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APRIL 2020

By Young Mancunians For Young Mancunians

This project has been supported with a grant from Manchester's Community Safety Partnership

INTERVIEW WITH CITIZEN KHAN LEGEND ABDULLAH AFZAL!



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

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Al Hilal  
Regeneration Enterprise  
Connecting with & regenerating communities





# ON TO THE COMMUNITY

## FROM THE EDITORS DESK

In the Winter of 2019 a group of young people from North Manchester gathered on the call to improve their journalistic skills through expressing their life and community experiences in the Northern areas of the city surrounding Crumpsall, Cheetham Hill and Prestwich.

The young people were involved working tirelessly to bring high quality content to younger audiences. This Magazine is based around four key community cohesion themes, BELONG, BUILD, ACHIEVE, VALUE.

This issue features reporting on important efforts by organizations in North

Manchester to help the homeless, Manchester's busy-bee spirit, a detailed look at how the transport industry and manufacturing shaped the city's landscape as well as interviews with recent migrants who share their love and life in our town!

Said Al-Hilal Director 'Community cohesion is a fluid concept that can be creatively adapted to make it relevant, hip and trendy to our young people. This project aims to do just this; not only did the participants thoroughly enjoy themselves during formation of this edition; but learnt a great deal about community cohesion along the way'.

The Cheetham Hill area of Manchester is a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, diverse location with popular iconic landmarks including religious places of worship, well known education and shopping centres and a wide variety of special cultural foods all which will be presented to you in this magazine.

With special thanks in no particular order to the amazing youngsters and their parents who brought their children to share and develop their skills no matter the weather; and to the owners of the annexe who accommodated us every cold Sunday Morning.



Ayaan Qureshi | Aliya Shah  
 Hadiyyah Jameel | Haroon Atif  
 Imaan Atif | Imaad Salam  
 Muskaan Ali  
 Muhammad Umar Ali  
 Sulaiman Shah | Sumayyah Ali  
 Salahuddin Jameel | Sehr Farrukh  
 Zahrah Sheikh | Zayd Tayyib

