



Community Voice

Editorial Team:

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Western Road Urban Garden



SCA hosted a double visit to our Urban Garden on Monday 18th December with a group of year eight pupils from Greenford High School and two senior Ealing councillors.

The leader and deputy leader of the council, Cllrs Peter Mason and Deirdre Costigan, were very impressed with our site and the efforts of the pupils in planting some seeds and bulbs.

The children all enjoyed the visit and immersed themselves in the experience. We hope that in the future the Urban Garden will be well used by the school children as they learn about biodiversity and growing plants.

We arranged the first of three monthly community days at the Western Road Urban Garden on 17/2/24. An overcast and slightly damp start to the day did nothing to dampen our enthusiasm and the hard work of all the volunteers.

Our normal team was complimented by numerous colleagues from Good Gym special volunteers on the day including Puja, Jaswant Bhasin and Evelyn Gloyn. The team managed to do a huge amount of clean-up work.

With all of the infrastructure work currently taking place we hope to have a vastly improved site for Southall residents by the summer time.



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Southall Resists - art workshops



Our visit at Featherstone High School on 22/2/24 saw us arranging two arts workshops with Yr 7 pupils. The pupils had been briefed about our arts and history project and produced some stunning paintings and artworks based upon events of the 1970s.

It did feel like a long day and we managed to support the children in completing a number of artworks which we hope to display at an exhibition on 23rd April.

Many thanks to Alex Thompson and our ever present Mahenderpal and Niharika.

This work is supported by John Lyon's Charity.

We visited Khalsa Primary School on 7/3/24 and worked with two delightful year 6 classes of pupils.

The children had already been studying about Southall and combined with the history talks we had provided manage to produce some amazing and colourful artworks, including this stunning silk painting of the former Liberty Cinema.

All of the art will be displayed on 23rd April at Villiers High School as part of the Southall Resists Exhibition.

Many thanks to Rajpreet Birk and all the great Khalsa Primary staff who helped us during the day.



Southall Resists Forum



The Southall Resists Forum met on 22nd February to consider the relevance of events in India to the cohesion of our communities in the UK and Southall in particular.

The meeting considered the background and context to the 2023 BBC documentary 'The Modi Question'. Our speakers and attendees made some very strong points about the impact of events abroad on communities in this area.

Many thanks to all our speakers: Suresh Grover, Dr Subir Sinha, Irfan and Yuusuf Dawood and Nupur Patel for making such insightful and often emotional contributions.

SCA Community Forum

Our January community forum meeting (25/1/24) received a report about the Southall Reset programme. A summary of progress was provided by Mandar Puranik from Ealing Council.

We also had an update about the proposed closure of Southall's main post office in Southall Broadway. Forum attendees were unanimously opposed to the planned closure.

Community forum meetings take place monthly on the last Thursday of each month and provide updates about issues and developments affecting our communities.



NFL at Havelock Primary



For many months SCA has been working with some Southall schools to arrange NFL Flag after school sessions introducing children to the non-contact version of American football.

Our Wednesday after school session at Havelock Primary has a very enthusiastic bunch of pupils and they have been great in taking part in the sessions.

Some of the children are pictured here taking part in the warmup session prior to the game. Many thanks to Tamara Schai at the school for all her support.

This initiative is funded through the NFL Foundation UK

Healthy Heart Workshop

We hosted a very successful workshop about heart disease on 14th March. The session was arranged with West London Asian Society and many colleagues from Heartlink and contained an extremely informative presentation from Consultant Cardiologist, Dr Harmandeep Singh.

During the day we were also visited by Channi Singh the Bhangra music legend, Rajinder Garcha from the Mael Gael group and James Jerald and colleagues from the British Keralites Association.

These events do not happen without the contribution of volunteers, so many thanks to Jaskaran Singh, Bernard and the team who contributed to its success.



Food support at Lady Margaret School

As part of our work to support households facing financial hardship in Southall, we provided a delivery of food to Lady Margaret Primary School on 5/2/24.

Many people across Ealing are facing acute cost of living pressures, with many unable to afford household essentials. To tackle this Ealing Council have made funding available to help households facing challenges and SCA has been work with different schools to distribute these resources.

We hope that the school will use the food to distribute to needy households and help in combating food poverty in our area.



University art students in Southall



Students from the University of the Arts London came to Southall on 21/2/24 as part of a new initiative in which they will be planning for a street based arts event locally.

We started by providing a briefing and information about Southall and its communities and then went for a history walk from the Town Hall towards Southall Green.

The students will design an arts event early in April and we look forward to how they use their creative abilities. Many thanks to Mahenderpal Sorya for making this possible and to Niharika for helping with the day.

International Women's Day

The SCA staff team arranged a busy International Women's Day event at the Town Hall on 8/3/24 that was well enjoyed by all and had various art activities for the attendees.

The day had a focus upon art and craft activities to engage the attendees and this worked a treat.

Many thanks to Sheila and Katie McEwan for their help with the art works and for making it such an enjoyable occasion for everyone.

Finally, well done to the SCA staff, Kamaljeet, Niharika and Yomna for all the arrangements and co-ordination.

