

ECYC GAZETTE

*'.....For your ins and your outs,
and your whereabouts !*

Welcome back!

We just couldn't wait for this month to end before we brought you issue 2 !

Among many others, the theme for this month is *Football....and in saying that, many congratulations to Chelsea FC for their epic champions league victory!*



And a huge thank you to all who read and enjoyed our pilot issue, your feedback was really valuable and we hope to become better with every issue. Enjoy!

Issue #2 - June 2021

Featured today!

- -Five special illustrations from our in-house Artists!
- -A featured article with a unique member at ECYC!
- -Profile of one of our many fantastic staff members
- -A heartfelt overture from one our club members...and a budding scribe!
- -Local history column, where we show you a snippet of heritage you might've never known was there!
- -Special guest express interview!



'Surely good enough for the Sistine chapel...!'



'...A painter n a poet.'"

'Chronicles of a quiet commander'



So good they named him twice...!



Home counties spider man-
Husayn, aged 1

"More than meets the eye"

With his quiet and observant air, it's easy to mistake Husayn for an introvert. '*...People think I'm shy, but that's not the case. It just takes me a while to get used to people I don't know.*' He also admits he can be a class clown; a trait that went a bit too far while he was in year 8. '*...I went through a 'silly' phase; Talking back, interrupting class, childish things like that. But it wasn't me...and thankfully I grew out of it.*'

He's the po-faced curly top, keeping it tight in the back! You may've recognized his folded arm pose on last issue's front cover and at just 14, *Husayn El-Husseiny* is a veteran of ECYC. Although a local of the area, Husayn was born in Loughton, Essex, to an English mother and Lebanese father. His family would move to Elm Park Gardens, where Husayn would study at nearby Park Walk, before enrolling into Chelsea Academy.

'...I've always loved football, and played for several teams while I was still at primary. Some of my friends were already at ECYC and told me they had a good junior team, plus they'd just got a caged pitch installed.'

"Fighting for his slot"

Anyone who'll remember Husayn first walking through our doors would recall a skinny lad who cared only for football. '*...I put on a lot of weight during the pandemic; eating too much, snacking out of boredom. I'm determined now to go back to my earlier size, through playing football, and the new healthy menu they've started at the club.*



When asked if he wished to make a career out of football, Husayn was practical.

'...When I was younger it was a dream to kick ball, but now that I've grown, I'm more inclined to the idea of running a business like my dad- who has a barbershop.'

ECYC's Write Stuff! This month, our scribe pens a wistful piece to two gems of the silver screen.....



'Two stars, one City, and a writers pang for nostalgia'

Recently, I was reacquainted with two influential stars of the Arab world. Hearing some of their songs at home, I wanted to get back to my roots and learn more of the culture of my parent's homeland.

Soad Hosny came from a theatrical family, and began her career in film whilst still a child. Through several decades and 83 screen appearances, she would be known as the "*Cinderella of Egyptian cinema*"; loved and recognised across the Middle East.

Abdel Halim Hafez, was the foremost singer, and actor of his generation. Among his many epithets were "*Son of the Nile*" and, "*the dusky skinned nightingale*". His emergence coincided with the 1952 Egyptian revolution and, until his death twenty five years later, his voice would be the soundtrack to a region's love story.

The story of these two professionals is a tragic one, shrouded in mystery and rumour. Although he sang of romance, Abdel Halim Hafez never married and bore no children. In contrast to Soad Hosny, who married four times, but, would also have no children. Even years after their deaths, rumours persist that the pair were secretly married. What sets their story apart from usual showbiz gossip, are the chilling parallels linking the two stars who in spite of appearing together on screen just once, would forever be bound in the Arab imagination.

As she approached middle age and the latter stages of her career, Hosny would be injured on set and like Abdel Halim Hafez- who contracted Schistosoma as a child playing in rural creeks- came to London in search of treatment.

Both figures died in the city where I grew up, which only ignited the nascent passion for my ethnic heritage. The date- 21st June, is an important one for it is the day Abdel-Halim was born and, the day Soad died. He would succumb to bilharzia at a hospital bed in Kings College, Denmark Hill. Twenty four years later, Hosny would fall from a Maida Vale balcony (echoing among other things, the four girls who leapt to their deaths following news of Halim's demise) Given her torrid personal life and her murky relationship with the Egyptian state, no one knows if Hosny's death was murder, or a sad suicide from a former star who wished to be reunited with her alleged sweet heart on his birthday.



That they came from the land where my parents were born, and died in the city where I came to be, is both sad and reassuring. If nothing, it has shown me where I'm from, where I'm at, and what direction I'd like my life to take, and not....





The fact that *TRC Wandsworth* was able to win honors so soon after being founded, is testament to Mahnoor's incredible drive and determination to achieve not just her own goals, but for *all* young people. Little wonder, we at ECYC were overjoyed when Chelsea F.C Foundation dispatched her to run our junior girls team

'A structured and organised centre'

When she first came to ECYC, Mahnoor was in the middle of her Bio-medical undergrad at Roehampton- where she also Captained the women's football team. '*...Immediately I got the sense that the culture of ECYC was highly conducive to what a great youth club ought to be. Needs are always met, and the staff always go to great lengths to listen to what the members have to say. I would definitely say working at ECYC has made me a better football coach. All the members are different , which allows me to explore different ways I can deliver my lessons.*'

Meet the Crew

It goes without saying, that without our tireless and passionate staff, ECYC would not be the pillar of the community it has been for 40+ years. And each issue we introduce one of our outstanding team- who always ensure the club goes above and beyond to guarantee our commitment to the community never wanes.