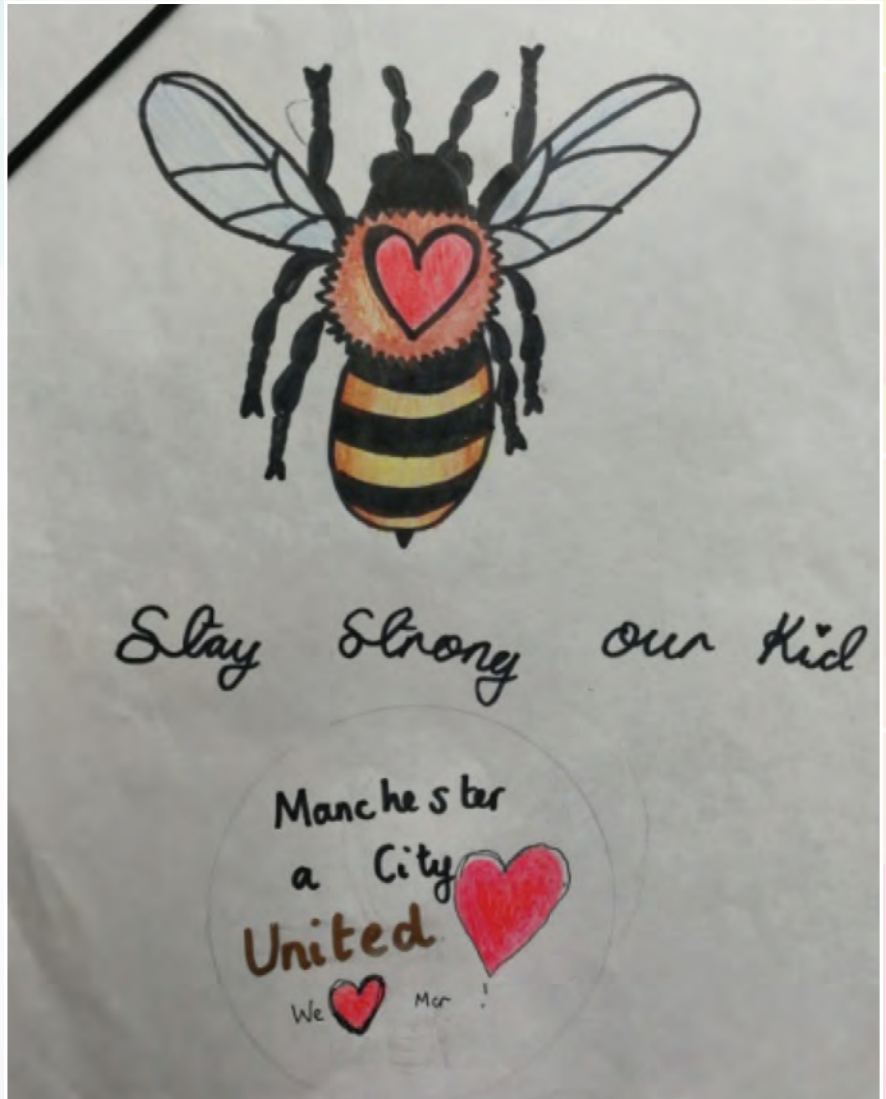
# Value Aliya & Sehr

# Be The Manchester Bee

In the 18th and 19th century Manchester was at the centre of a period known as the industrial revolution. It was a time in which there was lots of improvement in technology and industry instead of production happening by hand, businesses started to use factories and machines. Manchester was the heart of this revolution - it was known to some as Cottonopolis because of the amount of cotton that was produced. The Manchester factories were sometimes referred to as beehives because the workers were so busy and productive. This was how the bee became first associated with Manchester.

"The thing about Manchester is that it all comes from here"

On May 22nd 2017, innocent lives were lost inside Manchester arena during pop-star Ariana Grande's concert. Young people from across the North West came together excited and ready for a memorable evening, anticipating the phenomenal vocals of Ariana Grande, little did they know it would be infamous and memorable for all the wrong reasons. The concert was well underway, with audiences shouting and savouring the day, then the moment was over. A suicide bomber carried out the act which killed 22 people- including Saffie-Rose Roussos- aged eight, who was the youngest to die from the blast which injured hundreds of people, by detonating an improvised explosive device. It has been labelled the worst attack in the UK since 56 people were bombed in 7/7. Isis has claimed the attack. It is appalling that in recent years these attacks are becoming more and more normal. However before these attacks the IRA bombings were occurring, some of the worst out of the bombings were; a coach in 1974 carrying soldiers and families in northern England is bombed by the Irish Republican



Army (IRA). Twelve people killed, 14 hurt, a wave of IRA bombs during October-November 1974 in British pubs kills 28 people and wounds more than 200, Bomb at Royal Marines Music School in September 1989 in Deal, southeast England, kills 11 and wounds 22 and Bombs in two litter bins in march 1993 in Warrington kill two boys aged three and 12.

In spite of the fact that we are overwhelmed with terrorist activity not only in Manchester or Great Britain but also around the globe, we have grown to react to horrors like this. After the MEN bombing, people everywhere came together and helped those who needed it. Companies brought water and food and other resources where needed. Schools came together and some like Abraham moss gave a 2



minute silence dedicated to those who had suffered. A Tesco Manager, Ismail Iqbal gave a statement on how Tesco responded to the incident-he told me “we helped emergency services by dropping off food essentials including water, fruit, biscuits, coffee, tea, bread, sugar etc. The community responded well and I am very proud at the response as it shows how even though we are all from different backgrounds and ethnicities we still came out as one stand against terrorism, which displays how diverse we are in Manchester. I love Manchester.”

