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# South West

# Eid Gathering

## Riviera Centre Torquay

THE BEST PLACE TO BE



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Private Annual Gathering of Muslim Families in South West took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2007 in Riviera International Conference Centre Torquay.

### Bridging Communities, Uniting People

Families from **Truro, Plymouth, Exeter, Barnstaple and East Brent** joined in this annual celebration with families of **Torbay**. "Bridging communities, Uniting People", our motto came to life in the Eid gathering where it was truly an international mix. People came together from **Egyptian, Libyan, Ugandan, Syrian, Lebanese, Palestinian, Iraqi, Indian and Pakistani background** along with significant representation of **British Muslims**. There was good and encouraging participation of teenage young persons and university students in various activities organized throughout the event.

The "Forum" was properly decorated along with its stage. Its lower floor was reserved for children to run around and enjoy the entertainment activities. The parents could easily keep eyes on their chil-

dren from a comfortable distance without being disturbed. They were being seated into separate ladies and gents zones with separate tea, coffee and dinning facilities, all inside a warm & cozy environment of Forum. As usual the regular features of exhibition and sales stall from SIRAT publishers were centrally placed for both ladies and gents to feel comfortable to explore. Name badges made it convenient for the guests to self introduce with each other.

Mr Yousif AlNasar, from Torbay Islamic Centre, especially thanked **Dr Yahya Mubashar and Mrs Zainab Mubashar** during the stage programme after the lunch, for their continuing efforts and hard work in bringing the Muslims of South West together and arranging this event every year.



*"It was nice and I really enjoyed meeting other Muslims. Thank you"*



## ISLAMIC HERITAGE EXHIBITION

Alhamdulillah, as a regular feature of this gathering, this year a new set of posters and trailers were on display that were specially prepared for this gathering by Dr Yahya and Mrs Zainab Mubashar. All the information displayed was researched and verified. The highlights were valuable contribution of Muslims in the field of Education during the golden times of Islamic civilization. The trailers of latest movies and songs which promote the message of Islam were prepared by Dr Mubashar. Special written permissions were obtained from **20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, Matmedia productions and Awakening** for the trailers of movies, "**Kingdom of Heaven**", "**Al-Gazali: Alchemist of Happiness**" and two music videos of songs by famous nasheed artist **Sami Yusuf** respectively. The detailed information about these trailers, songs and artist were also displayed in the exhibition. Kingdom of Heaven is already available in the Torbay Islamic Centre and Al-Gazali: Alchemist of Happiness is also now donated there by Mrs Zainab Mubashar. The titles of the posters on display were "**Our Schools**", "**Islamic Art**" and "**Turkish Baths and Dr Brighton**". Two unique books were also on display namely "**Muslim Heritage in our world – 1001 inventions**" and "**Palaces and Mosques**".



## Children Activities

Before lunch, **Ozzy D and Cosmo-The Clown** were the centre of attraction for children. They both entertained the children with interactive games and circus skills activities. Although they initially planned to involve the children between the ages of 5-14 years into the activities, but more interestingly younger children joined in as well and the two **bouncy castles** that were arranged for children under 5 years, remained vacant for most of the time during the event. Mr Ozzy D and Cosmo-The Clown deserve special credit for keeping the children occupied for **1 ½ hours before lunch**, while adults and young people had time to informally meet and greet each other and explore the exhibition and sales stall. Their antics lightened the day and warmed the crowd for a surprise youth stage show.

**Mystery Gift:** To make exploring the Exhibition more interesting and enjoyable, a **27 question quiz** compiled from the information on display was given to the guests before lunch. It was encouraging to see that our youth, (Teenage young persons and university students), showed keen interest and likeness regarding the information and trailers displayed. A mystery prize was kept for the highest scorer of this quiz. It was won by 16 years old **Mohammad Afifi** from East Brent, who secured the **DVD player and a DVD of the film "The Message"** as the mystery prize. Interestingly, he was the only one who could correctly find the answers for all 27 questions from the exhibition.



These activities were planned to build **INNER STRENGTH** in our youngsters by developing their knowledge and understanding of Islamic heritage. Also to let our youth understand, how the influence of **Healthy Islam** had on these great Muslim Heroes, who then presented and contributed towards almost all "Fields of Life" in a **DIGNIFIED, BALANCED, HEALTHY AND CARING WAY**

All these activities were to provide opportunities to our youth to get well acquainted with each other in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

To enjoy rest of the photos and snap shots of the event, please visit our web site [www.southwest-muslimdoctors.org](http://www.southwest-muslimdoctors.org) and browse the **Photo Gallery** under **Eid 07 Gathering**.

