The heavy workload of local officers is well known and it was therefore very re-assuring that they were able to arrange an anti-hate crime stall on Southall High Street. The stall was arranged on 11th October to inform residents about anti-hate crime week and provided an opportunity for residents to talk to the police with their questions and concerns.

The stall looked quite busy and was a sign of the good engagement work that local officers are involved in.

## Mael Gael at Norwood Hall

The Mael Gael group have been working from Norwood Hall for many years and have been ably led by Daljit Grewal MBE and excellent volunteers. The group has recently been awarded the Queens Award for volunteering.

On Wednesday they host a session, mainly but not exclusively for women at which they have a guest speaker, exercise activity and food. Norwood Hall also has a large amount of green space and allotments which are cultivated by the groups users. Mael Gael are a partner with SCA in our 'Southall Connect' project that tackles social isolation and loneliness.



## Visit to Blair Peach School



Janpal and Suresh Grover visited year six pupils at Blair Peach School on Thursday 16th September. They spoke to the children about local history, anti-racism and changes to the local population due to immigration.

There is a growing interest in local history, particularly from the 1970's and 80's. Many young Southall residents were involved as activists and are now sharing their experiences.

We arranged and short quiz for the pupils and then Suresh spoke to them about Blair Peach. Many thanks to Mark Barrett from the school, along with colleagues and we hope we can repeat the visit againsoon.

## Onam Festival

The British Keralites Association (BKA) arranged their annual Onam festival celebration on Sunday 12th September.

Given our post-Covid situation they did not book their usual large hall with hundreds of visitors but arranged a more limited celebration at the Holy Trinity Church.

James Jerald and the wonderful BKA volunteers ensured that there was a traditional feast, served on banana leaves, available for all attendees. I can assure you that the food and hospitality from BKA colleagues was tremendous.

Let's hope they can resume their normal celebration next year.



# Southall Ever After—community arts project

SCA was one of the co-organisers of a community arts day at the Wolf Fields community allotment on 28th August. We arranged the day in collaboration with the University of the Arts London Gunnersbury Park Museum and A Rocha as part of the 'Southall Ever After' project. This was one of 4 consecutive weekends of arts related activities in Southall.

On a day with rather uncertain weather we managed to attract families and children to the venue and encourage their participation in arts activities. These included painting, clay model making and preparing a mosaic installation.

We had great volunteers who helped and the event was filmed for future publicity.



The third day of the 'Southall Ever After' project took place at Southall Park on 11th September. We were blessed with lovely weather and the day was a great success.

The day started with the Punjabi Theatre Academy (PTA) producing a very funny production of 'Munde Da Viah' (A Boys Wedding), much to the amusement and entertainment of regular park goers.

We also explored issues about heritage and where people came from through the 'Routes to Roots' stall and had archive material from Gunnersbury Park & Museum. The day ended with a very busy arts workshop for children run by Sheila Gelani.

Our 'Southall Ever After' project ended in Southall Park on 18th September, after four successive weekends of activity.

This work has shown the value of providing engaging creative or artistic activity, especially as we recover from lockdowns.

Big thanks to our colleagues from the London Transport Museum, Gunnersbury Park Museum and the University of the Arts London.

After a well deserved rest for all, we will get together again to see how we can perhaps repeat some of our successes in the near future. We will jointly be arranging a follow up seminar and symposium later in the year.



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