“Manchester became a synonym for energy and freedom and the right to do and think without shackles”

Today the Manchester bee is significant as it is a symbol of togetherness. Even after all the terrorism and violent outbursts Mancunians stayed together

and unified as one. It reflects how in Manchester we value togetherness diversity and community spirit. The positives of the violent acts of terrorism are that it allowed us to value our lives the opportunities we and the everyday blessings we take for granted. The bee also reflects how proud we are to live in such a diverse society; being able to stand together in unification and having numerous religious buildings come together, respecting each other regardless of their differences.

“if ever there was one player, anywhere in the world, that was Manchester united, it was cantona he swaggered in, stuck his chest out, raised his head and surveyed everything, as though he were asking ‘I’m Cantona. How big are you? Are you big enough for me?’

**#WeStandTogether #WeStandWithManchester #PrayForManchester #StandTogether**





# Belong

## Places To Visit In 'The Hill'

Compilation by the editors

As our Editorial team have boasted there is a lot going on in Cheetham Hill. Our youngsters shared their favourite places to visit in no particular order.

- 01. Philadelphia Restaurant** - has become quite a tradition in Cheetham and the food tastes amazing.
- 02. Kick Air** - it's a fun place to go with trampolines and pits to jump into.
- 03. The Fort** - It takes us about twenty minutes to walk from home. There are Lots of shops including coffee shops. My favourite shop is The Works.
- 04. The Manchester Museum of Transport** - it was one of the places we visited during this project. We learnt a lot not just about transport but about this area and most of Manchester.
- 05. Heaton Park** - is the biggest park in Manchester and the largest municipal park in Europe and we have great memories of going there as children. We love the eating areas. They even sell their own Honey in the main café.
- 06. Crumpsall Park** - There are always walking groups, play areas for children in the quite new play area as well as space for cricket or other team sports. My grandpa used to take me there as a child.
- 07. Rock over climbing** - It's friendly and caters for all ages
- 08. Masjid Khidra** - A lot of us attended this Mosque as children and still attend for sports and various activities.
- 09. Manchester Jewish Museum** - We learnt a lot about Judaism and the History of Jewish residents in the old Cheetham Hill through visits here.
- 10. Cheetham Hill 'Village'** - Lots to buy, you walk in different stores and feel you are in another country. Theres a huge selection of food. The price of fresh produce here is particularly competitive and people from the south of the city also shop here just at the Pakistani cash and carries. I ask my parents about this area and how it has changed and they say it used to be such a quiet place but now its vibrant, colorful and buzzing.





# Belong

## Manchester Museum of Transport

By Imaad Salaam

**D**uring our session we went to the Museum of Transport to see what it was like in the olden days. We met a wonderful volunteer named Chris (retired from work and volunteered at the Museum for over 42 years) who kindly gave us a tour of the Museum. The people who came to the Museum asked the volunteer some questions about what transport was like back in the day. Some questions that the participants asked Chris are as follows.

### DID YOU KNOW?

*How many Depots were there in Manchester a hundred years ago?*

There were 7 created in Manchester.

*Where did the first service begin?*

It started in Heaton Park through Alberts square to Cheetham Hill in 1901.

*What was the first Depot then?*

The first Depot built was in Cheetham Hill.

He also told us other information. He explained that there was a street named Boyle Street. This street was named after a person who was the general manager at the Transport Depots. Chris mentioned that 1 shilling consisted on 12 pennies. Whilst he was talking about buses, he mentioned the word conductor. A member of the session of the asked what a conductor was. He replied that it was a person who would stand at the entrance of the bus collecting money and giving bus fares. On a bus there would only be two people one being the driver and the other being the conductor. However, in this day and age we only have one person on a bus. Their job was to collect the money and give bus fares and to drive the bus. Chris showed us many old buses and on the side of the vehicle it mentioned that a bus fare was only 2 pennies. In the olden days, 2 shillings was a lot of money but in this period, it was not worth much. On the sign it



also said that they would only accept 2 shillings and if a person had no loose pennies then they would not get their change back. The museum that the group went to be the old Depot that they would use back in the day however, there was another one built right beside the old Depot and it was a better built than the other Depot. He also told us that tram service stopped in 1949.









