



## Community Voice

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### Queen's Award for SCA



#### The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

In June 2022 SCA was delighted to learn that we had been awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This is a tremendous honour for the charity, our staff, trustees and partners because it reflects on our positive relationships with people and groups in Southall.

SCA was one of 244 local charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year.

This work, along with others from across the UK, reminds us of all the ways in which fantastic volunteers are contributing to their local communities and working to make life better for those around them.

### Hello and Goodbye.....

After over 12 years at SCA Manpreet Arora left us in May and this is a sad loss to the organisation and all who know her.

Manpreet had been with SCA through good times and some tricky times but always with a positive attitude and smile on her face.

Almost at the same we welcome Kamaljeet Sembhi to the SCA team as our Anti-Poverty Support Officer.

Our staff are our most important asset and we have always enjoyed great staff relationships and so we all wish Manpreet the very best for the future



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## SCA Annual General Meeting



Our Annual General Meeting is our largest meeting of the year and always considers our work. This year's meeting took place on 14th July at St John's Church in Southall Green.

We had a very good and varied turnout with opening remarks from Councillor Mohinder Midha, the Mayor of Ealing.

As usual, the meeting considered the annual report and accounts of the charity but also sadly said farewell to Reverend Michael Bolley, our Secretary, who was leaving the organisation. Michael has been a strong supporter of SCA and local charitable causes.

## 'Smash It' Badminton Competition

Our 'Smash It' doubles badminton competition took place at Greenford Sports Centre on 3rd and 10th July. We had another great turnout on both days and excellent competition, all played in the proper spirit of the game.

We are advocating badminton as one sport that brings people together for exercise and for building social relationships. As the picture shows we had a very diverse and happy group of players who participated.

The competition was arranged with Renegades Badminton Club so thanks to Sandria and Tariq. The mixed doubles competition was won by the excellent pairing of Loice and Sury.



## Southall Business Expo



The Southall Business Expo took place at the Southall Manor House on 7th July. It was the first time that such an event had been arranged in Southall and offered some good networking opportunities.

It was a pity that more Southall-based businesses were not present but the event was arranged very well and provided opportunities for meeting businesses and some humorous engagement.

Southall's businesses play a unique role in the fabric of the town and it is important that they are recognised for the contribution that many make to Southall as place that attracts investment and visitors.



## Voice of Women

The Voice of Women group from Southall were recently actively promoting their work and providing refreshment to families on Lady Margaret Road.

The group are excellently led by Surinder Kenth and arrange socialising, physical activities and cultural events for their female users. The group meets regularly at a local church hall but have been able to expand their work so that they have an activity on nearly every weekday.

Surinder and her volunteers exemplify what is best about Southall's community spirit.



## Ricky Reel book launch



SCA worked with Suresh Grover and colleagues from The Monitoring Group to host the launch of a book by Sukhdev Reel about the tragic murder of her son Ricky almost 25 years ago. The launch took place at Southall Town Hall.

Our room was packed as Sukhdev Reel, Suresh Grover, Taranjit Chana and John McDonnell MP spoke eloquently about the investigation into this racist murder.

It was a very poignant evening and ended with Mrs Reel signing books for everyone both inside the building and outside on the High Street.

## Young Adult Centre Campaign

The Save Southall Youth Centre campaign was set up with the sole aim of trying to save the Young Adults Centre (YAC) from being demolished for housing. The YAC is Southall's last youth centre and a great purpose-built facility.

All supporters wanted to ensure that we had more community facilities in Southall and not less. The campaign was chaired by Suresh Grover and we have a host of resident and community group supporters.

We were all delighted that following this public pressure the Council recently announced that the YAC disposal had been stopped. This is testimony to the hard work and efforts of campaign colleagues.





## Ealing Community Network



Ealing Community Network (ECN) arranged their Annual General Meeting on 29th June at St Andrews Church in Ealing.

