

# GALLIA NEWS

Issue 2

January 2010

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pg

The Queen of Sheba	2
Queen Arwa	2
The Hadfield Institute	3
Job opportunity at YCAS	3
Supporting your child's education in school	4
Arabic poem	4
Interview with elders	5 - 7
YCAS LSC recognition	8
YCAS sports update	8



## Yemeni's have got talent

**M**y name is Anise Ahmed and I was invited by Abtisam Mohammed to represent the young Yemeni youth in the area where I have grown up.

I went to the initial meeting, where I met other young Yemeni men like myself who were also invited to form a youth sub-group for the YCA to voice the problems, opinions and struggles faced by young Yemenis in Sheffield. The group consisted of myself, Hamada Audhali, Yasar Mohamed, Gamdan Assinani, Sami Jamal, Ameen Ayiath, Yeslam Saleh, Mohammed Awadth, Khaled Salih and Yahia Asaad.

As the YCA youth sub-group we decided that one of our main roles should be to help deal with issues relating to young Yemeni youths. We wanted to organise events, activities and establish long term targets and objectives, which helps secure long lasting and successful futures for



the young Yemenis growing up in a world of precarious problems.

We set out to achieve our first objective. After several meetings we put together an outline for an Eid party event. With the much help, guidance and wealth of experience from Diane Haimeed and Abtisam Mohammed

we were able to organise the Eid party event that was held in the Firvale theatre and Earl Marshall sports centre.



The number of people who attended the event was overwhelming and the atmosphere was fun, lively and exciting. Children of all ages took part in "Yemeni's got talent" with a variety of acts from poetry, Quran recitations, rapping and dancing. All the acts were brilliant, but Congratulations to the 1st place winners who were Adnan and Shakeel Nasser who did an extremely entertaining dance. Congratulations to the 2nd and 3rd place winners who also did fantastic.



The importance of achievements should be continuously encouraged and exemplified no matter how small or big these achievements are. Being successful doesn't just mean be a doctor, a lawyer a teacher or a Footballer. It means to achieve your fullest potential. Be somebody and be proud to be Yemeni.

By Anise Ahmed

## The Queen of Sheba and Arwa - A symbol of power and intelligence

**T**he Queen of Sheba became a modern icon of female power and beauty, in which a number of films have been produced such as *Solomon and Sheba*, and *the Arabian queen*. In Africa and Arabia her legend is still told in the 21st century, as well as in other countries for the past 3000 years.

The Queen of Sheba was one of the most powerful women in history. She is named as Makeda in the Ethiopian chronicle, the *Kebra Negaste*, or Bilqis, in the hold Quran. She ruled over Ethiopia and Yemen (Saba or Sheba) and thus controlled the Red Sea, which was an affluent trade route.

The Qur'anic narrative has Solomon receiving news from the Hoopoe bird about the kingdom of Saba (Sheba), ruled by a queen whose people worshiped the Sun besides God. Solomon sent a letter inviting her to visit him and submit fully to Allah, the one God and Lord of the Worlds. Upon visiting king Solomon, she accepted his words, and began to worship one God.

Sheba was known to be beautiful, understanding, resourceful, and adventurous. She was a gracious queen, and was a well-expressed speaker.



Excelling in public relations and international diplomacy, she was also a competent ruler. She ruled the ancient kingdom of Sheba, located in Yemen and southern Arabia; which was a country rich in gold, incense and spices. It was a trading nation with other neighboring countries of the ancient world. Women played an important part in the government, economics, the family and religion.

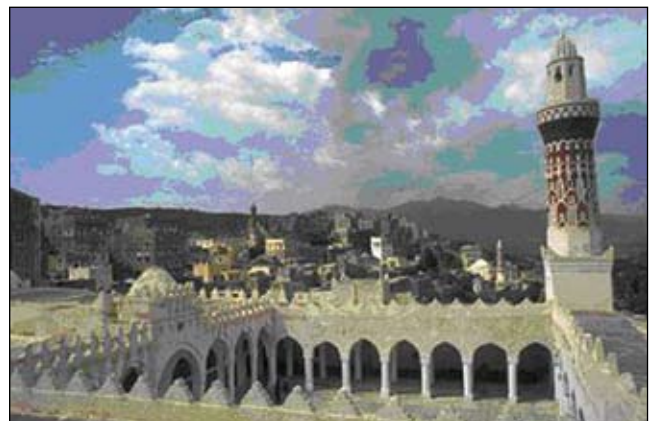
## Queen Arwa the first female ruler of Yemen

**Q**ueen Arwa bint Ahmad bin Muhammed bin Al-Qasim al-Sulayhi also known as the little Queen of Sheba was the ruler of Yemen for over 50 years, from 1067 until her death in 1138.