# Build

## Al-Hilal Community Project

By Imaad Salaam and Sumayyah Ali

### The early days of Al-Hilal Regeneration Enterprise (CIC)

**M**y Grandfather Mohammed Abdus Salam arrived in Manchester from Pakistan on the 6th of July 1960. He took on a range of jobs from working as a car mechanic to running his own business. However, as time went by, he eventually found himself helping other people who were arriving from Pakistan.

Around the early 1970s, he moved to Cheetham Hill in North Manchester and was part of the committee in the only mosque in the area situated on Bellot Street. During this time, he realised that there were growing needs in the fledgling community in Cheetham Hill including basic things such as applying for jobs, completing basic forms in English and bridging the inter-generational gap between immigrant parents and the newly emerging British born generation. As a consequence of this newly developing paradigm his role naturally evolved into that of a Community Worker which would help to deal with these new emerging needs.

This then led to a natural progression for him establishing an advice service in the mid 1970s at the currently standing but dilapidated grade 2 listed building, Cheetham & Crumpsall District Library, on Cheetham Hill Road, the precursor to Al-Hilal. From here he offered advice and support in many community matters including divorce, and marriages, applying for jobs, filling out forms for visa applications, social security and passport applications. A supplementary school was also established from here as well organising the provision of offering Eid prayers for the local community. He also helped bridge the generation gap between parents born in Pakistan and children born in UK by offering a mediation service to struggling families. The services were rapidly expanding and picking up and the venue was proving to become small.

Together with the help of a few dedicated local residents, funds were raised, and they successfully purchased a large Victorian house at 443 Cheetham Hill Road and opened its doors in 1977. Having a larger venue meant they could offer

much more needed services to the local community. This is where the UKIM North Manchester branch was officially started. The Cheetham Al-Hilal Community Project was launched in 1978 from this building.

Some of the successes it was instrumental in achieving were as follows:

- Providing Halal food in hospitals
- Preventing the closure of a single-sex girls only Secondary schools in North Manchester
- The provision of burial spaces at Southern Cemetery (on Princess Road) for Muslims

In 1995, my grandfather was awarded with a special award for 'Promoting Good Race Relations In Manchester'. Then in 1999 my Grandfather was awarded a plaque for "33 year's Service" from North Manchester Pakistani Community Association.

My Grandfather worked selflessly for the unity and empowerment of the Muslim community in Manchester. On the 20th of July 2012 my Grandfather passed on, however, the organization continued and volunteers continued with the good work and to keep the legacy going that my Grandfather had worked hard to achieve.

In June 2015, some of the members who were also active members and volunteers during my Grandfather's time, decided to take over and carry on the work. They started afresh and gave themselves a new name, Al-Hilal Regeneration Enterprise (CIC). It now primarily focuses on working with and empowering women and youth from the local community in the areas of mental health and ,well-being and community cohesion.





# Value

By Haroon Atif, Umar Ali, Zayd Tayib, Salahudeen Jameel

## Manchester's Community Diversity: A Tour of Cheetham Hill

**M**anchester remained a small market town until the late 18th century and the beginning of the industrial revolution. The spinning jenny in 1764 marked the beginning of the industrial revolution and brought with it the first fully mechanised products process although some sources define the start of the industrial revolution as July 1761 when the Duke of Bridge waters canal reached Castlefield. The myriad small valleys in the Pennine Hills to the north and east of the town. Combined with the damp climate proved ideal for the construction of water powered cotton mill such as Quarry bank mill which industrialised the spinning and weaving of cloth. During the industrial revolution the population grew up to 40%. The best cotton mills in Cheetham Hill and Crumpsall are Piccadilly Mill, Browns Field Mill and Cotton Field Wharf.

