



Bahá'í Council for Scotland

ON THE LAST SATURDAY IN JUNE, almost 30 Bahá'ís gathered for an “institutional meeting” in Callander. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together people from as many different institutions in Scotland as possible to start to develop a Scottish Five Year Plan. The Counsellors, National Spiritual Assembly, Auxiliary Board Members, all eight Local Spiritual Assemblies, Association of Bahá'í Women, Youth Task Force, Training Institute Board, Travel Teaching Co-ordinator, and Council were represented.

A spirit of optimism and enthusiasm was obvious through-out the day. There was a real feeling that the Scottish Bahá'í community is moving into a new stage of development. It was almost breathtaking to realise that the Will of God for Scotland has been clearly set down for us by the Universal House of Justice in its January 9 letter to the Counsellors.

Since the blueprint for the Five Year Plan is contained in this letter, time was spent at the meeting studying it. Participants then looked at ways of implementing the guidance it contained in Scotland.

By the end of the day, many recommendations had been made to the Council. A framework was agreed for dividing Scotland up into teaching areas. Some of these areas are rural, others comprise a city and its commuter belt. More specific details will be available after the Council's next meeting in August.

In the meantime, we can all continue with the major themes of the Plan such as study circles, devotional gatherings and children's classes open to all.

Aberdeen Summer School

The 17th Aberdeen summer school was held at the end of July and was enjoyed by over 120 Bahá'ís and their friends. This summer school is now a well and truly established gathering for the Bahá'í community in Scotland and visitors from far and wide. Its most remarkable achievement has been bringing together the Bahá'í youth (and their friends) in Scotland and providing a safe and friendly atmosphere for them to deepen in the Faith and acquire long lasting friendships.

It will be of no surprise to learn that the youth were a very prominent part of the school this year. They really had much the same talks and evening sessions as the adults, on the general theme of “Lights Towards Perfection”. The whole school was very relaxed and blessed with as many youth and children as adults. The positive atmosphere was enhanced by very good sessions with the Institutions of the Council for Scotland, the Auxiliary Board and the Training Institute Board. Talks from National Spiritual Assembly member Kishan Manocha, Dr Dayham, Alex Reid (the Council's Parliamentary officer) and Dr Abdullah

Brooks (from Bangladesh) were but a few of the many excellent contributions. The evening entertainment was well planned and of high quality, and the late Hot Chocolate sessions for the youth were extremely popular. Sincere thanks to the efficient team of organisers from the Aberdeenshire communities, the children's class teachers and the many others who helped out. It was a flawless summer school that generated such a spiritual charge that we

all had to tear ourselves away on the last day.

St Mungo Exhibition

The Bahá'í exhibition at the St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art in Glasgow ends on October 21. Almost every Saturday afternoon at the museum there has been an event taking place relating to the exhibition. These have included talks, musical performances and a series of Tranquillity Zones.

Prize Giving

The Creative Citizenship prize-giving ceremony will be held on October 20 at the St Mungo Museum, 12 noon to 4 pm. This date was allocated to the Bahá'ís by the Museum and is the Birthday of the Báb. Many schools from around Glasgow and Edinburgh, as well as others from around Scotland have sent in contributions. As many as 150 entrants and their families are invited. Hopefully the ceremony will be an apt service to help celebrate this important Holy Day.



Renowned blues performer, Adrian Byron Burns, playing at the St Mungo Museum

Transforming Arts Scotland

Transforming Arts Scotland (TAS), sponsored by the Council for Scotland was formed in April to organise and co-ordinate dance workshops, and offer performances and training in personal and leadership skills. The youth dance group had a busy summer with performances at the “Meet Your Neighbour” interfaith event in Glasgow, a Gathering of Hope organised by the refugee council, the Traquair Fair near Edinburgh and performances and workshops held for several youth and summer clubs. The Council is extremely thankful to all the youth and adults who contributed in so many ways to the success of these proclamation and teaching events.

Warmest love,
[Bahá'í Council for Scotland](#)