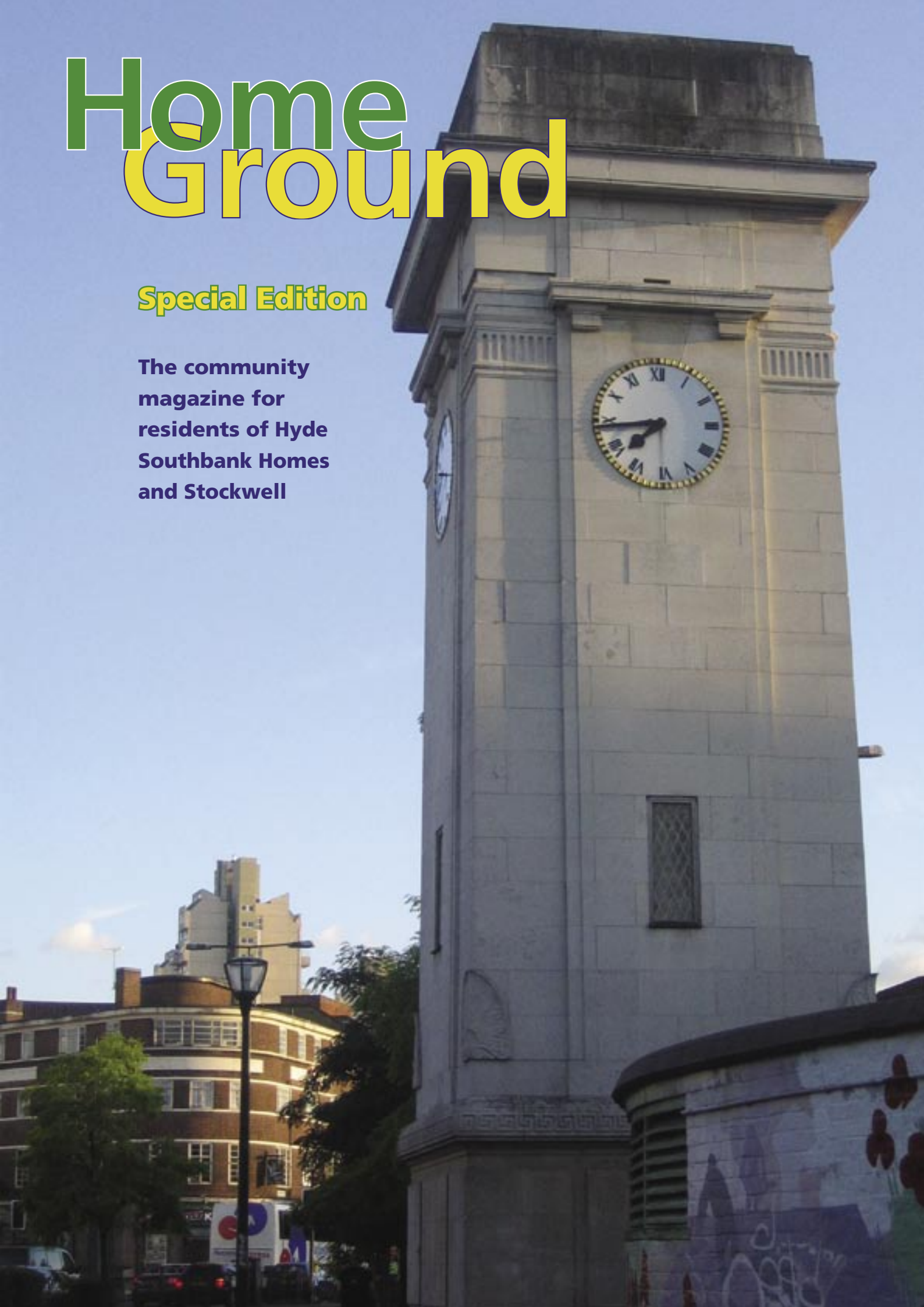


Home Ground

Special Edition

**The community
magazine for
residents of Hyde
Southbank Homes
and Stockwell**



Home Ground

Special edition

August 2005

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Memorial Garden –
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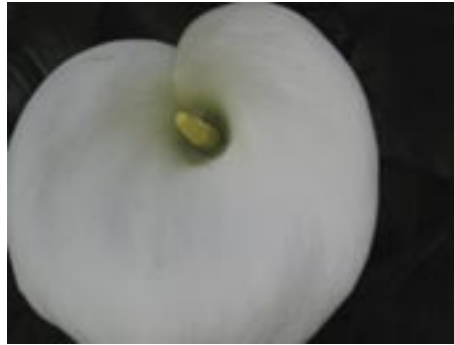
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In memory of Jean Charles de Menezes

born 7.01.1978 – died 22.07.2005



“He was very easy going and very communicative with everyone, he was the grandson that I always carried inside my heart. And I am terribly sad about what happened.”