### Belonging in Cheetham

What makes you belong in Cheetham?

Why do you belong in Cheetham?

What impact has Cheetham on your life?

Why do you call Cheetham your home?

I call Cheetham my home. This is because my family and my friends live here. As well as that, I spent my childhood growing up here and made memories that I will treasure for the rest of my life. Another reason I call this my home, is due to the reasons that there are a lot of fun activities you can do. There are many youth clubs, shops and there is a huge amount of history in Cheetham such as when it helped people around the world. Furthermore, it has had a positive impact in my life as I made new friends here as well as memories. Moreover, this area is safe and protected.

Manchester has adapted very quickly in ways other areas could not.

Cheetham Hill with a fast growing population of over 23,000 people is home to a multi ethnic and religious community. For example Eden a School which appeals to Muslims is an institution that promotes a culture of educational excellence, from within an Islamic environment; King David is a Jewish School founded on traditional Jewish



values – its achievement level are considered to be outstanding.

Religious Buildings, business and being bilingual are just some of the observations a person will make as they walk through the streets here.

Manchester is also built on the rich history of the diverse population and their stories. Stories of business success through hard work, of leaving loved ones behind and that of adapting to a very different climate and lifestyle.

As the change of religions and ethnicity is clear for all to see, so too are the amenities in the area like the variety of shops, buildings, schools and merchandise. Popular eateries have opened such as Sakura and Istanbul Restaurant. It will be very interesting to record further changes in our lifetime!

Before WW2 By the end of the 18th Century the rapidly growing town of Manchester England had a small Jewish Community which enlarged day by day. Some of those members made places of worship's around Manchester and Cheetham. The museum in Cheetham Hill tells the history of Jewish communities.

After WW2 Cheetham is home to a multi ethnic community a result of several waves of immigration to Britain due to WW2.



In the mid 19th century it attracted Irish people fleeing the "Great Famine." It is now home to the Irish heritage Centre. Jews settled in the early 19th century. Migrants from the Indian subcontinent and Caribbean came in 1950-1960s as well as people from Africa. All these people and more came to seek safety which led them to Cheetham. Heavily urbanized following the industrial Revolution Cheetham is bisected by Cheetham Hill Road which is lined with Mosques,

Churches, Synagogues and Gurdwaras as well as terraced houses dating from its history as a textile processing district. In the 19th century Christians and Jews were the dominant Religions in Cheetham Hill and Crumpsall. Since then both have become the less represented in the area from 62% down to 48% for Christians and even more of a change in numbers representing the Jewish community here. Now the top 3 religions practiced in Cheetham Hill are Islam, Christianity & believers of no-Faith.