Queen Arwa was orphaned at a young age and adopted by the king and queen of Yemen, her uncle and aunt. The queen, Asma, educated Arwa with poetry and the Qur'an, and she was known for her great memory. Arwa married the crowned prince, but the king and queen died shortly after. Arwa's husband was paralyzed, and retreated from the public eye. Consequently, Arwa was catapulted into rule much sooner than she had ever expected.

Queen Arwa focused her attention on the welfare of her people, setting up several institutions for education, cultural and religious studies. She built roads, mosques, fountains, as well as a famous landmark known as Dar al-Izz, a grand palace of whose remnants exist today.

She was highly regarded as a brave, devout and independent character. She was also seen as highly intelligent, having a great memory for poems, stories and historical events. She was very knowledgeable on the sciences of the Qur'an and the hadith. Arwa remained in



power until her death in 1138. She is buried beside the mosque that she had had built at Jibla. The Queen Arwa University in Sana'a is named after her.

These role models represent courage, hope, dreams, determination and dedication. They have set a standard that women can aspire to and always refer to in their everyday lives. Both women were highly respected amongst society due to the wisdom and ability to lead nations successfully for many years.

## Education: The Hadfield Institute

**Nasir Yehia, the chairperson of Hadfield Institute gives and insight of the organisation and their services.**



### Who we are?

Hadfield Institute is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee, working primarily to promote education and training opportunities in the City of Sheffield and elsewhere, with special emphasis on providing access to opportunities for people who are otherwise unable to gain such access.

Hadfield Institute also works for the advancement of citizenship, in particular through the provision of training and advice so as to develop the capacity and potential of individuals to participate fully in society, and contributes to the relief of unemployment by the provision of advice and training.

### What are our vision and values?

Our vision is 'Drinking from One Pot'- a pot of opportunity, learning, services and wealth creation. The people who drink from it will be a rich diversity of individuals- men and women, young and old, unemployed and employed, from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. People who are at present disadvantaged in the labour market will drink equally with those who are not. The dream is to create enough by working together so that anyone who comes thirsty to drink from the Hadfield Institute pot shall be able to drink.

Founded by the Yemeni community in Sheffield in 1992, we remember our founders with respect in everything we do.

The name 'Hadfield' links the Yemeni steelworkers, many of whom worked at a company called Hadfields, with our Attercliffe building, where one of the founding members of the steel company was born. In this way we honour the traditions of Sheffield and the Yemeni Community, striving for successful future to keep the memories alive.

### Our services and activities

Our current activities include:

- Education and training for home students and English For international students.
- Outreach to enable individuals to access the help, support and training they need to progress towards employment.
- Community events - meetings and discussions on important issues, educational seminars and social events.
- Management and leadership courses and qualifications
- Citizenship courses, with and without ESOL.
- ICT tasters and courses.
- Information, advice and guidance about education, training and employment.
- Childcare is also available.

Our staff and volunteers are recruited from all sectors of the community, reflecting the diversity of our learners and other clients and ensuring that we deliver services appropriately.

Please contact us for further information about any of our services on (0114) 261 8620.



## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### Fundraising officer

£19,500 (pro-rata)  
18.5 hrs per week

One year subject to renewal of funding

To raise and secure grants/tenders for the existing and newly developed projects in the YCA

For more information please contact: Abtisam Mohamed on (0114) 303 0140 / 07940 164884 or for an application pack please contact Rosa Salim on Email: rsalim@ycasheffield.co.uk

**Deadline: Friday 26th February 2010**



### Yemeni Community Association (YCA)

Fir Vale Centre 2nd Floor  
Earl Marshal Road  
Fir Vale  
Sheffield  
S4 8LA  
(0114) 256 0933  
Email: marketing\_communication@hotmail.com



## Interview with elder people

**In this issue we have take time out to recognise and remember the older members of the community. We are indebted to the hard work they contributed to the economy and community. Have a read of their enchanting, and inspiring life stories that we have caught a glimpse of. We need to appreciate that we are only here because of their hard work and determination. Unfortunately we don't have enough pages to tell everyone's story however if you feel someone has a special story to tell please contact us and we will put it in the next edition!**

**Hussain Atawi**  
**Area in Yemen: Yafai**

**Age: 80**



My name is Hussain Atawi I came to England in the year 1960 from my homeland Yemen in search for work when I was 25 years old. I travelled by ferry from Aden to Dover it had taken me 14 days to travel and arrive to England. When I first came to England I had started to work at a steel factory called Hallamshire steel works where I worked in Centerless grinding. I had been working there for over six years with other Yemeni and Arab friends. I was working was over 12 hours a day for seven days a week. I found the language very difficult to learn, and also because I hadn't much work experience in a specific area it made it even more difficult for me in succeeding in finding work. This was one of the barriers that I found my self battling through when I first came to England.

