

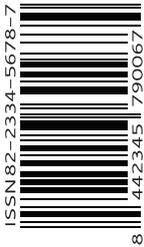
LOVING THE FLOW

SERIES 2- ISSUE 1: JANUARY 2019



THE FLOWHESION FOUNDATION

www.flowhessionfoundation.org.uk



Bolton's Saeed Atcha, 22 youngest person to receive an MBE for helping young people gain better skills. Read more inside this issue!



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+ *The voice of* **GREATER MANCHESTER'S**
Cohesion-Conscious Youth

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR AT THE FLOWHESION FOUNDATION



Welcome to another great magazine issue put together by hardworking, passionate and committed young people. At the time of writing this we have witnessed a spike in youth knife crime across the country. Young people prepared to murder and commit the most horrible crimes. I have always believed that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders, citizens and change-makers. We need to spend our time doing positive things for ourselves and the people around us. I believe that the many projects that our Foundation runs for young people are essentially run to make the most positive use of their time. We are very fortunate that we have extremely skilled, passionate staff across our services whom young people enjoy working with. Its important I feel that young people are not judged, stigmatized or looked down on in today's world. Many of the distractions, pressures and challenges they are facing were not placed on previous generations. For instance social media and the pressure to be seen with the 'in' crowd as well as trendy and hip; the huge financial pressures of getting a decent university education and the uncertainty of job prospects alongside the idea of living at home for much longer before they can move out; all add to the complexity of modern teenage and early adult life.

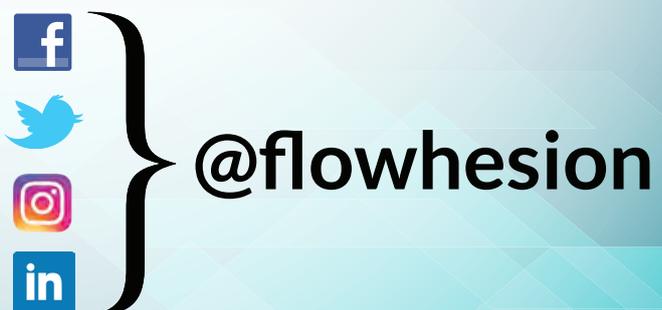
I've always felt the Foundation to be the home of young people. A safe space where they can explore the issues those most affects them and engage with professionals, mentors and well wishers that are happy to point them in the right direction. I think this model has worked well with us and I was really happy to hear for instance how our sports project attracted over 35 young people, adamant they were not going to miss a session, even though it was snowing! The way forward for engaging young people is to ensure they live, breathe and love the communities they are part of. Perhaps this is the single most important contribution this magazine makes to the wider community cohesion conversation in Bolton.

I hope you enjoy reading and learning from this issue as much I did.

Abdul Hafeez Siddique

Imam Abdul Hafeez Siddique
Executive Director

If you 'feel the flow' and want to get involved join the 'Flowhession Family' by emailing us at: admin@flowhessionfoundation.org.uk or connect with us at:



The Team



Some of the team 'posing' during a magazine meeting break

Subhan Malik

Ladybridge High School Year 10

Ayaz Patel

Eden Boys School Year 10

Ali Choudry

Ladybridge High School year 10

Muhammed Ali Essa

Academy year 10

Hussain Patel

Eden High School, year 9

Marsia Bilal

Year 8

Halima Hussain

Year 8

Aspire

By Subhan and Ayaz

Saeed Atcha, at the age of 22 was the youngest to be awarded a MBE for services to young people and the community in Greater Manchester. Saeed will join people from business, medicine, public sector and the voluntary services in Bolton to be recognized for their exceptional achievements.

His grandparents originated from India and migrated to England in the 1950's, where Saeed's parents were brought up in Bolton, greater Manchester. Living in Deane, he attended Pikes Lane Primary School and later continued his secondary education at Ladybridge High School. He continued his further education at Bury, and in Manchester he is currently studying a Master's Degree in Public Relations, specializing in Crisis Communications.

It was at the age of 15 when the young man found himself having a strong involvement in the media, magazine publications and broadcasting. When articles appeared in the press criticizing young people after the riots in 2011, he responded to this propaganda by swiftly editing his own magazine – Explode. This was the point, whilst he was still studying at school; he decided to approach O2 with the idea of a youth magazine, tailored for young people. O2 found his idea so appealing, they funded the magazine.