# North Manchester Jamia Masjid UKIM Jamia Khizra Masjid

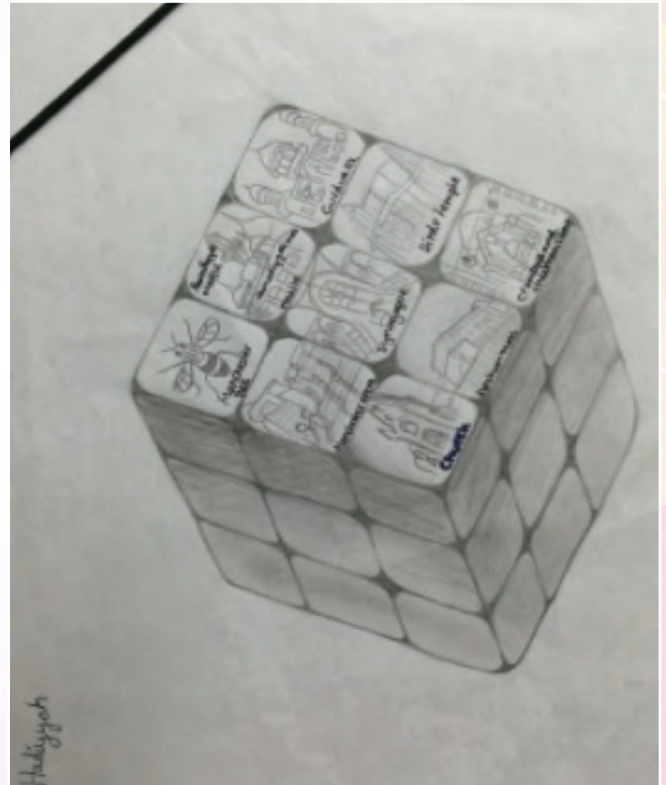
## Places of worship

As a change to meet the needs of the Muslim community, two large well attended mosques were built for the rising number of Muslims, Khizra and Jamia. Both are noticeable with their domes and humble minarets. There are also 3 main Gurdwaras based here one of them, Dashmesh Sikh Temple, which is located on Heywood Street.

In Cheetham, there are many places of worship such as Saint Luke's Church which in 1839 it was designed by Thomas Writtan Atkinson. It is found on Cheetham Hill Road. Another place of worship is Jamia Mosque which is fully constructed in 1989 it is under headship of Qamarazzaman Azmi. It is located on Woodland Road.

In fact we are proud that Manchester's diversity can host Synagogues, Mosques, many Churches, Temples of mixed faiths including Hindu and Sikh communities.

Artwork - Hadiyyah Jameel





# Build

## Let's Not Litter Our Streets

By Ayaan Qureshi

### Introduction:

**W**ell I'm sure that you have seen litter on the streets of our area (Cheetham Hill & Crumpsall). Well it needs to stop! When you litter you make a mess in our area and our area should be clean tidy safe for children to play.

**Littering:** When you litter you make a mess in Crumpsall and it makes it dirty and it shouldn't be because it doesn't look appealing and this dirt is bad for our health and the environment.

**Chewing gum:** Throwing chewing gum on the street is wrong and it needs to stop because it is making our area look dirty and filthy. When you finish with your chewing gum please put it in the bin because we want to make Crumpsall look nice. Would you agree?

### Negative Effects of Littering on Environment and Health:

When you litter you harm the world and make it dangerous. Dangerous because it kills in different ways. In the sea there are different types of plastic thrown around and that kills the fish and all this is happening because we don't put litter in the bin. Instead we might put it in the wrong bin and it ends up in the oceans. When you litter you make our ground look bad because when you throw plastic bottles on the street it makes it look unappealing. Our local mosque does a community clean up. Everyone can get involved and make Crumpsall and Cheetham Hill, a clean, safe and beautiful environment. Let's all play our part.

### Positive action to evolve - Organise Picking up litter:

To help you can may ask someone who you know to join you to pick up litter. Trust me people will start following you. Not straight away but they will at the end.





# Aspire

## Abdullah Afzal: A Mancunian Celeb

An interview and inspiration by the Inspired Mind Editorial Team

While working on this project, our youngsters spoke to a manner of different successful people who grew up in Cheetham and Crumpsall. They met with teachers, a lecturer, community Development workers, a solicitor, an Imam, a Psychologist, a Prison officer, a Television and radio broadcaster and they hoped to meet our very own local comedian and actor Abdullah Afzal.

Unfortunately he was not in the country during our project but was very happy to answer questions our team put together to him. We began by asking 30 year old Abdullah what his typical day looked like.

I am very family orientated so my days are mostly at home spending time with my family. I go out in the evenings doing gigs. If I'm doing TV work touring internationally I can be away for weeks on end, so I try to avoid booking more work away from home for too long.

When I was 16 until about 25 I wanted a role in the media and I just went for it so any job that was offered within TV I took on.

