

# Windows for Peace (UK)

Registered Charity number: 1108358



Newsletter number 7, December 2006

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- > Major new grants announced
- > Break in at Tulkarem Centre
- > £30,000 raised in the UK
- > Muslim/Jewish youth dialogue project underway in Manchester.

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## Wonderful Boost for Windows

Almost all the money we have sent to Windows CfC from Windows for Peace (UK) has been for infrastructure (literally paying the rent). Two years ago, they were in serious financial difficulties and our funds were vital for their continuation. They were still able to get money for projects but these grants simply did not carry sufficient overheads. Although fairly modest, the reliability of our financial support has been a real boost. It has allowed them to spend more time on the vital work with the young people and concentrate more on fund raising.

Well, the really fantastic news is that they have just secured two large grants. The first is from the European Union and covers 76% of a 342,000 Euros (£240,000) programme for the production of the magazine by the youth editorial

boards and its distribution – mainly through schools. The second is a US\$ 50,000 (£27,000) grant from the Schocken Foundation (the Schocken family own the Haaretz newspaper) for the development of the video journalism work with the young people. The EU grant covers all aspects of the magazine production with sufficient overheads for both the Israeli and Palestinian Territories ends of the work. This wonderful achievement requires us to re-look at our own funding priorities for them. For the next two years

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**£182,000 EU grant and £27,000 from the Schocken Foundation provide a firm base for future expansion.**

## Website

It's taken a bit of time, but we do now have a website so please add this to your favorites:

[www.windowsforpeaceuk.org](http://www.windowsforpeaceuk.org)

Rather than circulating this newsletter by email, we shall put the current edition on the website and simply email you with a message when it is

published. If you are still receiving this newsletter as hard copy and you have access to the internet, please help us to reduce our costs (and impact on the planet) by sending your email address to

[ken@windowsforpeaceuk.org](mailto:ken@windowsforpeaceuk.org).

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the overheads will be covered and our money-raising efforts can be put to other uses. The most obvious need – and first priority – is the additional 24% required to make up the balance of the EU grant. This alone amounts to approximately £28,000 per annum. We also have to look forward to the end of the EU grant period and consider the possibility that funding at that level will not continue. After all, this has happened a number of times since Windows CfC was founded in 1991.

The new grants present Windows CfC with a tremendous opportunity and at the same time an enormous challenge. Never have they had such financial stability for their work with the young people. But they are also faced with stepping up the scale of the organization, appointing new staff and training them. And, as ever, the Windows CfC Board are full of wonderful ideas to expand the scope of the activity.

## ..... And This is the Shopping List:

- 24% of 342,000 € to support the EU grant (approx £28K per annum for the next two years);
- £200,000 for capital and running costs for two video studios, one on each side of the Green Line.
- £75,000 for monthly workshops in schools – to reach over 2,500 students on both sides.
- £8,500 for a Youth Leadership programme: 17-18 year old graduates of the Windows programme to meet monthly to deepen their relationships and initiate together their own change-promoting projects.
- £4,000 for the production of a children's drawing exhibition to show artwork by the students from the Israeli and Palestinian schools that Windows works in.
- £5000 for a group of 15-16 year olds from east and west Jerusalem to meet weekly to cope with the unique situation in Jerusalem. The process they will go through will be reflected in an exhibition of drawings and photographs.
- Build up the regular UK donor base to provide stability for Windows CfC when/if EU funding ends.

**So there is our challenge. How much of this can we achieve?**

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## The End of our Second Year

The 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006 was the end of our second financial year. Our (as yet un-audited) accounts show that during the year we raised a total of £30,213. Of this £23,500 was transferred to Windows – Channels for Communication and £622 spent on the Youth Dialogue project in Manchester. Running expenses amounted to £1,020 (3.4% of income). Of the money sent to Windows CfC, £5,000 was earmarked for the

video project and £1,000 (raised from the sale of Helen O's CD of Songs for Peace) was for computer equipment in the Tulkarem centre. It doesn't take a mathematical wizard to see that there is an approximately £5,000 surplus which we are holding on to at present pending a decision from Windows CfC about a priority project on which to use it. The Trustees have also taken the decision to maintain an approximately £5,000 balance in our ac-

count as a contingency for any emergency funding required by Windows CfC. The cash in our bank account at 30 September 2006 was £10,510. The un-audited accounts and balance sheet are shown on the website. Standing order income for the year amounted to £4,009. The number of people establishing standing orders increased steadily through the year and today the yearly total stands at £6,963 which includes £1,445 in tax reclaimable.

## What's been going on here?



This is what the youth in the Manchester programme think!

