

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2011

Please visit our new website http://www.mpawycombe.co.uk

And let us know what you think!

At the time of going to press the cold December is a distant memory and it looks as if winter is unlikely to make a serious comeback again this year.

Most people are perplexed by the coalition government's fight to cut the deficit and its impact is being felt right across the country.

The main issue of worry for students aspiring to go to university is the prohibitive nature of the putative tuition fees and it looks as if education has become a privilege and not a right. I am sure more will unravel in the coming months.

Interestingly, the local community is already taking steps to come up with ideas to provide certain services on a voluntary basis, but it looks as the cuts are taking the wind out of the sale of voluntary organisations, from the race equality council to local libraries.

In this respect Wycombe Wellbeing organised a meeting recently, chaired by Michael Bowker and Steve Baker MP. In one group we discussed what would we need in 15 years time and after the usual bit about need for mobility and family, we came to the conclusion that we needed to invest in the future of all our young people, as they are OUR FUTURE. It would therefore be very short sighted to hit the learning environments of all children.

Please see details of a public meeting on sunday 27 March 2011, on the inside back page (p11).

Hearty congratulations to MPA vice chairman Chauhdry Shafique, who is delighted to have been awarded the MBE in the new year's honours list. His work for community cohesion has been recognised and he has had the honour of personally collecting the gong from the Queen.

Contact the MPA: Post: 34 Perth Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP13 6XX

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Update at Cressex Community School by David Hood, Headteacher

Students and staff at Cressex Community School are continuing to settle into their splendid new surroundings and enjoy the opportunities they present.

In addition to working hard in lessons, students are also benefiting from chances to work with a range of groups and agencies. For the second year running, the school is taking part in the "Driving Inspiration" project, which is focused on the Paralympic Games.

Every week we welcome to school Gold medal winning athletes, professional artists and musicians who organise workshops for students to work together and develop their creative skills in sports and the arts.

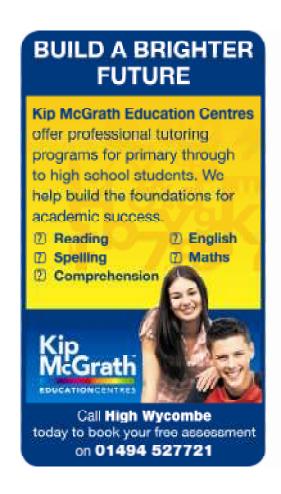
Students have also shown their social conscience by teaming up with peers from Dr Challoners Grammar School and Wycombe Abbey School to organise an assembly and fundraising activities to collect money to support the Pakistan earthquake appeal.

To date almost £2000 has been raised. We have welcomed many guests to the school over the course of recent months. Many have commented most positively on the calm and purposeful atmosphere in the school and the open friendly manner of students and staff.

If you would like to come and form your own impression of the "new Cressex" as well as experience the "Wow Factor" of the new building, we would be very pleased to see you.

Please feel free to contact me at school (01494 437729; office@cressex.bucks.sch.uk; www.cressex.bucks.sch.uk)

David Hood Headteacher



News from Wycombe and Westminster by Steve Baker MP

I am most grateful to the Muslim Parents' Association for the opportunity to bring you up-to-date on some of the things I have been doing in the constituency and in parliament.

I was privileged to re-open the renovated birthing centre at Wycombe hospital. This is midwife-led and has amenities comparable with those found in private maternity units. I urge local mothers-to-be who expect a trouble free birth to seriously consider using this facility. I am a great believer in midwife led births, and I know staff at Wycombe hospital are committed to giving families the best possible birthing experience. I was delighted to make a presentation of a china breakfast set to Fatima Gamtameez, the first baby born in the new unit.

Another local service I should like to encourage Wycombe people to use is the Citizens' Advice Bureau. The Citizens' Advice Bureau is a wonderful organisation, with trained professionals and volunteers dedicated to helping people with a wide variety of problems, ranging from debt counselling to advice on benefits and help with the law. I attended the organisation's AGM at its premises at 8 Easton Street, and know the people there would be pleased to help you with any problem you might have. The Citizens' Advice Bureau can be contacted on 0844 4994108.

Back in November, I was invited to tour Highcrest School to look around its facilities and to meet both staff and pupils. I was tremendously impressed by the school, its staff and its pupils. I was delighted the school has recently been rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted. I know many people will join me in congratulating the headteacher, Shena Moynihan, and her staff on this excellent achievement.