The way me and my family kept in contact was by sending letters and cassette tapes where we recorded our voices because back home in them days we didn't have telephones especially in the small villages so that was the only way also we could only send the letters when there was someone travelling we couldn't send it by post, it would just get lost.

When I first came to England I worked in many places but mostly it was the steel factories that I worked at. I obviously didn't want to work there all the time as it was hard work working there and I felt that I needed a job where it was secure and efficient for me and my family a couple of years later I bought a café on Barber road in Crookes which I named it East Star I really enjoyed opening up for work. The café was also a place where people came to socialise and catch up with one another but most importantly it was a place where the Gallia had started to form up and become the first organisation for Yemenis from 1965-70s before the war in Yemen happened.

After south Yemen had independence the group got help from the embassy in Yemen and started to apply to charities, This has what made the Gallia what it is today

people worked very hard for nothing and it had a place in the community where everyone went to.

My thoughts on this generation now are that they need to work hard both ways.

My advice to the people here especially the people that are born and bred here that they try to interact with society and try much harder to get on with everyone no matter what age religion they are and most of all respect law and society that we live in and be grateful for what you have.

**Gumza Mohammed**  
**Age: 81**  
**Area in Yemen: Yafai**

My name is Gumza and I originally come from a small village called Yafai in the south of Yemen. I have three brothers and three sisters who all still live in her native village. I first came about 65 years but can't remember the exact date. My husband had a job working in the steel works in Sheffield. He worked in many factories but the main place he worked for was known as the Stones factory.

I am a naturally a sociable and independent individual who is well known in the community, and this was evident ever since I moved from Yemen. I was fortunate enough to have known a family friend who they stayed with until her husband found accommodation for them. One of the main difficulties I found was the learning to speak English. I found it very hard to learn the English language because it is so different to Arabic. I knew I had to learn so I could get on with day to day jobs I had to do e.g. going the shops, catching the bus etc. I remember I had to face some difficult and life changing decisions

Bringing up children was hard work, as I had a lot of responsibilities were left for me because of my husband working very long hours. I had a very close relationship with my children, taking them to school daily and being very much involved as possible.

Although Yemen is where I was born a brought in, I feel England is the best place for me to live in. I believe Yemen is a hard country to live comfortably in with many people living in poor conditions with a harder way of life being the norm. I am thankful for the life that I have found in the UK, and for the achievements of my children. I still love my home country and feel that Yemen is still and will always be a part of me, and I return to visit my family and friends.



## Interview with elder people (Cont.)

### **Saleh Alfata Mufalhi**

**Age: 70**

**Area in Yemen: Shaib**

I was born in Aden in 1939. Around the age of 16 I joined the British Army in 1955 until 1967. In August 1967 I received a phone call from my Uncle, whom was living and working in the U.K. at the time. He was very excited to tell me that I have a visa to join him to work at the Gordon Tools Steel factory in Sheffield.



I was very excited as I wanted to have a better life for my wife and four children who were in Yemen. I found it very hard working at the Steel factory. We worked all days and nights for only £12 a week. This income had to support me and my family back home in Yemen.

Many years later I worked in another steel factory at River Don Works, I got a job as a crane driver. I was happier there as there were many different people working e.g. English, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and Jamaicans. However the work load was again extremely hard, handling heavy machinery and breathing in the awful smell from the fumes, this later on lead to health issues which I'm suffering today from. After 2 years I had saved around £500 for me to travel back to Yemen for a holiday to see my family and children whom I missed very much. I remember the hard labour I had to do to support my family, and seeing them every time made me feel that my hard work was worth seeing my family.

I learned to speak English at work with the help from the English people that were working with me at the time. They were very kind and supportive with those who couldn't speak English. However there were also many other workers that wouldn't speak to anybody. Many years later I was made redundant.