Zilda Ambrosia de Figueiredo

Editorial

This is a special issue of Home Ground – Stockwell's community magazine. Its contents are direct responses from some of Stockwell's diverse community to events that happened here in July 2005.

It is an opportunity for you to hear from some of the many people who work for and represent the interests of Stockwell's community. They all share one common purpose – to make Stockwell a better place for us all to live in.

As editor of Home Ground I would like to thank all those who responded so quickly and so eloquently - making this Special issue possible. My particular thanks go to Abdinnassir Mohamud who prompted me to go ahead and do this and to Home Grounds' funders Hyde Southbank Homes and the Urban II Small Grants Fund without whom this magazine would not exist.

Home Ground is your magazine and we want to hear from you. If you have any news, views or ideas for future issues or have any comments on articles in this issue of *Home Ground* get in touch.

Send your comments, views, pictures to:

Elaine Kramer
The Resource Centre
1 Studley Road
London SW4 6RA.

Email: elaine@stockcr.co.uk, or call: 020 7501 2506

Abdinassir Mohamud

Co-ordinator Lambeth Somali
Community Association

From the outset Lambeth Somali Community Association (LamSom) wants to condemn what happened on the 7th and 21st of July, 2005. It was shocking and something that came as a total surprise to our community.

It is not right to kill innocent people, here or anywhere else. The horrific acts of the 7th of July resulted in the mass murder of ordinary, innocent, Londoners and visitors to our city. Even now the sense of horror still chills our bodies.

These appalling and loathsome acts were carried out by a very small number of people and this must always be remembered. The young men arrested for the actions of 21st July were estranged not only from their families but also from their communities.

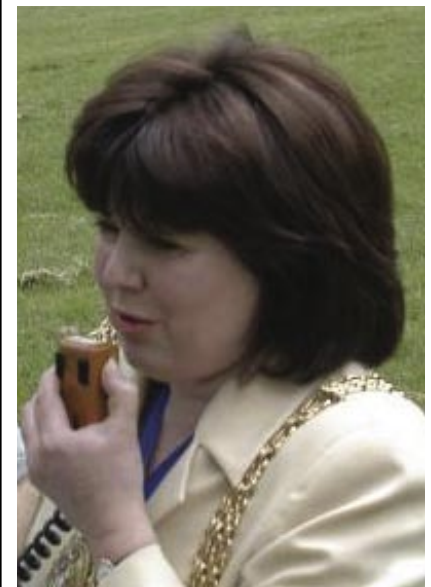
Somali people have sought refuge in London from a long running civil war and have always felt welcomed here. Britain has done a great deal for us as Somali people, but now we are beginning to feel a little fearful. We are concerned that discrimination will increase and attacks on members of our community will also rise.

We must be careful who we call Somali. The media seems to think and print that if you look Somali, you are. This is a dangerous way of seeing the world. We are concerned that the 'shoot to kill to protect' policy could impact excessively on the Somali community.

LamSom advises the Somali community to co-operate with the police and to respect the opportunities that the host community, here in the UK, has extended to them. As we state above, we sought refuge and security here and we are settling down and contributing to the community.

LamSom is now running a project called 'From Margin to Mainstream' (funded by Urban II – see back page) which is working with our young people on issues like citizenship and community cohesion, as well as enabling them to build up their skills in new technology. It is programmes like this that will help to combat exclusion and help us to educate our young people.

For more information about the
Lambeth Somali Community
Association Tel: 020 7738 6372 or
email: lamsom@lamsom.org.uk
website: www.lamsom.org.uk



Councillor Clare Whelan

Former Mayor and Executive member
for Environment and Communities,
Lambeth Council

Out of the fear and confusion of recent weeks the people of Stockwell have shown a tremendous spirit of unity and solidarity.

We have seen this in the dignified reaction of the South American community who lost one of their number in the tragic mistaken shooting. We have seen this at the Stockwell Green Mosque where local Muslims invited the entire community to share in an event of reflection. We have seen this in the support given by people of other faiths, both individually and through the Stockwell Faith Forum.