### Eco House Experience

Penny and Norman Roberts have created an amazing eco-friendly house for themselves and they opened it on June 25th to raise money for Windows for Peace. It is a beautiful and unusual building filled with the latest energy-saving technology including a high tech heat pump system and the highest levels of insulation. It did seem quite appropriate that they should combine their convictions for saving the planet in a physical sense with their convictions for saving humankind from itself by projects like Windows. It was a wonderful afternoon; just sitting in their Zen-like garden watching small children re-arrange the pebbles, listening to their daughter and her friend playing cello duets from a balcony, eating strawberries and cream. It can be tough raising money for Windows! The afternoon raised £650.

### Manchester Youth Dialogue

A group of 10 facilitators has been meeting for over a year, including Muslim and Jewish youth workers and other interested Jews, Arabs and Muslims. The first group of Muslims, which included Palestinian and Arab young people met in June, and a group of young Jews met in September to think through what they want to say to each other. The young people involved are aged between 13 and 20. They developed wonderful jigsaws which illustrate what they value about their own culture and religion and that of the 'other'. They will be showing the jigsaws to one another in 1<sup>st</sup> joint workshop in late November and building a peace wall and identifying further activities they would like to do together.

Work so far is funded by a grant from Manchester City Council.

For information contact:

[Judith@windowsforpeaceuk.org](mailto:Judith@windowsforpeaceuk.org)

### Any Old LAPTOPS?

Have you just updated your laptop computer leaving your old machine feeling sorry for itself in a cupboard? Well, we can help you to put it back to life. If it's "Windows 2000" operating system or later, we can get it to Windows in the territories where it will be put to great use. Just email us at:

[contact@windowsforpeace.org](mailto:contact@windowsforpeace.org)

and, one way or another, we'll collect it and make sure it gets there.

### Visit by Rutie Atsmon

Rutie, the founder and director of Windows CfC visited us for a week in July. We organized three meetings; at the home of Penny and Norman Roberts in Liverpool; at the Cross Street Chapel in Manchester, and at the St. Ethelburga's Centre in London. We had a good turnout of new and old supporters. In Manchester, Rutie's talk was accompanied by a showing of the first movie made by the Windows young people - "Through the Lens". In London we showed a part of the "Breaking Barriers" movie from the project run by Vivi Lachs. We were left infected by Rutie's enthusiasm and, in spite of all the awful news from Israel and Lebanon over the summer, in no doubt that dialogue and not conflict is the only way to peace.

### 2nd Annual Garden Party

Ros and Ravi Raizada again welcomed 100 people to West Manley Hall for their July, Windows garden party. As is tradition, the sun shone, the food was outstanding, the music, singing and dancing inspirational. Treasure was hunted; raffle prizes were won; jam, CDs and cards were sold and £1,123 was raised. As with our other events over the summer, at one level many of us felt discomfort at the idea of a joyous occasion whilst the conflicts in Lebanon, Gaza and Israel were going on. But in the end we felt that it was right because we were supporting what we strongly felt was one of the ways of stopping such conflicts, and it was good to gain support from each other during such a troubled time.

# Windows for Peace (UK)

## Windows on BBC Radio 4



**Claire Jackson with the two Year 10 students, Libin Ashkir and Zeyna Sanjania**

**D**id you catch the Today programme on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November? Today is running a competition for lay people to edit the programme on New Year's Day. One of the four finalist teams is from Moat Community College in Leicester – Claire Jackson, a Jewish teacher and 2 Muslim students, Libin Ashkir and Zeyna Sanjania. They want to present a programme of positive images of Muslims in the UK and also highlight good news about Israeli and Palestinian achievements. They mention Windows for Peace and Rabbis for Human Rights as two examples of positives.

This is part of Claire's pitch from the BBC website:

*"I've worked here for 18 years. It's a comprehensive school in a 'socially deprived' area. Most students are Muslim, originally from India, Pakistan and Somalia. I'm Jewish – I feel safer here than anywhere - and over the years I've become increasingly concerned about the negative media image of youngsters like ours at Moat. The students are happy, funny, hardworking, ambitious and **committed to peace**. It's time their voices were heard and, with my editorial team, we want to focus on the **excellent community relations** in our city."*

(As we 'go to press' we hear that unfortunately the Moat College team did not win....in spite of it being by far the best bid!)