This month we have...*MAHNOOR* – girl's football coach, and Captain of WESTSIDE F.C!

She was the star defender and Captain of every ladies football team from year 4 to University and....she's ECYC's very own girl's football coach. For nearly three years, the 21 year old has worked as a sessional worker/kicks coach with the Chelsea F.C Foundation. Aside from her fantastic work with us, Mahnoor's job takes her all over London inspiring young girls, and boys, into excellence through sport.

Her own journey began way back when she was in primary school in her native Manchester. A football fanatic from her first steps, It was when she moved to London and attending her local youth club, she realised there was no girls team. And at once, Mahnoor set about establishing a side catering specifically to under 16 girls.

'...By 2014 I'd set up TRC Wandsworth, and in 2015 we won community team of the year!' When asked of the challenges it took to build a team from scratch, Mahnoor confessed the biggest obstacle was funding. '...Garnering interest from other girls to join my football team was easy, next to getting the money needed for kits, booking transport for away games, football/training equipment and, all important match day refreshments!*'*



Local History column (A blast from the Past!)

Did you know...? In this month, 73 years ago, a former troop carrier arrived in Essex bearing a most significant cargo.

The docking of SS *Windrush* at Tilbury marked the start of what would become the making of modern Britain.



Although victorious, the second world war had devastated Britain and, with the deaths of so many servicemen a gaping shortage opened up in the Labor market. Politicians actively encouraged those from the colonies to come and help rebuild the economy; swiftly, the 'British Nationality Act' was drafted in 1948. But despite an official invitation and, plenty of work to be done, the migrants from the Caribbean found the 'mother country' less than hospitable. Prejudice and discrimination shaped all facets of daily life. Those deemed 'colored hordes' received the very worst in housing, jobs and basics rights.



Although dotted throughout the UK, it was North of our borough that came to symbolize the black presence in England. In 1958, following years of tension and ill treatment, the country's first major race riot erupted in Notting Hill; lasting the duration of the August bank holiday.

Throughout the ensuing decades, the Afro-caribbean community would struggle to reassert itself. The modern era would see Windrush the focus of headlines yet again. In 2018 the Home office was reported to be sending threatening letters to immigrants from the commonwealth who could not prove their right to remain in the UK. The resulting 'Windrush scandal' caused an international outcry and the then home secretary- Amber Rudd, was forced to resign. However rocky and turbulent the journey of migrants has been, none of us must forget their in-expendable contribution to Britain as we know it today.





Special guest express interview

Toward the end of every issue, we meet one of our many partners here at ECYC. You may not have seen them on our grounds, but we assure you without their friendship and support we wouldn't be half as successful as we are.

For our second issue, we have none other than *Gareth Davies.....!* who as London Communities Manager at CHELSEA F.C Foundation, oversees one of ECYC's most enduring partnerships!

-What's your connection to ECYC? '*...In my role at Chelsea FC Foundation we have been working on joint initiatives mainly focused around our Premier League Kicks program with the youth club since 2012, so 9 years!*'

-What have you learnt through your experience at ECYC? '*...The importance of collaboration and passion!! In my opinion you can't bring a community together alone; you need to surround yourself with passionate people from various organisation's (like those at ECYC) to ensure everyone's needs are met in order to make a real positive impact on peoples lives!*'

-Have you always lived locally? '*...I am not local to RBKC but grew up around 10 miles away. My mum and Dad still live on the same council estate (and house) I grew up on 30 years ago. I go back and still see many of the people I grew up with which is great. I would like to claim I am our estates most successful export but I'm afraid I come 2nd to the body coach! (Joe Wicks)*'

-What's the best thing about our community? '*...How the community has come together in the most difficult of times. Recent events as COVID have taught us how precious life is, but also how powerful a community can be when working together!*'

-As a person holding a senior post at a name as recognizable as CHELSEA F.C, what could you tell our young readers about leadership? '*...For me good leadership is all about how you communicate with people. To lead people effectively they need to respect and trust you as they will not always share the same beliefs as you! Also a great leader should not be afraid to be led! Trust in your staff, harness resources and, nurture and develop their ideas.*'

-What are you up to at the moment? '*...Recruiting!! Now the vast majority of our delivery is back up and running we are once more looking at expanding our community services. We are hopeful in increasing our work over the coming year in the areas of Health and Wellbeing and Crime reduction and, are currently looking at recruiting staff to support in these areas.*'

-Lastly, how would you encourage young people to realise their dreams? '*...Ask for support! Whatever your dream or ambition, speak to someone about it and don't think you have to do it alone. Utilize key people (family, teachers, youth workers, coaches, friends) to help you reach your goals.*'

We leave you with this issue on a somber note. It is four years since the tragic events of Grenfell Tower- where among the 72 who lost their lives were friends and, family of ECYC.

Below are portraits from our young artists, and even though they could never convey the horror of 14th June 2017, we hope at the very least it encourages us to remember, and reflect....

