



AMR NEWS

Issue 36

Jan-Mar 08

LONG AWAITED REUNION NEWS

The AMR Reunion will take place from August 22 to 25 and the venue will be the Hollowford Centre in The Peak District. This will be the first time that this venue is used for the annual AMR Reunion. The centre can take up to about 100 people – so please pass the word amongst friends and families. AMR is going to apply for a grant and use this to subsidise the cost for participants so that it is offered at a reasonable cost. Under-5s will be free but participants in adventure activities will have to pay at least £20 per head in addition for those activities. Details to follow.

The centre is located in the beautiful Hope Valley (within the Peak District National Park) and there will access to BBQ, on-site adventure activities (participants to choose from canoeing, zip-wire, rock-climbing, going down a mine etc), free Ranger-led walks. As the grant awarding body is environment-

related, it was agreed that the theme for this event would be the Environment/Ecology.

In keeping with this theme, a suitable speaker for the fire-side chat is to be identified. Young programme planners, Mariam, Farah and Hajira are to invite workshop leaders to bring out participants' creative side (dance / poetry-rap / singing, are all possibilities). Mohammed is to ask Nazneen to lead her usual activities as well as perhaps something new like clock-making.

There's an opportunity for the organising group to visit the centre and plan for the event. It is possible that we will do this on one of the days of May Bank Holiday as those with exams will be free of them by then. The programme can then be finalised and we can invite input from more of the participants.



ALL CHANGE

At a meeting held on 4th April, AGC members present and consultants, agreed to propose a major overhaul of AMR aims, objects and indeed name so that the organisation better reflects its core work. This work could also be rationalised to bring focus to its core strengths – the family and intergenerational activities. This will be discussed further at a meeting to be held at the end of May (see Diary).

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FAITH AND SOCIAL COHESION

A Charity Commission sponsored event on Faith and Social Cohesion Unit was held on March 18 at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel and Conference Centre. The focus of the meeting was the changes in charity law which will have an impact on charities, voluntary organisations and places of worship. This first meeting was centred on Muslim organisations leading some sceptics to view it as part of the ongoing campaign to exert control over the activities of Muslim organisations as part of the overall 'extremism' concern.

1001 INVENTIONS

A ground breaking exhibition uncovering the hidden history of Muslim contributions to science and invention is being held at Croydon Museum. This interactive exhibition brings to life an often overlooked golden age of discovery and innovation.

It uncovers one thousand years of scientific and technological innovation by Muslim scholars and inventors across the globe from southern Europe to Asia: the first flying machine, the first university, our numbers 1 - 9, astronomy, algebra, and day to day necessities like coffee, soap, clocks, surgical instruments and the camera. The hands on exhibition is arranged in seven zones home, school, market, hospital, town, world and universe.

MEDICAL HERBALIST

AMR member, Elena Renier, who qualified as a Medical Herbalist, is organising a course to inform and guide participants on the benefits of herbalism. It is an 8-week course that has been designed for those new to the discipline. It will involve visits to gardens and museums as well as more traditional forms of study.

CONGRATULATIONS

AMR is pleased to congratulate Trustee and Treasurer, Hajira Qureshi on her recent marriage. May Allah (swt) bless the couple.

GCSE AND AS STUDENTS PREPARE FOR EXAMS

Tutors Shabnam Rana and Ruqaiyyah Waris Maqsood are hopeful that students studying for their distance-learning Islamic Studies courses will maintain the high standards of achievement set by previous students.

MUFTI OF BOSNIA VISIT

A 'Round Circle' meeting with the Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina was held at the St. Ethelburga's Centre in mid January.

CITY CIRCLE APPOINTMENT

Usama Hasan has been appointed the new director of the City Circle. He is open to any suggestions members have on activities and subjects for talks.

'CLIMATE OF FEAR' CONFERENCE

Over 150 people attended the "Creating a Climate of Fear: Counter-Terrorism and Punishment without Trial" public meeting hosted by the Campaign Against Criminalising Communities (CAMPACC) and the Centre for the Study of Terrorism (CFSOT) at the London Muslim Centre in Whitechapel, London, on 14 March.

The meeting focused on a number of new, dangerous measures the government is seeking to introduce through the current Counter-Terrorism Bill granting more powers to the police and the judiciary to undermine civil liberties and human rights. Among the speakers were Gareth Pierce and Les Levidow.

Les Levidow summed up the meeting by stating that while the proposed laws are applied broadly, this provides a scope for broader alliances to be forged between activists and communities. The various terrorism acts introduced since 2000 have recently been used against anti-war protesters at the DSEi arms fair and at the Climate Camp. The issue should be viewed as antiracist and pro-democracy to create a broader alliance between different activists and communities.

The meeting was co-sponsored by the London Muslim Centre, Islamic Forum of Europe, Cage Prisoners and the Newham Monitoring Project.

ARE MUSLIMS WELCOME IN THE COUNTRYSIDE?

Mixed signals continue to be given about the extent to which members of BME generally and Muslim communities in particular are welcome in the countryside. Countryside organisations want more inclusion but many members of BME communities will be reluctant to visit areas such as the Lake District when the Westmoreland Gazette (a Cumbrian newspaper) reported that Cumbrian police were asking locals to report any instances of young Asian men visiting the area so they could be checked out as 'Muslim terrorists'.

BULLETIN BOARD



CLICK AWAY

♦THE HOLLOWFORD CENTRE

www.hollowford.org

♦MEDICAL HERBALISM COURSE

<http://www.elenarenier.com>

♦1001 INVENTIONS: DISCOVER THE MUSLIM HERITAGE IN OUR WORLD EXHIBITION

Date: Until Saturday 3rd May 2008

Viewing dates and Time: Monday - Saturday, 11am - 5pm

Venue: Exhibition Gallery, Level O, Croydon Clocktower

Katharine Street, Croydon CR9 1ET

For more information please contact:

Tel: 020 8253 1022

E-mail: museum@croydon.gov.uk

Website: www.museumofcroydon.gov.uk

♦OPPOSE THE CLIMATE OF FEAR

Model letter to send your MP can be downloaded at [↗](#)

<http://www.campacc.org.uk/Library/MPletterCTB08260208.doc>



A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARIES

♦HOW THE MEDIA SELLS WAR AND WHY

Thursday 10th April, 7pm. The Old Lecture Theatre, University of Westminster.

<http://mwaw.net/4-10-flyer.pdf>

♦SUNDAY FUN DAY

Sunday 27th April, 2008 (Croydon High School). Swimming for men, 11.30, swimming for women 12.30, lunch and sports facilities.

♦MAY BANK HOLIDAY - AMR GOVERNING COUNCIL, TRUSTEES' AND STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING

(date to be confirmed)

♦REUNION

22nd – 25th August 2008



Zip- wire, one of the activities available at Hollowford. Would you like to do this activity – let us know, be part of the planning group.