## Helen O's "Songs for Peace"

**W**e have sold almost 200 copies of Helen O's CD of "Songs for Peace". This has raised £1,800 so far: money which is being dedicated to equipping the Windows centre in Tulkarem with computer equipment (see below a report of the success and problems with this endeavor). Helen's CD has been reviewed by Nawal Gadalla in the Autumn 2006 edition of "Grapevine" (the circle dance magazine). She wrote; *"What struck me on first listen was the sheer range of Helen's voice. She can be hold-*

*ing a song deeply and strongly, when a harmony suddenly flies out of nowhere and you realize it's the same voice. She has a wonderful ear. With that comes her variety of tone – warm and resonant, then pure and clear as a bell.....The peace songs are an affirmation of a love and trust in spirit".*

Helen's CD is available from us at £10 each. Give someone a present – or perhaps just give yourself a present!

**Sales of Helen O's wonderful CD of "Songs for Peace" pays for computers for the Tulkarem Windows Centre**

## What's going on in Israel and the Occupied Territories?

**T**he bad news....In earlier newsletters we have written of the tremendous difficulties faced by Windows participants in getting together. As the security situation worsens, it becomes even more difficult to cross over the border. The use of computer communication is assuming greater than ever importance; video conferencing via the internet provides as good a substitute as possible for face-to-face meetings. That's one reason we were so pleased to be able to earmark funding to provide additional computer video systems for Tulkarem. And that's why we were so distressed to learn of the break in to the Tulkarem centre which took place during the night of Wednesday 25th October. Most of the equipment was stolen, including four computers, printers, a fax machine, telephones, televisions, videos and DVDs. What is worse is that the thieves set fire to the place, damaging the games room, the living space and the office. Especially upsetting is the destruction of movies and artwork created by the youth in the workshops and summer camps. The local police believe it to be a criminal offence, rather than anything politically motivated.

The director of the centre, Mahmoud with activists and volunteers are working hard to renovate the space so that it can re-open soon. They are determined not to let this awful event get in the way of



**Never give up— Madeline from Um El-Fahem, Gili from Haifa and their friends from the Leadership Group talking to the members of the Tulkarem group through the internet cameras.**

the centre's important work.

We have offered finance from our contingency reserve to help replace the equipment. They are determined to ensure they can make the building and its equipment more secure. They are also trying alternative sources of funds to replace the lost equipment. This has been a hard lesson for the team working in Tulkarem, but we have to be inspired by their determination to overcome the difficulties and to help them in what ever way we can.

## But there is also Good News.....

To give you a really good idea of the everyday life of Windows, we are including a large section from their recent update:

**W**e are happy to report that 13-year old Ayman from Tul Karm, who was shot by soldiers and hospitalized in Tel Hashomer (Tel Aviv) a few weeks ago, is recovering well. Next month he is undergoing additional surgery. He and his family thank all those who visited, sent gifts and expressed concern. Unfortunately Ayman is not alone – dozens of Palestinian children are currently in Israeli hospitals. Many are hospitalized for long periods of time and only allowed one relative to stay with them, and under unpleasant conditions. There are organizations and individuals who assist patients by serving meals and addressing other needs. We decided to organize a youth group to visit Palestinian children in hospitals on a regular basis, in order to keep their spirits up.

## Windows for Peace (UK)

**W**e have new staff members in our centers: In Tel Aviv – Efrat, who married and traveled to Australia, is being replaced by Netalie Levy, who has been working with us as a youth facilitator in the last two years. Netalie is formally responsible for the school programs and video projects, and informally oversees everything related to coordinating the youth meetings. Eihab Kadach, also a facilitator on our staff, runs the school programs alongside Netalie.

**As ever, there is so much going on.....**

**W**e are getting ready for our year of activity beginning in November. Our training staff will be meeting to create the yearly preparatory programme for our facilitators. Those running our educational programmes will be meeting with schools to offer them various activities: Distribution of our magazine to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders; recruiting students to join our writing and video programs; participation in our art exhibits; participation in film screenings + discussion, both of the video magazines already done and those that will be created over the course of the year. In some of the schools we will conduct 1.5 hour workshops that will take place monthly and will offer the participants an opportunity to cope with "the situation". These workshops will use the content of the magazine to trigger discussions.

**B**arak just completed his year of national service with us. Thank you to Barak! We welcome Gal from Hadera in his place, who began his journey with us as a young journalist in our Hebrew-Arabic magazine when he was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. We are also joined by Eyad from Jaffa, who was active with Reut-Sadaka youth movement. Gal and Eyad are in charge of all the humanitarian efforts we do – deliveries, transport to hospitals, olive picking and more. Eyad is also in charge of the Arabic course and assists in the production of the magazine. Gal, who studied film making in high school, is responsible for the computers and is coordinating our video programs. Both of them handle the inquiries into schools in Israel.

**M**enno from the Netherlands, Dave from the US and Juliet from England who all volunteered with us, have returned to their countries. Their contributions improved our fundraising efforts, and the results can already be seen. Thanks to all of you! Sharon from the US and Gabi from Germany will be joining us for the next few months.