Explode leverages its publications to help serve as a training platform for Young People aged 12-22, to help them develop the skills required in media, writing, business and employability. This innovative concept bridges social good, productivity and leisure activities to foster a promising future.

Saeed, who had a difficult childhood, spending most of his teenage years in and out of care, and with testing times in his education, is now a Chief Executive of Explode Magazine, and through the Magazine, helps young people in Greater Manchester with volunteering, jobs hunting and skills training.



In a recent interview, Mr Atcha said: "I felt quite emotional when I found out. For me, receiving this is unimaginable. I don't take time to reflect, I always want to conquer the next challenge but this serves as a tap on the shoulder to say, 'well done, now push further and faster for what you believe in' and what I'd say is don't underestimate the importance of that tap on the shoulder to young people."

He added: "I never expected this at all, especially at my age. I certainly will be nominating young people for an award in the future and I would encourage others to do the same. The achievements of young people should be recognized like this, the work so many young people do should be recognized, I would encourage the community to recognize them." He manages his role as Chief executive with his studies at Manchester Metropolitan University and his trusteeships at Young Manchester and the national youth social action charity Step Up to serve behind the #iWill campaign.

Saeed has recently been appointed Social Mobility Commissioner, and an Ambassador at One Young World and an Associate fellow of the Royal Commonwealth society.

Saeed now embarks to work on a project where he intends to train over 10,000 people in Greater Manchester in employability skills. He has carried out workshop sessions across the country, producing a job tools kit, including tips on writing effective CV's and cover letters, and on interview techniques.

Value

Ali Choudry Ladybridge High School Year 10
Muhammed Ali Essa Academy Year 10



On Wednesday 23rd January 2019, the Festival Hall hosted the Annual Holocaust Memorial day service in Bolton. The whole community came together to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Mayor and Mayoress, Faith groups, Bolton Council members, almost 16 schools and members of staff attended this special ceremony in Festival Hall at Bolton town hall to pay tribute to the millions of victims of the Second World War genocide, who died under the tyranny of the Nazi regime, as well as acts of persecution that have and continue to take place around the globe.

Chan Parmar, Strategic Officer of Bolton Interfaith Council said, "It is vital we remember the Holocaust and other genocides in the world which have inflicted pain and suffering beyond belief purely for greed, power and to eliminate the minorities through hatred.. Remembering the Holocaust and other victims of such atrocities is a reminder to learn from the mistakes from the past."

Two very special guests attended the Ceremony from the International Holocaust Memorial Alliance from Australia. Chan Parmar also stated, "The event is about remembering the Holocaust and subsequent genocides as it is important to remember the pain that people suffered. It is also important to learn lessons from this, that we should come together and talk for peace, harmony and mutual respect, because the suffering of innocents in today's world is not acceptable."

Throughout the event those who gathered in the Ceremony lit Candles of Hope. Dave Bageley from Urban Outreach said: "In lighting a candle we put a little bit of light back in to some dark places."

A number of speeches were presented by the Mayor Of Bolton, Cllr Roger Hayes, acting Leader of Bolton Council and Cllr Linda Thomas. There was an emotional prayer performed by Rabbi Lever from Faith Network 4 Manchester, which was recited in English and Hebrew.

Various poems, readings and musical performances were performed on the day, with an exhibition of artworks and projects, made by school pupils placed around the hall. The centre on the theme of this years ceremony was The Power of Words.

Closing the ceremony Mr Bagley encouraged people "never to forget the Holocaust or actions of genocide", inviting people "to build a future where every single human is entitled and able to experience freedom, and freedom of opportunity, and freedom from slavery."

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) chooses the annual theme to provide those preparing Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) events with fresh ideas for interesting and inspiring commemorations. Each of these relate to the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.



Holocaust Memorial Day Trust offered the theme "Torn from Home" to encourage the audience to reflect on how the enforced loss of a safe place to call 'home' is part of the trauma faced by anyone experiencing persecution and genocide. 'Home' usually means a place of safety, comfort and security.

This theme also allows for reflections on how we can support those escaping persecution today and who may be looking to make a new home in our own communities. It leads to discussions of how the lessons of the past can inform our lives today and ensure that everyone works together to create a safer, better future.



