



Community Voice

Editorial Team :
Janpal Basran,
Yomna Abdelgawad

Southall History Walks



SCA Community Forum

Our October Community Forum meeting was very well attended and had two excellent presentations from Ana Izquiedo about a cancer support project and Revd Mark Poulson about faith and community.

The presentation from Revd Poulson was especially wide-ranging and thought provoking and generated much discussion about the type of community that we want.

Community Forum meetings take place on the last Thursday of each month and cover important community issues and developments in Southall.

SCA hosted a visit of students from Colgate University in New York on 22/9/23.

Together with Suresh Grover, we spoke to the students about Southall, its communities and history and took them on a history walk from the Town Hall into the Southall Green area.

The students were shown buildings and spaces that had a historical connection along the route, emphasising changes to the local population and the urban development driving physical change.

We received positive feedback from the visiting students and we all enjoyed a well-deserved meal later in the afternoon.



Southall Community Alliance, Southall Town Hall, 1 High Street, Southall, Middlesex, UB1 3HA
Tel: 020 8574 8855 email: office@southallcommunityalliance.com

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Dairy Meadow tackles food poverty



As part of our household support project, to help families in need of food, we arranged a delivery of food to Dairy Meadow Primary School.

The cost of living crisis has badly affected many Southall households and schools are often acutely aware of families most affected.

As usual, the delivery from Sira's was great and the staff at the school wonderfully supportive.

Pictured is Alex Feldman, Assistant Head, with some enthusiastic pupils.

Southall Art Day

SCA arranged a great and very successful Southall Art Day on 23/9/23 outside Southall Town Hall.

We were rushed off our feet as the day delivered a range of creative arts activities with children and families.

The event was only possible with great help from colleagues: Mahenderpal, Alex, Harleen, Kamaljeet and some kind volunteers.

The day was a great success with many of the residents expressing their surprise at having participated in such an activity for the first time in Southall. This shows the value of using arts and creative activities to bring people together.



London Challenge Poverty Week



SCA arranged a range of activities during the London Challenge Poverty Week from 16-20 October.

The focus of the week was to cast a light on rising levels of poverty in Southall and the different impacts this has on people.

Local data on poverty in Southall has consistently shown that many of our wards have high levels of deprivation. Against this background we now have a cost of living crisis that is leaving many people in debt and managing financial problems.

Thanks to all who attended and to 4in10 who supported the week.

Support for Western Road

Our Western Road Urban Garden project is constantly improving and one of the key new features we will have in place soon are walking paths, providing safe access for children and elderly around the site. This is particularly important at this time of year when wet and icy conditions can be a safety hazard.

We were delighted when Heathrow Community Trust made a significant contribution to these costs.

To add to this we are really pleased that The Green Quarter has now kindly provided a £2500 grant that will contribute towards this work.



Southall Schools Forum



The second meeting of the Southall Schools Forum took place on Wednesday 11th October.

The forum provides a platform for interaction between our four local high schools and community initiatives. Our high schools nurture many excellent students and we want to highlight the great work taking places in schools.

This forum meeting involved staff and pupils from Villiers High School and Dormers Wells High School, with whom we discussed a wide range of areas and opportunities for joint working. The students from the two schools were extremely mature and impressive.

Onam Festival

The annual Onam festival celebration took place in Southall at Featherstone High School.

The event brings together people of Kerala to celebrate their culture and traditions and is a colourful and vibrant location. Onam celebrations involve a traditional feast for all served on banana leaves.

This celebratory event is arranged by the British Keralites Association and has a huge input from their many excellent volunteers.

Cllr Mohinder Midha was invited to be the guest of honour and with Janpal, made some introductory remarks to open the festivities, lasting the whole day.



Featherstone Primary at Urban Garden

We welcomed a delightful group of school children from Featherstone Primary School to the Western Road Urban Garden on 17/10/23.

The visit was part of our London Challenge Poverty Week schedule and we engaged the children in growing and site maintenance activities that got them thinking about food and how it is produced.

The 29 children were from their school council and all enjoyed the day.

Many thanks to all the school staff and volunteers and our WRUG team of Mani, Ashok and Andre.



'Going Green' Event



The Green Quarter hosted a very busy Going Green event and SCA had a stall where we were making badges with families.

We seem to have been making lots of badges recently at schools and were inundated, with both the children and adults loving the activity.

A bright and sunny day saw a variety of activities for families including a nature trail, free bike repairs, musical entertainment, face painting etc.

SCA is proud to continue to offer new creative and learning opportunities for our residents.

Blair Peach School history talk

Janpal and Suresh Grover visited Blair Peach Primary School to talk to Year 6 pupils about Southall's resistance to racism in the 1960's and 70's. The children took part in a community quiz followed by a talk and question and answer session with Suresh. Their questions were thoughtful and showed a good level of understanding about past events, particularly of 1979 and the death of Blair Peach.

We also gave the children an opportunity to create badges commemorating that period and the history they were learning about.

This work is funded by John Lyons Charity.