I am aware of issues where changes proposed by central government may affect the education of children locally. These include funding of the pupil premium using the number of claimants of free school meals, academy status, and the English baccalaureate amongst others. To discuss these concerns I have been in touch with local head teachers, and have other meetings planned for the next few weeks, and promise I will do all I can to ensure children educated locally have the best possible chance of success. You may also like to know, I have met delegations of students from both Bucks New University and Amersham and Wycombe College to hear their opinions on tuition fees, funding and education maintenance grants. We have not necessarily agreed with each other on these issues, but each of us has had the chance to put our views openly and discuss them.

Apart from the work I have done in the constituency, I have also been busy in Parliament. I have been elected to serve on the Transport Select Committee, and I intend to use this to hold the Government to account on the M40 and high speed rail, amongst other things.

I should like to finish by saying that if anyone has any local community or charity event they would like me to come to please get in touch with my constituency office on 01494 448408 and, if I am free, I will be delighted to support you.

Does your child need help with his or her School work?

If YES, Are you willing to get him or her some help with not just the school subjects but about Study/learning techniques. If YES again, then please email the Child's details to Rafiq Raja (rafiqraja@hotmail.co.uk).

Wycombe Muslim Girl wins worldwide completion with prestigious second Prize

Arosah Yaseen, 17, a pupil at Sir William Ramsay School, High Wycombe, has been awarded the runner up prize from the Saatchi Gallery/Sunday Telegraph Arts Prize, after her work was short listed from 18,000 entries world wide. Schools were asked to submit artwork from pupils up to the age of 18.

Arosah won £1,000 for herself and £5,000 for the school art department as well as having her work exhibited in one of London's most prestigious galleries. The winning work is a fabric and machine stitched textile piece. The work explores the effects of war on people and places. A touch of cynicism presented through the addition of imagery and text is intended as a comment on the horror of war, hidden by a veneer of tradition, prestige and military precision.

A private view was held at the Saatchi Gallery for the 20 short listed entries on Wednesday 12th January, attended by Arosah, her family, friends, members of staff from the art department, the link Governor for art and the Head teacher. This weblink will take you to the virtual exhibition http://www.saatchigallery.co.uk/portfolio/

Note from editor:

'Well Done' Arosah. We are aware that this young lady is not the only top artist to emerge from High Wycombe, which is perhaps indicative of the fact that Wycombe schools provide excellent opportunities for budding talents. We welcome and celebrate excellence among all our children.



Do you have something to write about?

If you wish to write about something then please e-mail your contribution as soon as possible. Articles should be or about 500 words; however, if there is something of a more serious nature then please still limit it to one page of this Newsletter and e-mail it as soon as possible.

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Chiltern Open Air Museum has a beautiful parkland site with 33 historic buildings rescued from destruction including an Iron Age House, a 1947 Prefab from Amersham, a tin chapel, a working Victorian Farm with animals and even a Victorian Toll House and Furniture Factory from High Wycombe. We also have timber framed buildings and a bake oven from Chesham in our stores waiting for funding to re-erect them on our site. We are approx 15 mins drive from Chesham and High Wycombe and our opening season in 2011 is 2 April - 28 October.

The Museum is a charity with over 250 volunteers helping to steward the buildings, shop and tickets, assemble historic buildings, work on the farm, staffing reception and much more. These volunteers come from the surrounding community and provide a vital support to the Museum and help provide a fantastic experience for our visitors. However, we are aware that we don't currently have many volunteers or visitors from non white backgrounds and are keen to look for links with local communities to improve this. Recent funding has allowed us to work with Daffodil Forbes, a member of the West Indian community in High Wycombe to explore different cultural links with the Museum's historic buildings and to plan cultural events at the Museum in future.

On 26 & 27 March we are holding a special pre season weekend that will be free to the public for those two days only. As a charity we normally have to charge an admission price (please check our web site for details). 1940s re-enactment soldiers will be in some of the Museum buildings over the two days in March to show visitors some of the different aspects of the army and village life during the Second World War. If you or your family have any war time experiences you would like to share with our visitors this would be a great opportunity to come along and see the Museum for yourself and to celebrate the unsung role of many Asian and black soldiers during this war.

We are also looking for people who worked in the Wycombe chair and furniture making industry in the past, who might have worked in places such as our traditional Furniture Factory representing the huge contribution made by the Asian and black community to this local industry.