Belong

Hussain Patel, Eden High School, Year 9

Smithills Hall in Bolton, Greater Manchester, is a Grade 1 listed Manor House and a scheduled monument in Smithills.

It stands on the slopes of the West Pennine Moors above Bolton at a height of 500 feet, three miles North West of the town Centre. It occupies a defensive site near the Astley and Ravendon Brooks.

Smithills Hall is one of the oldest manor houses in the North West of England and its oldest parts are the great hall, dated from the 15th Century and has since been altered and extended, with part of the building moated.

The name Smithills Hall originated from the Old English *smepe* meaning smooth and *hyll*, a hill and was then recorded as *Smythell* in 1322. The early medieval records about the hall started in 1335 when William Radcliffe attained the manor from the Hultons who held it from the Knights Hospitaller.

When William Radcliffe passed away in 1369 it was then passed on to his son heir Sir Ralph Radcliffe, High Sheriff of Lancashire for 1384-1387 and twice MP for Lancashire. The Radcliffe family lived there until 1485, when the male line failed and Smithills Hall was passed to the Bartons, well off sheep farmers who lived there for nearly 200 years.

Smithills Hall is built on a formal terrace, which is surrounded on all side by parkland on the south side of a steep-sided valley formed a tributary of the Raveden Brook.

The hall has three ranges around an open court. The oldest part of the building is the great hall in the north range, which was probably built in the early – 14th century and once upon time was surrounded

by moat. Since then it has been changed but still has its original plan and medieval characteristics.

When Smithills Hall was built, the oldest part saw it being built by timber frames and the oldest stonework was roughly coursed rubblestone. The 19th – century west wing is built in coursed, squared stone and decorative timber framing. All the roofs are covered in stone flag.

The 48-hectare (120-acre) gardens and pleasure grounds which Smithills Hall sits on is on south facing sloping land on the edge of moorland with a steep wooded valley and lake to the north and formal gardens around the hall.

Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council owns the property itself and the doors are open to the public.



Build

Marsia Bilal, Year 8

Halima Hussain, Year 8



There is a lot of positive work going in Bolton, however one organization in particular have done exceptional work, having been the heart of the community for over 50 years - Bolton Samaritan's.

Bolton Samaritans first call was taken on 3rd May 1965 at 4.50pm, from someone with a broken leg – and was a hoax! The first 'real' call was taken 90 minutes later.

The problem which they had with their first venue was they couldn't hear the phones when the organ was being played because they were in a small room behind the organ in St. George's Road Congregational Church. At this point the organization had 40 volunteers.

At the beginning it was when a volunteer called Betty who answered the night calls for Bolton. For many of the year's these calls were transferred to the volunteer's home. Today these calls are taken during night shifts at the local branch.

They then moved to their next location where the volunteers had to climb 50 steps in to the Bolton Samaritan's next office, top floor of corporation Chambers (opposite where the Market Hall is now) from the late 1960's to 1973. Someone would say that becoming a volunteer was more dependent on your ability to climb these stairs than your ability to cope with the callers!

In 1973 they moved in to a derelict building in Bark Street. The building itself felt like walking back in to the 19th century. It still had the old gaslights in place, just a couple light bulbs and

cold-water tap at the back. There were also old clogs and shoes lying around the place from when the building was used as cobblers. Wallpaper was hanging off the walls and the plaster was mostly loose.

At the grand opening, invitations were sent out to the Mayor, other Civic dignitaries, and town's people. It was the grand opening where Tom Markland, of Markland and Scowcroft, gave them a cheque for £1000 to help with the completion of the building work.

The first pre-arranged call was taken by the Mayor on 27th September 1973. But unfortunately it was a real call so he quickly passed it to one of the volunteers.

Currently, Bolton Samaritans have 40 listening volunteers, over 10 support volunteers. They also provide support face to face, via email, text and over the telephone.

The branch now has 80 volunteers, which is roughly half of the 150 volunteers they had in the 70's and early 80's. On 3rd of May 2019 it will see the 54th Anniversary for the organization.

You can donate via BT MyDonate and they also have a charity shop on Bury Road, Bolton.

If you would like to learn more about Bolton Samaritans, or get involved and volunteer please go on their website where you can find details how to.