ECN represents the voice of the voluntary sector in Ealing and has over 400 members. Having a strong and cohesive voice for the voluntary sector is important in a borough as diverse as Ealing. This allows for valuable discussions with the Council and NHS colleagues about the future of the sector.

This was their first face to face meeting for some time and there was a very healthy turnout. Well done to Angela Dodwell, the ECN Programme Manager and all the ECN management led by Simon Hall.

## Arts Day at Wolf Fields

SCA jointly arranged an Arts Day at the Wolf Fields Nature Reserve on 18th June with colleagues from A Rocha and from St John's Church. The day was very well attended and the undoubted highlight and main attraction was a birds of prey show.

The rest of the day had some lovely arts activities including face painting, opening of a labyrinth, clay modelling and general painting stalls. Mahenderpal Sorya, working with the clay, produced a very 'lifelike' model of a wolf that attracted much comment. This work is funded by the Peoples Health Trust.



## Diabetes Week in Southall



On 15th June we hosted a diabetes week workshop at Southall Town Hall that focused on cholesterol and diet.

Diljit Sidhu from the local diabetes team delivered an extremely entertaining and informative session that had our packed audience at full attention. Given the high prevalence of type 2 diabetes in Southall this is an issue that always attracts attention.

Thanks also to Adamma Okwu and colleagues from the DICE team and the West London Asian Society with whom we arranged this information workshop. This was part of our 'Southall Connect' project.



## Street Elite Festival

The Street Elite Festival took place at Southall Waterside on Thursday 9th June. The actual Street Elite programme works with young people from challenging backgrounds and gives them the skills to gain employment or progress in life.

As well as young people who attended to receive their certificates there were hundreds of local primary school children who were involved in exercise and play activities.

The event was also attended by the Mayor of Ealing, Councillor Mohinder Midha, Virendra Sharma MP and various other councillors.



## Western Road Clean Up



SCA arranged a community cleanup day at the Western Road Urban Garden on Saturday 11th June. We were really pleased that a number of people came and helped us with the cleanup but even more importantly that many residents stopped by and we were able to show them the site and get their future support.

Many thanks to our co-organisers Paul Carter, Jags Sanghera, Amarjit Gudail and Mani Dhanda.

Looks like it could be a busy summer for us on Western Road, as we bring the site back into use as a public place.

## ParkPlay in Southall Park

The Southall ParkPlay team are active in Southall Park every Saturday morning to encourage children and parents to be more active.

Most of these pictures will show many of the participants enjoying themselves and different games or activities and the volunteers running the session should be congratulated for their commitment and organisation.

Jags Sanghera has been instrumental in starting these park sessions and Virendra Sharma MP also turned up during the morning to support the ParkPlay session.





# SCA Community Forum

We arranged our first face to face Community Forum meeting in almost 2 years on 26th May. It was a little strange reverting to an actual meeting as opposed to the online meetings we have all now become used to.

The meeting had reports or discussions about the Southall Manor House, cost of living and the Young Adults Centre. Attendees also made some very good suggestions about poverty alleviation, food banks and use of community assets.

Community forums are invitee only and held every month to discuss topical local Southall issues.



## Visit to Khalsa Primary School



Janpal and Suresh Grover visited Khalsa Primary School on 20th May to talk to their Year 6 pupils about local history.

The children were extremely polite and well informed, which is a reflection of the schools emphasis upon promoting understanding of local community history.

During the session we did a short quiz about local history and then Suresh had a question and answer sessions with the children about the events of 1979 in Southall

Many thanks to Rajpreet Birk at the school for arranging the session.

## Voices of Colour event

SCA hosted an event about mental health issues affecting South Asian women at the Town Hall on 19th May.

We had an excellent presentation delivered by Indy Sira from Voices of Colour describing some research they had carried out and explaining what further steps they would take to improve understanding of mental health pressures on women.

These are issues of common concern as many people were left negatively affected by pressures and isolation during Covid lockdowns.

SCA will continue to work with Voice of Colour about these matters.



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