Please contact Sue Shave on director@coam.org.uk or Autumn Acker on visitorcoam@btconnect.com or ring them on 01494 871117 if you are interested in getting involved in this wonderful museum of Chilterns traditional life or can help contribute to our events. Visit the Museum web site www.coam.org.uk to see our buildings, farm and animals and find out more about volunteering, including corporate volunteering opportunities at the Museum.

Graduate Trainee Opportunities

Supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund the Museum is able to offer two graduate trainees the opportunity of a 12 month placement at the Museum in volunteer management, sustainable development and education and interpretation. Details of the funded placement and how to apply are available from the Museum web site www.coam.org.uk or ring the Museum Office for postal copies on 01494 871117.

Amersham & Wycombe College are concerned about the drop in numbers of Pakistani origin students

Amersham and Wycombe College is highly committed to providing excellence in teaching and learning. The College is committed to meeting the needs of all its learners including those from different ethnic backgrounds and faiths. The promotion of equality of opportunity is at the heart of everything we do.

It is our goal to enable all our students to achieve their potential and succeed. Established policies and procedures reflect and support our core values of equality and diversity.

However, we are always keen to improve our service and with this in mind we want to look at ways of improving the engagement of Pakistani learners in the life of the college.

We want to find out what it is we need to do to attract more learners from a significant part of our local community. To do this we are carrying out a research project. The project will work with the local Pakistani community to understand and identify the barriers to participating in learning and any gaps there may be in the programmes we offer. We are particularly interested in hearing the views of young Pakistani people to discover what it is they are most interested in studying and we will then explore how the college may meet these needs. The project aims to look at ideas of how to provide local groups and organisations with support to help the college improve engagement with young Pakistanis.

The project will explore innovative ways for the College to further promote inclusivity and community cohesion by working alongside local faith, youth and community groups. Upon completion, the research findings will be disseminated and made available to other colleges and providers so that lessons learnt can be shared.

We would be really pleased to hear from you no matter whether you are simply sharing opinions or you have ideas. Please do not hesitate to contact Sanna on sannamanir87@gmail.com

Are you registered to vote?

The Wycombe District Council elections are taking place on 5 May 2011 and you should ensure that you and other members of your family, who will be 18 years of age on 5 May are on the register. If you are not registered you may still be able to vote if you can register with WDC without delay.

A student view of Cressex School

I am Summon Hussain and my role in this school or community is the role of a Head Boy. In simple terms I am the representative of all the prefects. I would just like to talk about the development of Cressex Community School since I have been at this school.

I have been here since year 7 and even had an opportunity to take my 12+ exams which I was confident with myself that I would pass but I didn't take the exams. Maybe it was very stupid of me because I could have passed and gone to a Grammar School or maybe I was really clever to stay here, anyhow I stayed at Cressex because I wanted to be at Cressex and I was happy at Cressex.

When I came to this school, I came because it was not near to me, not because I had researched and found out that it was a good school or a bad school. My cousins were currently studying at this school and a lot of my family members came to this school. I had an attitude to learn and that is what has motivated me throughout my time here. I have said this before and I am saying it again, from my point of view, It really doesn't matter what school you are at, what matters is if you have that positive attitude towards learning and that is what is required to be successful.

There are a lot of successful people out there who have been educated from Cressex. I have seen so many changes in Cressex in the past 5 years that I have studied here. There have been changes in 2-3 Head teachers while I have been here and I think Mr Hood has been the longest serving.

Cressex has developed so much in the past years and we can clearly see that through the results that we have been achieving and the percentage passing has been rising continuously for the past few years and that just proves how Cressex is getting better learning wise. Cressex students are more mature now than they were at the same stage few years back.

Behaviour is much better than it was and that is found out through the results of exclusion. There has been less exclusion in the last few years. Expectations are set higher for students now than before and every student is trying to meet those targets set.

High Achievements for all is certainly our shared responsibility and I can say for a fact that Cressex is a rising star. It's climbing to the top and I am proud to be a head boy at Cressex Community School.

Summon Hussain Head Boy, Cressex School

Would you like to get involved with the MPA? Do you have an article you would like to submit?

Then please get in touch via our website mpawycombe.co.uk



FROM ZERO TO HERO: The story of an airline pilot.