# Youth Stage Show

The most enjoyable and entertaining activity was kept for the time after lunch.

Dr Yahya and Mrs. Zainab Mubashar both hosted the **Youth Stage Show** which included two games competitions each for girls and boys separately. All young boys and girls and university students showed keen interest in competing with each other. All games were physically and mentally challenging team based competitions. Nasreen Hilmi and Rabia Hilmi won the **Pick-Lit-&Ring** game while the **S u m a y a** Muganzi and Hawa Muganzi won the **Top-The-Triangle-With-The-Tumblers** competition. On the boy's side, Hani Muganzi and Salman Riaz won the **Pick-&Sort** game while Ali Hilmi and Tammam Rifai won **Two-In-One Battle**. All winning teams received high street vouchers worth £ 30/ each while the runners up teams did not go empty

handed. Each runner up player received a box of chocolate to take home. During the interval between the games, our youth in the audience also had a chance to win a further £ 5/ vouchers for answering one question each, which were selected from the web site published articles of **Facts and Jewel Book**. For the convenience of our youngsters, it was mentioned in the receipts as well as verbally conveyed about the selected articles for quizzes which were republished under **"Eid Quiz Articles"** on the web site. We were delighted to see that our youth were up to the challenge and they came well prepared and therefore all prizes went to our teenage youngsters. It was truly an enlightening day.

**"Food was very nice and tasty; exhibition was nicely laid out, Trailers were very useful and youth stage show was entertaining. Quite well done".**

## Guest's Feed Back Form's Results

Questions asked	Good/Excellent
Children Fun Activities	97 %
Youth Stage Show	92 %
Quiz	91%
Youth Games	97%
Children Entertainers	93%
Quality & Variety of Food	97%
Change any item in Menu	No – 87%
Items on Display and Exhibition	78%
Trailers of Movies and Songs	76%
Stall for Sale (SIRAT)	81%
Overall arrangements	98%
Gathering will be shifted away from Eid, Hajj and Winter holidays from next year to Feb 2008. Would you be able to come?	Yes – 91%
Ticket price will be increase by 50 p to £ 20.49 per adult due to inflation (which is not in our hands) Would you be able to come?	Yes – 93%



**Gifts:** All children received **gift packs with 12 items** each. Guests received Arabic learning software, courtesy of Harf International who sent their apologies for not coming this year for their stall. A **10 % discount voucher** and a chance to win free digital Quran were also presented to each guest at the end of the show with courtesy of Islamic Goods Direct (London).



## Southwest Muslim Doctors

**Date of next Private Annual South West Muslim Gathering is 22 March 2008 Inshallah**

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## FOOD: Halal buffet



As usual the food remained the hallmark of the gathering. **Basmati rice and French fries** were new additions to the last year's menu. Our special thanks go to the **chief chef, Horace Ham** and his catering team who did an exceptional job not only in the presentation of food but also to meet the high standards, tastes and needs of such a diverse gathering. According to the guest's feedback, the majority would not like to change the menu. All items were very much liked and enjoyed by the guests of all tastes.

**SIRATT** Islamic Publishers very kindly came from Nottingham with their unique **Islamic diaries, calendars, Islamic art, posters** and other Islamic products. Many of the products they brought were new to our guests who showed great interest in them. We thank them for their considerate presence at our gathering.



## Guest's Comments

"The effort put into this gathering was very much appreciated. Thank you very much"  
 "Very well organized and entertaining"  
 "Very organized, Nice food"  
 "Well worth the trip from Barnstaple, well organized. Expect me and family every time"  
 "I sincerely appreciate the efforts that you guys have put in. We thank you."  
 "Very kind of both Mr Yahya and Mrs Zainab, as you put great effort to arrange this gathering"  
 "First time in my life, I got the opportunity to see this great variety of Islamic Stalls. Thanks"  
 "It was a wonderful gathering and we all really do appreciate your efforts and incentive."  
 "Thank you for all your hard work".  
 "This looks operationally a full time job. I commend the organizers for job well done".