I always remember where I am from and value my roots very much. I love to go back home to Yemen for holidays to see family and friends. I feel I am apart of Britain now and this is my home and where I belong.

### **Genna Haimeed.**

**Age: 74**

**Area in Yemen: Shaib**

I arrived in the UK in 1969 from Aden, after the Second World War. I came to live with my husband he was here 15 years before me. My husband worked in the steel factory Brambailly in Attercliffe, Sheffield in. I have lived in Sheffield nearly most of my life, almost 42



years and I had all my kids in the UK. I didn't like UK when I first came, I was lonely and I only knew one lady in the whole city of Sheffield and she came two years of me being here.

My husband's wages were only £12 week, and that is what we had to live on for food, rent and clothing etc we also had to try and save money so we could send money for family back home in the Yemen. After a couple years, I and my husband managed to save for a house after 6 years we bought it for £4'000.

I used to be afraid at first and lonely even though people weren't racist. They didn't have services like the YCA to help support us like they do now. I and my friend used to share a coat between us and then people would get confused (laughter). There wasn't racism and people were considerate not like today. In the mid 80's much more racism began, but I also had better social life and my family became bigger family and the community became bigger too. We used to visit and socialize more because there were more people within the community.

England is very nice, there is more help and opportunities for youth here like education. Britain owes them a lot after the husbands' worked 50 years in the steel works and died from diseases in factories.

Their children have become equal due to their hard work; they used to work 12 hours daily shifts.

At the beginning life was very hard because we didn't understand the schools policies etc and we didn't have anyone to translate this to us. I feel that children then helped and support their families and I she feel kids where brought up better before, children now take everything for granted.

They were more grateful and understanding and also I feel that they don't keep hold off their culture and roots, they are seen more as British than British Yemenis.

I feel grateful for god that my children look after me, especially my daughter; Diane Haimeed. After a hard life with many struggles, I am living very comfortably, with many family and friends and feel positive for the future.

### **Said Ali**

**Age: 68**

**Area in Yemen: Shab, Subahi**

I arrived in the UK from Aden in 1961, and I started working at Bramblies, the Hadfield steel factory, and I worked there for 25 years. My working hours were 16 hours a day, and 60 hours a week shifts. My earnings were from £8 - £12 a week. In 1970, work at the steel factory started to change a bit, and I start working less hours, I only worked up to 8 hour shifts. I was very happy working at the steel factories, and the people



## Interview with elder people (Cont.)

at the steel factories were very helpful. I already learnt some English in Aden, but I improved more when I started working.

I didn't have any problems settling down in England, and I got on very well with English people and the community I was living in. Everyone was very nice and very welcoming. I married an English lady, and I have three children with her. I still miss my family and friends in Yemen, and whenever I can I always go back to Yemen to visit them. I always keep in contact with them, and Yemen will always be in my heart.

I remember in 1980 is the date when the first Yemeni community was developed. I registered as a member of the YCA. In 1990 I became a member of the Y.E.T.C (Yemeni economic training centre), which is now called the Hadfield institute today. Today I work at the Hadfield institute as a volunteer helping the community with advice and guidance.

Throughout my life and even today, I feel as if I have achieved many things. I feel that the YCA and the Hadfield have been great places to help people of the community all over Sheffield, and will carry on like this. Even though I have retired from a hard life of work, I still want to carry on with helping in the community for as long as I can.

### **Abdul Ghani Ali**

**Age: 78**

**Area in Yemen: Ibb**

I first arrived in the UK in 1955 when I was only 24 years old. I travelled on a ship from Aden to Portsmouth, which was a very long and hard journey. I started working on small ships all over the UK for 2 years, and then I started working for international ships for 12 years. Each trip took 3 weeks and I got to sail all over the world. I love travelling because I saw many different countries and different cultures which were so exciting and I met many different people. I had a great time working as a sailor but the journeys were very long and I missed my family who were in Yemen so much.



There were difficult times when the sea was rough, with very dangerous conditions. I worked very hard for very little and most of my earnings were sent to my family in Yemen. I didn't have any problems with English because there were a lot of Arabs who worked with me, and we all helped each other if we didn't understand anything. All of our work was physical which meant that we didn't have to learning English straight away. After working as a sailor I started work in the steel factory until 1980.

I felt happy and comfortable living in the UK, most people were very friendly, polite and always helpful. I have always lived in a community where I had many friends and who

were from Yemen. I always go for many visits to the Yemen to see my wife and children. I would like to bring them here and spend the rest of the years that we have together.