We have seen it too, at many events like the one at Stockwell Resource Centre led by the Borough Police Commander Martin Bridger, when more than 100 locals gathered to listen and ask questions. It was one of more than a dozen events which Lambeth councillors and local police organised to keep the community informed and to ensure that we do not give the terrorists the satisfaction of seeing our community divided.

I'm delighted to say that the rest of the community has shared in that spirit. We remain Lambeth - and Stockwell - United.



Anthony Bottrall

Councillor, Stockwell ward and Executive member for Education, Lambeth Council

As a local ward councillor, I'm proud of the way Stockwell residents have responded to the recent shocking events in and around the area. Many wise and moving things were said by local people from all backgrounds and walks of life at three excellent public meetings organised within the week following the 21 July attempted bombings. Speaker after speaker emphasised the importance of maintaining community cohesion, at a time when some of the national press were putting us all under intense stress through their endless and often ill-informed speculations.

There was appreciation all round for the fine support extended by Lambeth's police, whose Borough Commander, Martin Bridger, spoke powerfully at all three meetings. It is encouraging that in the latest police statistics Lambeth shows up as having the lowest level of faith-hate crimes among all inner London boroughs.

My own priority locally will be to keep in close touch with all my constituents, especially those most directly affected by recent incidents, such as the police raid on Blair House. It will also be an important part of my education responsibilities within the Council to work



with the police and local communities on engaging more and more young people in positive activities, not only through the summer holidays but on a sustainable, long-term basis.

Now that the 21 July suspects have been caught, earlier fears, suspicions and tensions are hopefully beginning to subside. We all need to get back to normal business as quickly as we can. However, if anyone does experience any faith or race-related harassment, they must report it at once to the police. And the same obviously goes for any evidence of potential terrorist activity.

George Wright

Director, Stockwell Partnership

Stockwell was put on the international map during the tragic events in July and it will take us all some time to come to terms with what has happened. In general, the media coverage painted a negative picture of our neighbourhood. But we have asked local people what they think, and there are many things they are proud of, especially Stockwell's diverse range of cafes, restaurants, shops and bars.

People come from across South London to shop at Condon's fishmongers on Wandsworth Road. Hot Stuff on Wilcox Road receives frequent rave reviews for its fantastic and affordable curry dishes. Those in the



know visit the Ethio restaurant hidden inside the old cinema at Stockwell Cross. On South Lambeth Road, Rebatos serve some of the best Spanish tapas around, and on any sunny day lunch outside at the Estrela - one of our many Portuguese restaurants, is a real winner.

The Swan pub is famous for its tribute bands but also attracts international legends such as Rolf Harris. The award winning Priory Arms on Lansdowne Way draws in real ale drinkers from far and wide. And what better place to spend a summers' evening than outside the Surprise pub on Larkhall Park.

The Stockwell Faith Forum is an exemplar of community inter-faith cooperation, whilst Stockwell Park School is one of the most improved secondary schools in England. Thanks to Trees for Cities and Lambeth Council, 100's of trees have been planted on streets and estates, and Oasis Nature Garden is an educational and recreational jewel for young people.

We have much to feel proud of in Stockwell and must not let the events of recent weeks bring us down. Working with many refugees and settlers from the Horn of Africa Radia Ahmed, Stockwell Partnership's advocate, says "These people are trying to separate our community but they are not going to win. We must not let them win."

Catriona Robertson

Chairperson, Stockwell Faith Forum

Two days after the 7/7 bombings, people of different religious beliefs held a strong circular rope in Larkhall Park and declared, "No act of aggression will break us apart."

Two days after the 22/7 shooting at Stockwell station, the Forum invited local people to gather at the Stockwell Community Resource Centre to listen to each other, to share thoughts and feelings and to reflect on recent events. We were helped in our reflections by local faith and community leaders, including Councillors and the Police. The Forum did not want any one local group to struggle on its own – we wanted to work through these difficult times together.

In a globally networked world, people living in a cosmopolitan city like London and a neighbourhood like Stockwell are likely to belong to more than just their own local



community. We might be part of networks based on our roots and family ties, our work connections, our language, our place of birth, culture and faith. And we bring to Stockwell all this richness – celebrated each summer at our Festival, and throughout the year in our cafés, shops and community activities.

Since 7/7, many of us have been wondering how we will rise to the new challenges as events have unfolded. What can we do locally to be part of the solution? We can keep the channels of communication open – providing opportunities for people to express concerns and to listen carefully. We can make more of an effort to include and involve young people from all our communities in the rough-and-tumble of decision-making at every level.

