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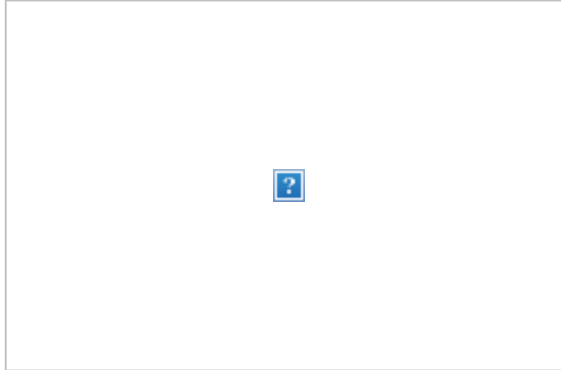
UK Community News 

## UK Community News

### Shahin Louie Project

A WEEK-LONG proclamation event took place in Worthing, West Sussex, in memory of our beloved Shahin Louie, who served the Worthing Bahá'í community for over 25 years.

A Bahá'í exhibition and stand were displayed in the heart of the town centre proclaiming the Faith. Many pamphlets were distributed to those interested and the name of the Faith was seen by many of the local residents. Evening programmes were held which included a Tranquillity Zone, a poetry evening and a public talk introducing the Faith.



*An interested passerby at the Worthing exhibition*

The highlight of the week was the annual Worthing Carnival which proved to be a fun and successful way of proclaiming the Faith. Our float consisted of a van decorated with banners and globe balloons. The friends dressed in international costumes and gave out balloons to the spectators whilst shouting "One Planet, One People Please". The event was also published in two of the local newspapers featuring photos of the friends.

As a result of the week our community now has several interested contacts. We will endeavour to introduce them to study circles and invite them to regular firesides. This year's event proved so successful that we have planned to have a Bahá'í stand in the town centre on a regular basis.

### Calling All Women Conference

BARBARA ALEXANDER and Lizbeth Thomson from Ayrshire along with Venus and Carmelia Carew from Dumfries attended the Dumfries and Galloway "Calling All Women" one day conference on September 8, 2001 in Castle Douglas. It was well organised, with community workers and local organisations working in partnership to bring together women from all over the region who were interested in sharing ideas, forging links and making plans. The informal atmosphere generated a relaxed feeling and the programme was very

successful. Women's enterprise and women's service (usually voluntary!) were emphasised, as was the difference between city and rural problems. Obviously, this community was greatly distressed by the

## Foot and Mouth epidemic.

The most moving part of the programme was the Waking Dreams Dance Theatre Group. It is no exaggeration to say that every person who saw the three dances – and heard the youth speak – were deeply affected and touched to the point of tears. This is how to move people!

## College library presented with books

DURING THE COURSE of the Welsh Spring School at Trinity College, Carmarthen, the Bahá'í Community presented college lecturer, the Reverend Chris Owen, with a number of Bahá'í books for the college library.

Although a number of Bahá'í events have been held at the college over recent years, this is the first time that the college authorities have shown interest in meeting with the local Bahá'í community.

The college is part of the University of Wales and was initially founded in the nineteenth century in order to train religious education teachers. It now has a much broader base but its main student intake are trainee teachers.

## Newtownabbey Fundraiser

NEWTOWNABBEY Bahá'í Community held a very successful fundraising event in the Springvale Centre on Belfast's Springfield Road, on October 7, 2001.

Kamal Maan'i, ably assisted by several members of the Maan'i family, had arranged for a bazaar, a lovely meal and some great musical entertainment by the Zarb Trio. The fact that the "trio" numbers varied between four and seven did not detract at all from the lively mix of Persian and Irish music that had the audience rocking, dancing, and in one case, doing a very hazardous act involving the very unlikely use of a floor-brush.

Butch Elliot of Cookstown did a great job as compere and at the end of the day we were able to count a grand total of £1500 which has been sent off to be split between the National fund and the Bahá'í Council for Northern Ireland. Many thanks to the army of helpers and the guests who made it possible.

## Video links Orkney and Shetland

THE UNIT CONVENTION for the Bahá'ís of the Orkney and Shetland Islands was a little bit different this year.

With the practical difficulties of travelling from one island group to the other, the Bahá'ís of Orkney and Shetland are used to the fact that they just cannot physically get together as a convention area. At most one Bahá'í from one island group has managed to travel to the host island group to attend convention in person – and this at considerable cost as it involves either an eight-hour ferry journey or a thirty minute flight and usually two nights accommodation.

