

# **The Sudanese Community in Scotland**

## **Annual Report**

**2014-2015**

## FORWARD FROM THE CHAIR – MARIAM GALANDER

Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to members of the current Management Committee (MC) for their hard work and distinguished support. These are:

Loona Gobara  
Adil Ibrahim  
Amani Mansour  
Manahil El Bashir  
Abdel Salam Hamdan  
Mubarak Khalafallah  
Abbas Babikir  
Marwa Faroug  
Mardi Abdalla  
Widad Elmadani

I would also like to pay tribute to members of the Management Committee who discontinued their involvement with the MC at different points in the year because of other commitments. These are: Osman Ibrahim, Imad Abdelmagid and Amir El Sheikh.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who have supported the Sudanese Community in Scotland throughout the year.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are indebted to a range of stakeholders who have supported our work over the past year, both financially and in-kind. We would like to thank the Community Learning and Development (CLD) team at Royston Wardieburn Community Centre (RWCC), the Living in Harmony Forum, the Welcoming Project, Spartans Community Football Academy and Whale Arts Centre. We would like to thank Edinburgh's Northumberland Hotel for hosting some of our events at a very short notice. We would also like to acknowledge the support of Edinburgh's Sudanese telecom shop (Digital & Money) for their practical support. Finally, and most importantly, we would like to acknowledge the tremendous support, commitment and inspiration of our members both adults and young people.



AGM 2014 and members of the newly elected management committee

## OVERVIEW OF MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THIS YEAR

The Sudanese Community in Scotland has had a busy year with a number of new initiatives taking place throughout the year. Below are our key achievements:-

- **Weekly Get Together Sessions at RWCC.**
- **Children Classes and Activities.**
- **Celebrating Language and Culture**
- **Celebrating the life of Mahjoub Shareef**
- **Meeting with the Scottish Minister for International Development**
- **Summer Outing**
- **Sudanese Embassy visit**
- **Celebrating Africa 2014**
- **Eid El Fitr Celebration**
- **Eid El Fitr Outing**
- **Eid El Adha Celebration**
- **Information sharing**

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at Royston Wardieburn Community Centre (RWCC)

The MC of the Sudanese Community in Scotland worked very hard to sustain the Sudanese Sunday Group at RWCC offering opportunities for local Sudanese families and individuals the opportunity to network, socialise and take part in a wide range of learning, social and recreational activities within a fun and safe environment. The Sunday Group also encouraged its members to promote cultural awareness and diversity in Edinburgh by holding regular cultural events. The weekly sessions helped participants to enjoy getting together as a community, do some physical activities and learn something new.

Unfortunately, these weekly activities were discontinued by the community centre before summer 2014 because of lack of funding. The current management committee has been campaigning for the return of these vital regular activities and we will encourage and support the new management committee to continue its fight for the return of these activities.



Activities at Royston Wardieburn Community Centre

## CHILDREN CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

A number of children classes took place during 2014-2015. The purpose of these classes was to educate Sudanese children in Arabic and Sudanese culture. Children and young people also had access to the computer room at RWCC where they accessed the internet in a safe and supported environment. Younger children enjoyed the bouncy castle and other games.



*Sudanese children in the computer room at RWCC*

## CELEBRATING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The Sudanese Community in Edinburgh took part at the Language and Culture Celebration at Drummond High School on 29th March 2014. This involved organising a stall displaying Sudanese artefacts to educate Scottish people and other visitors about Sudanese cultures and traditions. The event was well attended and our stall was visited and enjoyed by a large number of people. This was a colourful event and we were proud to represent some bright sides of Sudan, mix and share experiences with others.







*Celebrating language & Culture*



## **MAHJOUB SHAREEF (Celebrating the life of the People's Poet)**

On 18th May 2014, the Sudanese Community got together to celebrate the life of the 'People's Poet' Mahjoub Shareef\*. The event was well attended. It consisted of music, exhibitions and talks about Mahjoub Shareef.

**\*Mahjoub Sharif (1 January 1948 – 2 April 2014), was a Sudanese poet, teacher and activist. He became known in Sudan and other Arabic-speaking countries for his colloquial poetry and his public engagement, both committed to further the causes of democracy, freedom, general well-being and national identity. His poetry was put to music by eminent musicians, such as Mohamed Wardi and Mohamed Mounir but also led to repeated political imprisonment under different Sudanese governments.**



*Celebrating the life of Mahjoub Shareef*

## MEETING WITH THE SCOTTISH MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Management Committee of the Sudanese Community in Scotland organised a successful meeting with the Scottish Minister for International Development (Humza Yousaf, MSP). The purpose of the meeting was to explore available support for the Sudanese Community to play a more effective role in Scottish life and in international development.



*Meeting with the Scottish Minister for International Development*

## SUMMER OUTING

The Sudanese Community organised a summer outing to Strathclyde Country Park on Sunday 8th June 2014. This was a well attended event and all participants enjoyed a lovely day out.



*Celebrating language & Culture*

## SUDANESE EMBASSY VISIT

The Sudanese Community in Edinburgh facilitated a visit by the Sudanese Embassy to help our members obtain consular services. This was a very useful service to many members of our community. Services included renewing passports and obtaining entry visas to Sudan.



## CELEBRATING AFRICA 2014

The Sudanese Community in Edinburgh took part at the African Celebration at Criagroyston High School on 21st June 2014. This involved organising a stall displaying Sudanese artefacts and educating Scottish people about Sudanese cultures and traditions. Dressed in traditional Sudanese costumes, our children and young people performed a traditional Sudanese dance. This was enjoyed by all those who were present. The event was well attended and our stall was visited and liked by a large number of people.



*Celebrating Africa 2014*



## EID EL FITR CELEBRATING

We celebrated Eid El Fitr on 23rd July 2014. This was a colourful family event which attracted a large number of participants. Community members enjoying a wide range of exciting activities for children, young people and adults. The event offered games, competitions, delicious Sudanese food and live Sudanese music.



*Eid El Fitr Celebrating*



### **EID EL FITR OUTING**

On Sunday, 10 August 2014, the Sudanese Community organised another successful outing to Strathclyde Country Park. Over 80 people attended this outing.



*Eid El Fitr Outing*

### **EID EL ADHA CELEBRATION**

On Sunday, 5 October 2014, the Sudanese Community celebrated Eid El Adha with a big party at Northumberland Hotel. We were delighted to see a large number of community members enjoying a wide range of exciting activities for children, young people and adults. For our young ones, we organised a bouncy castle, children's disco, games, and competitions. Everyone enjoyed delicious Sudanese food and live Sudanese music and dance.



*Eid El Adha celebration*

### **INFORMATION SHARING**

The Sudanese Community in Scotland used its network and Facebook Page to share lots of useful information with its members. This included information about general community events happening in and around Edinburgh. We also shared our community news and kept the community members up to date with what was happening in the community.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014-15**

The financial statement is available as a separate document. Please contact the Management Committee to obtain a copy.