This year the Peace Space will be part of Lambeth Peace Week. Pitched opposite Lambeth Town Hall on 17th September we will be exploring all kinds of possibilities. If you would like to help in planning or on the day, or if you have any thoughts about how the Forum, with others, can play a positive part, just get in touch.

Tel: 020-8674 4610, email: faith_forum@btinternet.com, website: http://uk.geocities.com/faith_forum@btinternet.com

David Clarke

Manager Stockwell Resource Centre

Stockwell is a special place – so many community organisations so close to each other and seemingly with every member country of the United Nations represented. Most of us know all this already but recent events have served as a powerful reminder – Stockwell is a perfect example of diversity in action.



Hopefully the events will soon start to fade away.

This special issue of Stockwell's own magazine is another important reminder - of our ability to make a spontaneous community response.

Stockwell Community Resource Centre, 1 Studley Road, London SW4 6RA, Telephone 020 7501 2501, Email info@stockcr.co.uk Web www.stockcomm.net

LONDON CELEBRATES



**SUN 11TH – SUN 18TH
SEPTEMBER 2005**

The London Week of Peace is an opportunity for local residents, communities and organizations to profile and promote ongoing local initiatives and activities relating to peace and community safety. Last year, over thirty events were held across London involving over 20,000 people.

The Lambeth Peace Week is a Partnership Initiative involving the Metropolitan Police, Lambeth Council and the Peace Alliance. The Peace Week includes a parade as well as other events and refreshment.

For further information call
Catriona Robertson on:
020-8674 4610

Kate Hoey

MP for Vauxhall



The events of the past few weeks have brought home to all of us how terrorists can so easily disrupt our way of life.

Stockwell has featured in the news a great deal and it is not surprising that local people are feeling worried.

The positive aspect of the aftermath of the terrorist attacks has been the response of all the faith groups in the area and the partnership which has been built up between the Council elected representatives, local communities, the churches, mosques and the Police.

Our local Borough Commander, Martin Bridger has made sure that he has kept us all informed of what is happening as far as he can. It is important to remember that most of the activity we have seen in our area has not been carried out by our local Police and that no local Police were involved in the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes. So far there has been a magnificent united front locally and this must continue so that those who wish to divide our community know that they will not succeed.



All staff at Larkhall and Stockwell Sure Starts

In light of recent events, Larkhall and Stockwell Sure Starts would like to call on our communities to resist becoming divided by those whose extreme views and actions have caused shock and distress to us all.

We are conscious that acts of terrorism are now resulting in hate crime.

This is affecting our lives and our children's sense of security. In the Sure Start programmes we are committed to taking whatever action we can to support families and children.

We want to declare our solidarity with all nationalities and faith groups within the communities we serve.



Paul Bridge

Managing Director,
Hyde Southbank
Homes



Stockwell and Oval are vibrant and incredibly diverse communities, where people live peaceably side by side and have a strong resolve not to allow terrorism to undermine shared values. The Hyde Group, through Hyde Southbank Homes, has been providing landlord services in Stockwell and the Oval since 1996. Our relationships with residents and local communities have led to two successful housing stock transfers of which we are proud.

Over the past five years, our £67 million regeneration project in Stockwell has seen major improvements being carried out in 2,000 tenants' homes and we are now starting on a similar project in the Oval. Our work is more than just about bricks and mortar. Our community regeneration initiatives, such as the Stockwell Community Resource Centre, have delivered programmes which show what richly diverse communities exist here and how well they interact.

Together with the London Borough of Lambeth, our partner contractors, consultants and staff, we have worked with local people to shape a brighter future for these Lambeth neighbourhoods. Our experience

has been overwhelmingly positive. Stockwell and the Oval have their problems, as all inner city areas do, but there is an energy and a commitment to improve life here. Many local people, and groups of all backgrounds, have track records of making a positive difference.

All of us at Hyde share the sentiments expressed by community leaders, local councillors and the police in response to the attacks on London. We have a long term commitment to these areas and to the people who live and work here and we will continue to support each other to ensure that terrorists do not succeed in altering our views of our communities and each other.



Toaha Qureshi

Trustee Stockwell Mosque and Director of Stockwell Green Community Services

Islam does not promote, support or harbour terrorism in any shape or form. Those that are involved in the recent despicable acts of violence in our community are outside Islam. Using the name of Islam to do this sort of thing is absolutely wrong.