Imagine the scene, 8 years old, early 1990's, the man next door was mowing his lawn and I was walking to school with mother after a lunch break on a pleasant spring afternoon, suddenly the tranquillity was shattered by a thunderous roar of four jet engines powering a Boeing 747 on an upward trajectory towards 40,000 feet, it passes over my head and I can clearly see the Chatham house union jack design on the rear fin of the aircraft, it's a 'British Airways jumbo' I thought to myself. I didn't know much about aeroplanes then, and I still don't to some extent, I thought it must be going at least to the moon, if not further.

In fact it was taking a maximum of 416 passengers to their destination, most probably United States, a journey which many probably dreamt about for many weeks beforehand, and a journey which some would rather not have taken had it not been for the necessities of life and business.

The atmosphere in that 747 must have been eclectic, some praying for safe passage, some longing to see their loved ones, but rest assured, all of them were settling into their seats having given up control of their destiny to the two angelic souls braving the adventure in the dimly lit but spacious cockpit that aviators call their "office."

Before my imagination could get the better of me, I felt a pat on the back and mum was pushing me through the school gate to be welcomed by the din of the lunchtime school playground. I knew from that day onwards I wanted to be a pilot.

Anyhow, fast forward to 1995, I got my results for the 12+, and was disappointed that I missed getting admission into The RGS by the narrowest of margins, probably due to the fact I spent most of days daydreaming about flying. But nevertheless I was a future pilot; I didn't let such setbacks de-motivate me. I was ready, bring on Sir William Ramsay.

My next four years at SWRamsay were interesting, I was surrounded by guys and girls with a huge amount of potential, but for one reason or another they were on cruise control, they didn't care about school. I promised myself not to show the same carefree attitude.

I set my eyes on the target of GCSE success early on, and I worked my tiny socks off for what it was worth. I knew that GCSE's were akin to a passport for further adventures I had planned.

I wasn't the best or the smartest in the class, but what mattered most was that I believed I was and my parents believed I was, and that's what saw me through to the end. I graduated with 11 GCSE's with the majority being A or A* grade. Now I was ready to carry on with my sixth form studies, and as fate would have it I was accepted into RGS to study Physics, Math and Geography.

Year 2001, having lapped up what the excellent RGS had to offer me I decided that I would like to carry on with my studies into higher education. As you'd expect, my parents wanted me to study medicine, but I went for something that I felt was worth busting a gut for. So I chose to study Aeronautical Engineering.

3 years later, in 2004, aged 20 I graduated, with a huge grin and a sizeable debt burden, with a BEng in Aeronautical Engineering from the prestigious Loughborough University. At this point I was exhausted of studying and was ready to tackle the world of work.

Over the years, having talked to a multitude of airline pilots and budding aviators, I came to learn that an excellent pilot did not fly the aircraft with his hands and feet, he flew it with his

head. Being excellent was about having exceptional people skills and leadership qualities. Not being able to pick this up from University or from my peers I spent the next 3 years building my experience in leadership skills, communication skills and acquiring several industry recognised management qualifications.

So after Uni, I started my crusade on self development, this would take me from Autumn 2004 to Summer 2007.

I started off by being employed as a baggage handler at Heathrow, after which I became a check in agent for British Airways in Terminal One. Still not satisfied with my personal development, I spent the next two years with Christian Salvesen fulfilling the following roles: Business Development Analyst in Northampton, Operations Manager in Daventry, Project Manager in Birmingham and eventually E-Commerce Analyst in Paddington.

Having been satisfied with my efforts in the world of work, and learnt all the transferable skills that were required in the modern day fast jet cockpit, I resurrected the golden years of dreaming about flying and with a bold step started my aviation career. But before I could do that I had two other important things to do.

It was summer 2007 now; first thing that I had to do was pass the pilot medical. After having been prodded and probed at London Gatwick for the best part of a whole day I was given a clean bill of health and given the go ahead to apply to become an airline pilot.

Secondly, knowing that the journey towards my Airline Pilots Licence was going to be challenging and full of surprises I gathered all my might and savings and went to perform Umrah with my father.

Returning from which, I sat the entrance examinations for the airline pilot course at the world leading Oxford Aviation Academy. To my delight I was accepted, and duly started my training in September 2007.

In January 2009 I graduated from Oxford Aviation Academy with my wings having been made of a thousand books. To my astonishment, three days later, I was offered the right hand seat of a Boeing 737-800 aircraft, flying for Europe's largest airline.