**T**here are also new additions to the Tul Karm center: Osama Saad from the village of Kafin is in charge of our school programs in the Territories. Maram from the village of Dir Luhson will coordinate the video programs in Tul Karm. Maram was also one of our young journalists; he and Gal were together in our first delegation to Italy.

**T**he next issue of "Windows, Hebrew-Arabic Magazine" will be out at the start of November. Throughout the year we will work with 3 groups of young journalists – each of them comprised of Palestinians from the Occupied Territories, Palestinian citizens of Israel and Jews. The groups will be in Jenin, Tel Aviv, Yaffo, Lod, Haifa, Tul Karm, and more. Writers from last year will be more active editing the magazine. The young journalists will learn media and journalism throughout the year, in a special program developed in Windows. This program uses understanding of media and creation of alternative media in ways which give them the opportunity to undergo a process of mutual recognition and understanding of the complex reality within which we live. A donation from the European Union will enable us to publish the magazine 5 times a year for the next 2 years, and develop our programs in schools.

**W**e are continuing with the video programs this year. A donation from the Schocken Foundation will allow us to provide the video staff with training similar to that offered to our young journalists – video footage replace the texts as a tool for dialogue and they will produce video magazines instead of a printed one.

## Fadima Zubairu MBE 1946-2006

Fadima Zubairu passed away on 13th September, leaving the public life of Manchester much diminished.

Fadima enthusiastically attended several meetings at the initial visit of Rutie and Fahmi from Windows to Manchester in April 2004 before Windows for Peace UK was started. She was active in the Manchester group, despite illness, and spoke powerfully at meetings about why she was committed to Windows, her perspective as a Muslim on current issues and her work in schools with Muslim young people on the importance of dialogue and peace.

She was born in Sierra Leone and came to this country in 1969, and most recently worked for Manchester Connexions. She saw the potential in every young person and inspired many to go on and achieve – frequently identifying talents nobody else was aware of. She was awarded the MBE for her services to young people in the New Year's Honours list of 2002.

Her many and diverse social and political activities included being a long time and active supporter of the Labour Party, a governor for two schools and a member of Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit management committee.

I cherish the memory of the warmth and friendship that she offered me during the brief time I knew her.

Fadima is survived by her devoted husband Mohammed and their five children. She often talked about how important their love and support for her and all her activities was to enable her to engage in so many spheres of life. Her energy and tireless work for social justice and the good of the community were an inspiration to so many.

Judith Emanuel

### **A bravehearted Muslim pilgrim for peace**

Judith introduced us to Fadima. They came together to speak at a weekend conference of a small Christian ecumenical community to which we belong. The theme was "Reconciliation in today's world". Fadima immediately impressed us as a woman with a firm grasp of her faith and a need for it to be applied to the realities of our world. Those of us at the weekend will not forget the way in which she shared her efforts to get Islam to be honest to its roots and express the essential spirit of peace that Muslims should embody. Fadima gave an example of her work on interpreting The Koran with reference to the wearing of the *Hijab*. Believing that The Koran did not make this a requirement, she sought confirmation of her understanding from Islamic scholars. They agreed with her. She was thus able to tell young Muslim women that they had a choice in the matter.

Her death is a very sad loss to the wider efforts by all faiths to foster the work of reconciliation and understanding in our broken world. We give thanks to God for her and her commitment and courage in facing the challenge of her pilgrimage amongst us.

'May she rest in peace.'

Margaret & Graham Hawley

# Windows for Peace (UK)



From the Windows "Dreaming Peace" Exhibition—  
Yeara Shenhav, Democratic School, Kfar Saba

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**We're on the WEB**

**[www.windowsforpeaceUK.org](http://www.windowsforpeaceUK.org)**

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## What can you do?

- *Continue your support.*
- *We need to grow the UK base so that we can help Windows expand its core facilities. Think about running an event (e.g. garden visits, bridge evenings, sponsored swim, cycling, walks, silence ...anything!).*
- *Order some cards (£3 per pack of five plus £1.50 P&P for any number of packs)*
- *Order a 'Songs for Peace' CD (£10 + 50p P&P)*
- *Ask for some leaflets to distribute to your friends, colleagues and community.*
- *Complete a standing order. No amount is too small! A form is on the website*
- *Offer you time and expertise. We must increase the number of supporters who are able to give some time to help us.*

To contact us:

Windows for Peace (UK)

PO Box 177

Manchester M21 9YP

**Email:** [Contact@windowsforpeaceuk.org](mailto:Contact@windowsforpeaceuk.org)