There is now an intense discussion under way in the community about how the government, police and Muslims need to work harder to reach out to a generation of alienated young men who feel let down by their elders and mainstream society. The authorities must reach this alienated Muslim community in order to engage with disaffected and disenchanted young people.

We have to be one step ahead. We need to show our children how to divert their anger in the right way. Young Muslims must work with the community, the authorities and the Metropolitan Police by engaging with diversionary programmes, such as the project we are currently running here in Stockwell – Support for Employability, Enhancement and Development – (SEED, funded by Urban II, see back page) which promotes the inclusion of ethnic minorities into mainstream society by enhancing existing skills and developing new ones.

Now is the time to build a mosque as a multi-purpose community hub. The Muslim community must open the mosques and Islamic Centres to the community at large. This action would enhance understanding by emphasising the importance and significance of harmonious relations.

We have to draw up a long term strategy to combat these issues and to demonstrate that we are working together and will not allow this group of vicious people to divide us.

Toaha Qureshi can be contacted at Stockwell Green Community Services. Tel: 020 7738 7436 or Email: toahaqureshi@hotmail.com

Summer playschemes



For more information about any of the schemes contact the Children's Information Service on 0845 601 5317.

CLUFO

56A Courland Grove
London SW8 2PX
Tel: 020 7622 0786
Workshops, sports, trips. Age range: 5- 8 years.
Dates: Monday 1 August – Friday 26 August 2005

Dorset Road Community Project

1 Sherborne House
Bolney Street
London SW8 1EW
Tel: 020 7735 3973
Arts and drama activities. Age range: 5- 16 years.
Dates: Monday 1 August– Friday 2 September 2005

Friends of Kennington Park

155 Kennington Park Road
London SE11 4JJ
Tel: 020 7735 7186
On and off-site activities. Age range: 5-16 years.
Dates: Monday 1 August – Friday 2 September 2005

I Care After School Club

Wyvil Primary School
Wyvil Road off South Lambeth Road
SW8 2TJ
Tel: 020 7729 4081/0461
Outings, arts, drama, music, dance. Maths, English, science and other curriculum subjects.
Dates and times: Monday 1 August- Friday 26 August 2005, 9am – 5.30pm. Age range: 5- 16 years.

Living Word Youth Project

336 Brixton Road
London SW9 7AA
Tel: 020 8916 1885
Playscheme for children with special needs.
Age range: 8- 16 years.
Dates: Monday 1 August – Friday 26 August 2005

Magic Roundabout Nurseries Limited

MRN House
Binfield Road
London SW4 6TB
Tel: 020 7498 1193
Activities include arts and crafts, indoor/outdoor activities and organised outings. Health snacks and drinks are provided. Times: 8.00am- 6.30pm. Age range: 8-12 years.

Oasis Cycle and Activities Centre - Cycle Project

21-60 Priory Grove
London SW8 2PD
Tel:020 7627 3793
Adventure Play, BMX Cycling and football, netball. Open to local children and visiting playscheme groups. (Booking essential).
Opening Times: 10.30a.m- 3.30pm
Dates: Monday 1 August – Friday 2 September 2005

Oasis Kart Track – Karting Project

30 – 32 Priory Grove
London SW8 2PD
Tel: 020 7720 6939
Pedal Karting activities for local children and visiting playscheme groups. (booking essential).
Opening times: 11:00am- 4:00pm
Dates: Monday 1 August – Friday 2 September 2005

More playschemes on page 8

Summer playschemes

Continued from page 7

Oasis Children's Nature Garden - Environmental Project

Nature Garden
Larkhall Lane
London SW4 2SP
Tel: 020 7498 2329
Opening times: 10am- 12.00pm,
2.00pm- 4.00pm.
Environmental Play activities,
gardening, games, arts and crafts.
Open to local children and visiting
playscheme groups.
Details on all projects are available
from the Oasis main office 020
7720 4276.

