



**Journal of the Bahá'í Community of the
United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
June 2001 / 158BE**

UK Community News

UK Community News

“World Citizen” Success in Brent



The fifth annual World Citizenship Project in Brent Schools concluded on Saturday 24th March with a prize-giving ceremony hosted in John Kelly (Girls) Technology College in Neasden. The event was attended by the Mayor, Councillor Joyce Bacchus and the chairperson of Brent Council Education committee, Councillor Helga Gladbaum.

The project has been run in Brent for the last 5 years by members of the Brent Bahá'í community on subjects such as the eradication of poverty, the eradication of racism and

the protection of the environment, and what it means to be a world citizen. This year's subject was, "World peace is not only possible but inevitable. What do you think?" and the children were asked to produce poems, essays and posters on this subject.

Nearly 200 people-parents, children and teachers- assembled to witness the prize-giving and more than 700 entries were received. The head teachers of 9 schools received trophies from the Mayor. 44 children from primary and secondary schools who produced the best entries in the above-mentioned three categories received their prizes from Councillor Gladbaum. Guest speakers were the Mayor of Brent- Cllr Bacchus, Mrs. Gladbaum, Mr. Ken Aldred-the chairman of Council for Education in World Citizenship and Dr, Nita Forouhi of Brent Bahá'í community.

The pupils of John Kelly (Girls) Technology College with their music, and the pupils of Kingsbury High School with their dances delighted the audience Posters and other works produced by the children were exhibited all along the corridors and in the main hall.

World Citizenship Project co-coordinator, Hassan Afnan, a member of Brent Bahá'í-community explains:" The World Citizenship Project is all about getting school children to think about the world around them and the issues that affect their lives and the lives of others. Children naturally see the good in things around them, and this is evident in the work they have produced year after year for this project.

Sutton Celebration

The Bahá'ís of Sutton and Merton with the help of a member of Croydon community, organized a VIP Naw-Rúz celebration at The Oaks Golf Club in Sutton.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Merton with their granddaughter and the MP for Sutton were present amongst 60 other guests and Bahá'í friends. We had wonderful music played

by Nura Sanatian, Shahpar Ashrafi-Tari and Masoud Saeednia. Every guest was presented with a copy of The Prosperity of Humankind and the programme with excerpts from The Writings and the address for The Bahá'í centre and the Publishing Trust. We also organized an exhibition of books, publications and posters and selection of newsreel videos which played continuously throughout the function.

Multi Faith Centre A World's First for Derby

Is this to be the first of many? Is the Multi Faith Centre about to be built at the University of Derby an indication of how religion will be viewed in Britain in the future?

It is certainly a building with a unique purpose in the UK, in fact in the world. This purpose built centre is designed specifically for people from many faiths, or

for people of no faith at all, to come and discover, experience and value, spirituality of various forms in an atmosphere of tolerance and appreciation (similar to Bahá'í Houses of Worship in this respect).

Seven faiths including the Bahá'ís, are active in planning all stages of this venture, ranging from the building's shape and requirements, to the programme of events it will host. Besides meeting rooms with moveable walls to accommodate groups from 30 to 300 people, the centre includes a meditation area with water features, a library, social areas, counselling room, offices, kitchen and ablution areas specifically designed with all particular faith requirements in mind. By the time you read this article, hopefully over £2million will be in place and builders will be flinging turf around, crooning over concrete, and the unusual shape of this building will be emerging.

Bahá'ís are represented on the Centre's management and planning committees. The local Bahá'í community will be able to use the centre's facilities; and because of Derby's central location it will be an ideal meeting place for Bahá'ís from further afield.

Our National Spiritual Assembly has given its approval to this venture. In fact we were the first UK religious community to make a commitment towards the Multi Faith Centre, promising that the Bahá'í community would contribute £50,000 to the project over five years. This early support gave the Bahá'í Faith great kudos, as at many subsequent meetings the Bahá'ís were cited to other organisations as an example to follow, for their forward-thinking generosity.

The initial response from the Bahá'ís has been encouraging (with about £5,000 received so far), It is now up to the rest of us, to honour the National Assembly's promise and contribute or pledge our support. As usual, gift aid is the ideal way to make a contribution since it makes every donation even more valuable.

Queries and/or information regarding the project may be obtained from Wendy Momen or Pam Sutton.

Donation enquiries and forms can be obtained from: The Fund Raising Office, University of Derby Kedleston Rd, Derby. DE22 1GB or by e-mail to campaign@derby.ac.uk

Celtic Youthfest

On the 23rd of March, youth from around the UK gathered in Ayr youth hostel for a youth Naw Ruz celebration. This was intended

multifait2.gif



multifaith.gif



as an expression of regional collaboration and a follow on from last year's party held in Northern Ireland.

The weekend consisted of a brief deepening on consultation, an afternoon walk along the attractive Scottish coastline and a disco provided by the Scottish-Welsh drum n' bass connection. Despite complaints regarding the volume of the afore mentioned drum n' bass session, a fantastic time was had by all.

Thankyou to the Scottish Youth Task Force for providing the deepening and the food. Gawain and myself would also like to apologise to the youth, some of whom still have ringing ears.



Naw RÃºz celebrations in Watford

The BahÃ¡'Ã¡s of Watford celebrated Naw RÃºz in the company of the Mayor, Councillor Ian Brown. A talk on the Faith, given by Dr Wendi Momen, was followed by a slide show.

BahÃ¡'Ã¡ Posters exhibited in Dunfermline

"At the Heart: Children, Young People & Creative Learning": BahaÃ posters were exhibited at the Fife Council's Creative Learning Conference held in Dunfermline on March 19, including highlights from BahaÃ education such as SAT in Colombia, community-led forestry in Cameroon and pre-school education in Tanzania.

A short video of BahaÃ education in action at Maxwell International BahaÃ School was presented privately to the MSP for Education, Jack McConnell who opened the conference with visionary comments on his hopes to see art and other creative means of learning throughout the curriculum, not just in art and design. He also aims to encourage partnership between schools and the greater community, saying that "schools should become the creative centres of communities". Other speakers included Ian Barr from UNESCO and Jennifer Williams from London based, Centre for Creative Communities.