Now I am 27 years old and well settled into my career, and so begin to imagine the scene, a dark gray wintery Saturday morning, with thick fluffy cloud at 3,000 feet, the air is damp, and a chilly wind is blowing in from the North, you are tucked up nice and warm in bed, listening to the birds sing, hoping that you get a lie in before someone calls you for breakfast; when suddenly the morning peace is broken by a passenger jet roaring towards the stratosphere at breakneck speed.

Sound familiar? It is, only this time I'm in the right hand seat and an 8 year old somewhere has looked towards my jet and thought to himself 'I will forever walk this earth with my eyes turned skywards, for there is where I want to be, and for there is where I belong.'

Hope you are all well.

On 2nd of April, it is WWFC Community day match. We will be offering free family tickets for that day and information about that will be going out in the next couple of weeks (yes, for sport loving fans, that is the day of the cricket world cup final.



On that day, I am organising a World Food Cuisine/Taster Event for people who be coming to come and taste the variety of world cuisines. I have so far got confirmed Asain (Pakistani), Arabic, African Caribbean, I am waiting to hear from Polish Chef, and will hopefully be meeting a Portuguese community member this week to see if they can get involved.

We would like all the communities in high Wycombe to participate; please get in touch if you are interested.

The 2nd reason for the email, last year we had a St Vincent Multi cultural community day, you may have heard about it or seen the leaflet. We found out that 95% of the Black people living in High are from St Vincent.

Working alongside few people, we organised a day for their community. They quickly set up a steering group and with 2 weeks of advertising, the day had over 1200 turn up. These people were from all backgrounds and cultures and the theme of the day was to do with Black history and culture. They had music, clothes, food, information on religion, culture, background etc etc the day was such a success, the club have already committed to doing it again this year and the steering group is already working on it. The thing from my point of view was, how this community came together, so quickly, put their differences aside and created a fun family day for their community and also showed their community to the rest of the communities that were their. We had Bucks Free press here, the mayor etc and the club created a DVD of the day and when you see that DVD, it shows what a fantastic day they had.

I received a leaflet from Bristol and they do the same sort of event there, bring communities together. They called their event Islamic Cultural Fayre, and they staged it at a local park. In this event they had Nasheeds, bazaar, Islamic goods, football tournament, exotic foods, Prayer facilities and had many sponsors including Muslim Directory and an Islamic school.

When doing these events, biggest problem sometimes is the venue, space big enough. We are lucky that we have this football club that we can use. For the Caribbean day, the Football club didt charge anything to use its facilities. The only costing was the entertainment and stalls that were there.

My manager would like to do something of the same thing for the Asian community. How great would it be if we could organise something to show the rest of the community. Teach them about our culture, background and Religion. Especially in our world today, show them the true meaning of Islam.

I had recently FA come down film the work I do in the community. They came to film my street league and for 2 hours they filmed the young lads playing football and interviewed myself and some of the lads. What the lady from the FA said was how great it was to see young lads playing football on a Saturday evening, behaving and from different backgrounds. On the Back of that, the BBC would like to come down and follow me for the day and film my work in the community. They would like to film me in the Youth clubs, going to the mosque, street league and it will be shown on prime TV, a show called take it like a fan, sport enthusiastic will know what I am talking about. The point I am trying to come across, the work this football club is been recognised nationally and how positive it will be for our community and High Wycombe to get good publicity and also to show Islam in a positive view.

What I would like is to set up a steering group to look at doing a Islamic Cultural Fayre, the group will consist of 12 people and would like people who are proactive and have time on their hands. I know we are all busy people, but I would like to do an event to bring our community together.

Aqeel Akram

Social Inclusion and Health Manager | T: 01494 455 736 | F: 01494 527 633 | M: 07852 898261



The Muslim Parents Association is delighted to cordially invite you to a Public Meeting to highlight the educational concerns of the MPA and at the same time celebrate the success enjoyed by Muslim children.

We have some nationally famous Naat Khwaans and Saif Malook reciters as well as some local head Teachers and other dignitaries among the speakers.

The public meeting will be held on:

SUNDAY, 27 MARCH 2011

In the Totteridge Road Mosque, High Wycombe

After Nimaz Zhur (2-6PM)

Refreshments/ Langar will be served at the end.

All Muslims, especially young professionals of Pakistani origin are asked to attend. A separate hall for the ladies and free parking will be available.







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