Slade Gardens Community Play Association

49 Stockwell Park Rd
London SW9 0DD
Tel: 020 7737 3829/020 7274 4535
Open access adventure
playground.
Age range: 5 to 16 years.
Dates: Friday 29 July – Friday 2
September 2005

Springfield Community Flat - Springfield Summer Playscheme

53-54 Brocket House
Union Road
SW8 2RE
Tel: 020 7720 2699
Creative and educational activities,
outdoor sports and residential at
Woodcraft Park Farm.
Age range: 4- 15 years.
Dates: Monday 1 August – Friday
26 August 2005



Springfield Community Flat - Stewarts Rd Adventure Playground

53-54 Brocket House
Union Road
London SW8 2RE
Tel: 020 7720 2699
Creative and educational activities
and outdoor sports.
Age range: 8 to 15 years.
Dates: Monday 1 August –
Friday 26 August 2005

Mosaic Project

Springfield Community Flat Annexe
53-54 Brocket House
Union Road
London SW8 2RE
A communal mosaic building
project with the opportunity to
design and create a personal
mosaic on the Dorset Road Estate.
Dates and times: 29 August- 2
September 2005, 10:00am-12:30
and 1:30- 4:30pm.
Age range: 11-16 years.
Contact Jean Carpenter/Carla Alves
Tel: 020 7326 2685

Thessaly Community Project

2 Thessaly Road
London SW8 4HT
Tel: 020 7622 1250
A variety of indoor and outdoor
activities and workshops.
Age range: 5-16 years.
Dates: Monday 1 August – Friday 2
September 2005

Triangle Adventure Playground

Ashmole Street
London SW8 1NE
Tel: 020 7735 0972
Activities include camping, fence
painting, cycle repairs and cooking.
Age range: 8- 16 years.
Dates: Monday 25 July – Friday 12
August 2005

Trojans

Trojans summer playschemes
Unit 4, 1-31 Morrish Road
London SW2 4EE
Tel: 08707 560 707
Running from: Jessops Primary
School, Eardley Primary School,
Stockwell Primary School,
Bonnevill Primary School.
Cost of the playschemes depends
on the level of childcare required.
Age range: 4-11 years. Dates and
times: Monday 1 August - Friday 2
September, 8am- 5.30pm.

Vassall Ward Youth Project

143-145 Brixton Road
London SW9 6LZ
Tel: 020 7735 6266
Arts and crafts workshops, music,
drama, sports and off-site visits
Age range: 5 to 14 years.
Dates: Monday 1 August –
Thursday 25 August 2005

Vauxhall City Farm

24 St Oswalds Place
London SE11 5JE
Tel: 020 7582 4204
Animal care, sports, arts and crafts.
Age range: 8- 16 years.
Monday 1 August – Friday 2
September 2005



South Connections Carnival Band

Offley Road Works
Offley Road (off Prima Road)
London SW9
South Connections Carnival
Costume Band makes high class
costumes for Notting Hill Carnival.
There will be a specific programme
for young people during opening
hours. This will be excellent work
experience for young people who
want to gain production skills for a
career in fashion and design.
Dates and times: Wednesday 27
July – Monday 29 August 2005,
1:00 – 10:00pm
Age range: 16+
Contact Roz Price
Tel: 020 7735 2786

Stockwell Resource Centre

Throughout the year - a whole
variety of courses and leisure
activities for all ages, advice
sessions and much much more. See
Home Ground magazine or contact
the Resource Centre on 020 7501
2501 or email info@stockcr.co.uk

Youth Arts Summer School

Oval House Theatre
52-54 Kennington Ova
London SE11
Tel: 020 7582 0080
Peter Pan in Kennington Park
In the magical modern world of
computer forests, hip hop pirates
and lost boys that live in a world
of never ending neon lights, this
the story of Peter Pan as we've
never seen it before.
Performed by local young
residents in Kennington Park:
Friday 26 August, 6:30 pm;
Saturday 27 August, 6:30. Website:
www.ovalhouse.com for
information.



Stockwell Community Resource Centre
1 Studley Road, London SW4 6RA
Telephone 020 7501 2501
Email info@stockcr.co.uk
Web www.stockcomm.net
Home Ground is printed on
100% recycled paper.



EUROPEAN UNION – Urban II
The Stockwell Urban II
Community Initiative renamed
Stockwell United is an EU
fund awarded to our local
community. Since 2002 it has
brought £6 million of funding to
projects that benefit
people living in Stockwell.

Home Ground is your magazine. It's your opportunity to voice opinions and tell us about your neighbourhood.

Do you like living in Stockwell? Are there places, people, projects you would like to tell others about? We want to know about you. The next issue is out in December 2005 so you've got time to get writing, emailing or just drop in to:

**The Resource Centre
1 Studley Road
London SW4 6RA**

**or elaine@stockcr.co.uk
or call: 020 7501 2506.**

**Talk to
Home Ground,
make it yours.**