Three years ago the communities did start getting together via video link for the consultation, though votes were still posted from those who could not attend in person.

This year, however, having sought guidance from the National Spiritual Assembly, the two groups of Bahá'ís, on different island groups, a hundred miles apart were able to vote on the



*Barbara Alexander, Lizbeth Thomson and Venus Carew*



*Local Bahá'ís Richard Swann and Martin Beckett presenting the books during the Spring School*

spot, in a prayerful atmosphere via video-link. Truly one meeting in two different places!

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### **Transforming Arts Scotland, October training week**

THIS HAS POSSIBLY been the best residential arts event organised by TAS so far.

Those who were not there may wish to make a note of the fact that this was not only for those who like to participate in the dance/theatre workshops – there was an opportunity to do drama and banner making and singing, along with sessions for developing personal spiritual awareness. Highlights of the week were: the Unity Feast on Monday evening; a completely musical devotional by youth and adults; the absolutely terrific performance of “The Love and the Madness” by Hadie MacLeod. It was truly special, and very professional.

Another was the performance of the Happy Hippo style participative drama on the theme of Consultation. The sketch itself was well performed by the youth, and the mixed youth/adult audience was fully and enthusiastically engaged. Although it could be developed and improved, it was very successful and effective. Stories – often with a dramatic twist thanks to spontaneous youth involvement – took place several times during the week.

Amongst the youth attending there were many shining stars that stood out for their strong moral leadership, their capacity to lead activity and make things happen. Other qualities which shone brightly at this event were courage, dedication, self-sacrifice, love, kindness and compassion and friendship, enthusiasm and a willingness to work and play hard.

As coordinators we were left feeling rekindled and keen to start organising the next event.

Nicky and Vahid Mehrabi

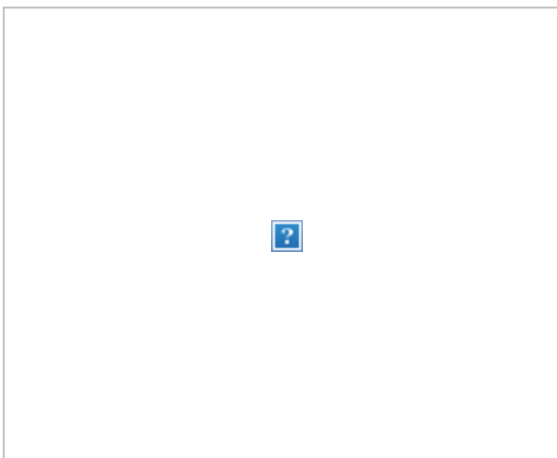
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### **Caerphilly friends celebrate the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh**

ONCE A MONTH the Bahá'ís of Caerphilly set up a sport activity event for our youth and their friends. It has been very successful and many of our youth have found it a joyful time to socialise and get to know other Bahá'í youth.

The event always starts with some Bahá'í readings and some times a sing along with the guitar. We found it worth all the effort it involves as everybody has a good time together.

*Caerphilly friends celebrate the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh*



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### **Earley Bird Seeks Two Worms**

THE BAHÁ'Í community of Earley is proud to announce that we now have seven adult Bahá'ís in the community. This happened on November 6 when Mr Bayan David Kayani turned 21. (Happy Birthday David).

We used to be members of the Wokingham Community which has now been divided into a few different groups. We are now the largest Bahá'í group in the area and we only need two other adult members to form the very first Spiritual Assembly of Earley. These are very exciting times and we are looking forward to when Earley becomes big enough to be divided itself! For the benefit of those of you who do not know the area I would like to say a bit about it.

Earley is situated between Reading and Wokingham. It is close to Reading town centre, (with the Oracle – a new state of the art shopping centre – one of the biggest around), Royal Berkshire Hospital and Reading University. There are two grammar schools nearby, a few well known private schools and a very good secondary school called Maiden Erlegh where

we hold The Thomas Breakwell School. The area is extremely sought after and it is also close to the motorway and railway station. It is only 20 minutes' journey to London by train, and 20 minutes journey to Heathrow Airport by car. It is a one-hour drive from the Guardian's Resting Place.

Although we are only a small community at the moment we are blessed by the Sunday school, which is very well attended from communities around us. This is a rare opportunity for you to join us and become a member of a brand new community. However, if you are not able to do so at the moment we appreciate your prayers for the growth of our flourishing community.

With the warmest Bahá'í greetings,  
Mrs R Kayani (Secretary)



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