Now I have been able to get back in touch with my Deen so by the age of 26

I found my niche market which was the Muslim stand up circuit. I turned Haram roles down despite the money I might have earned. I'm enjoying that and have reached the point where I can trust



that despite being selective of any roles, I will be comfortable financially.

Cheetham Hill and Crumpsall have always had a bad reputation when I was growing up, but for me it's fantastic. It's great for community



cohesion. Everybody knows everyone (laughter). It was enjoyable whether it was playing cricket at Heywood Street Park, or studying at Cheetham Community School and Abraham Moss. They were fantastic places for me, people of different cultures and backgrounds. I have personally now moved to Prestwich more out of necessity than choice so I really miss Cheetham.

My mother passed away when I just turned 15. For some reason I didn't quite grasp what was happening. My family were worried about me but the truth was I was busy with school life and my older siblings spent more time with my mother than I had. I think they were going through the more difficult time; my older brother was almost 30 then. I loved my mother to bits. What I miss is her food, the hugging and the physical closeness. So now I take on mother and father role with my own children, I don't want them to ever miss out. I've lived more of my life without her than with her.

My favourite place is Khizra Mosque on Brideoak Street. Even when religion escaped me and I didn't pray, I'd still go there meet my friends. It was the place to chill, community events were always there. Khizra Mosque was a big part of my life. If the Mosque wasn't there I wouldn't have been where I am now. That and Ashys chippy and take away on Haliwell Lane. It was the first place to sell doner kebabs.....memories!

I got into acting and comedy in a weird way because I was doing a lot of Hifdh (Quran memorisation) and a lot of Islamic speeches growing up and in essence, it was performances speech that I was doing. As I travelled I would increase in my confidence and get better. I realised I was a good performer. Somebody saw me acting in College and before I knew it I had lots of opportunities.

I've met lots of celebrities. It's weird because once you meet them they're not celebrities anymore.

I've met You tube stars including Adam Saleh, pop stars to comedy legends to footballers - I've met all of them which is huge for me as I'm a Manchester United fan.

Comedy legends, I know Guz and Tez - they are close good friends of mine but then I've worked with Russell Kane, Harry Enfield, these are big names in the game. Pop stars, I don't think I've met a lot, maybe that's a good thing.

If they were to visit North Manchester, I'd take them for a scan. I'd take them to the new Turkish Restaurant on Cheetham Hill Road which is nice and take them out before they get mugged (joke)

Cheetham Hill, we make fun of it it's like a little brother, we make fun of it but we love it really. We moved out because we couldn't find an appropriate house here. The Halal meat is readily available here.

Regarding career aspirations and exceeding, in the past it would have been a disadvantage coming from a poorer background, but I think now especially in TV and comedy, people want to hear stories of people living in these type of areas and I think the opportunity is now to really go into the acting/ comedy side of things. If it's a career path you want to enter you should give this a serious go.

The lockdown I've actually really enjoyed. I've given my kids time I've been producing a lot of content on line and people have really enjoyed it. I've been getting a lot of coverage. I'm going to continue doing that. Normally I would have wasted a lot of time.

If I have advice for our youngsters, it's this. If you really, really want something and you've got a dream and if you've got even an ounce of talent, you've got to work hard put all your effort in it. You've got to really believe in yourself to achieve it. You could have all the talent in the world but if you're not going to put any effort into it, I can guarantee that you won't get to where you want to.



# Poem:

## Manchester My Home

by Zahra Sheikh - Artwork by Zahra Sheikh



## MY MANCHESTER

Manchester. What do you think when I say it? Wet windy weather, Or The cold blustery air? When I hear Manchester I think of my Home, It's not how the rest describe it. Yes we can improve Yes we can do better But Manchester will be in My heart forever. So long may it rain us Mancunians Shout we were brought up with this weather! Okay we do have our English breakfasts and our daily cups of tea But please remember we'll take you in No matter your colour or gender. As Manchester we are a city **UNITED!!!**

# unity is strength # hope # peace # love # tables are for dancing