England is my country; I have spent most of my life here and we made this country great especially after the war. I sometimes feel like this country hasn't done enough to recognise what the me and other Yemenis have done to make it what it is today.

### **Awath Gobran**

**Age: 65**

**Area in Yemen: Yafai**

In arrived in the UK in 1964 with my parents, I was in my early 20's at the time. I started working straight away at the Stones Brewery Factory and then moved to Millhouses Steel works, and then a nickel/chrome factory. The conditions were very hard as I was badly burnt many times. I earned 3 pence an hour which came up to £21.00 a week. The money I earned was enough to send some to Yemen for my family and for me to live off here. I continued to work up until 1982, and then I studied to become a maintenance engineer.



When I first started working, there were a lot of Yemeni men working in the factories, so we helped each other out with settling down and learning English. On a Tuesday and Thursday I attended English and Arabic class which was set up by the Arab Student Union. I also went to a Sunday school in Attercliffe to learn more English. There was not a lot of racism at the time; most people were friendly and welcoming. Some ethnic minorities were more racist than others and didn't want to help each other out.

I can remember the first Yemeni community was set up in 1970 as the Yemeni Worker Union. We weren't able funding from the Council under the Yemeni Workers Union, so we changed it to the Yemeni Community Centre which then was open for everyone. We bought the Burngreave Yemeni Community Centre in the early 80's. In 1984, I became vice chairman of the Yemeni community in England. After 1982, work calmed down and many of the Yemeni workers immigrated to Saudi Arabia and Dubai, where they settled down with their families. I have a brother in Dubai who I visit regularly whenever I travel to Yemen.

I am very happy with the life that I have here today, and wouldn't change anything. Even though Yemen will always be my home country, I will prefer to live in the UK. I am very proud to be part of the YCA and Hadfield, and feel like they have made a big difference to people's lives in the community. I am very glad to see younger people working and volunteering in the community, and I encourage them to carry on with this into the future. I also want the younger generation to remember what the elders have done for their community and this country, because they sacrificed a lot to get them here.

## Legal Services Commission quality mark (LSC) recognition

The YCA provides a good quality advice service that is registered with the Legal Services Commission and the OISC.



Qualified advice workers provide practical up to date advice on a wide range of topics, including:

- Benefits
- Housing,
- Education,

- Immigration (only in certain areas),
- Employment rights and discrimination,
- Debt support

We aim to provide support from the start of the problem right to the very end. The Programme Director, Ibtisam will still see clients by appointments. Overall we provide assistance with everyday issues and concerns that matters to people and impact on their daily lives.

### Opening times at Firvale

Monday to Thursdays 9am - 1pm  
(Nageeb El Kheili, Asam Taher, Sami Jamal).

### Opening times at Burngreave

Monday to Thursdays 9am - 1pm  
(Samir Abdullah)

## YCA Sports

### 31/10/09 at Hinde House School

#### 2 matches:

YCA FC 3 : Sheffield Medics 1

Goal Scorers Yusuf Ali, Mohammed Mah, Rory Powell  
Team - Khalid Salih, Mustapha Shaibi, Mohammed Awadh, Hassan Abdalahi (Mubarak Ali), Ismael hersi (Wael Sheibi), Yaser Mohammed (Abdul Galil Shaibi), Raj Roy, Sharaz Noor, Mohammed Mah, Rory Powell

#### YCA top goal scorers:

Rory Powell 7    Yusuf Ali 3    Yasser Mohammed 2

### 07/11/09 at Hinde House School

YCA FC 5 : Half Moon 2

Goal Scorers: Yusuf Ali 2, Yasser Mohammed, Rory Powell, Mohammed Mah

Team - Khalid Salih, Mustapha Mohammed, Mohammed Awadh, Wael Sheibi, Ismael Hersi, Oday Obud, Raj Roy (Abdul Galil Shaibi), Sharaz Noor, Mohammed Mah (Rory Powell), Yusuf Ali, Yasser Mohammed



POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Worsborough Dale Dynamos	8	7	0	1	9	21
2	Sheffield Medics	8	6	1	1	22	19
3	Noah's Ark	8	3	3	2	8	12
4	Aston	8	3	2	3	-2	11
5	Sheffield Bankers	7	2	3	2	3	9
6	Yemeni Community Association	5	3	0	2	1	9
7	Hoyland Town	7	2	1	4	1	7
8	Half Moon	8	0	4	4	-14	4
9	Phoenix	7	0	0	7	-28	0

