

أخبار المركز العربي NEWS LETTER

RECRUITING BOARD MEMBERS

مطلوب أعضاء مجلس إدارة

We are seeking to recruit a number of new board members to play a central role in enabling LAC to achieve its strategic objectives. Do you have experience and skills in one of the following areas?

EDUCATION

FINANCE

BUSINESS

ARTS

Are you inspirational, visionary and able to volunteer your support? If the answer is yes, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Anne Thwaite on 0151 734 0550.

Volunteers

مطلوب متطوعين

Are you interested in volunteering, LAC can offer a wide range of opportunities across education, youth and community, health and information drop-in support. This is fantastic opportunity to share your skills, develop new skills and support a charitable organisation in meeting the needs of the community.

Call Thomasina on (0151) 734 0550

The Liverpool Arabic Centre (LAC) is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. It is a voluntary organisation which was set up by local, people and is based on Lodge Lane in Toxteth. LAC works with and on behalf of the wider Arabic communities and those who are interested in Arabic language and culture. Establishment in the late 1990s, LACs Mission is **“To advocate the social and economic wellbeing, improve the health and advance the education of the Arabic community whilst strengthening the awareness of the community within wider society through the celebration and promotion of all aspects of Arabic history, language, cultural heritage and identity”**. We offer a range of services, activities information of which is included in this additional of LAC News Letter. For further information contact LAC office 136 Lodge Lane or call 0151 734 0550.

تغيير في رئاسة المركز LAC ANNOUNCES CHANGE AT THE HELM

On the 15th of November 2010 we held our 11th AGM. The event was a reflection of LAC's past year achievements, set out our ambitions for the future and election of board members. For the past 15 years **Taher Qassim** has lead LAC team through to achieving the success it now enjoys. After dedicating endless commitment and support to LAC Taher announced his decision to step down from his position as chair. In his announcement Taher said 'It is time that LAC has a change in leadership, I have been planning this for some time and I am confident that the time is right to bring about change'. **Razak Mossa** who has operated in role of vice chair was successfully elected as the new chair of LAC.

Chairing the Liverpool Arabic Centre (LAC) and Taher Ali Qassim

After a lengthy hesitation and deep thinking, I accepted my fate which requires me to take the responsibility of leading the Liverpool Arabic Centre for the next 12 months. The source of my anxiety was not about the enormous responsibility associated with this role, but it was about whether I could cover the instrumental leadership role provided by Taher which started 15 years ago by a group of parents looking for a room to teach their children Arabic. This activity has developed to establishing an effective organisation with influence and reputation beyond Liverpool and England.

The Liverpool Arabic Centre provide pioneering activities which include distinctive Arabic teaching school with highly qualified teachers, very modern curriculum learning instruments in addition to the excellent partnership with St Silas primary school which enables us to educate our children in a safe environment which is governed by the latest safeguarding regulations and equipped with modern teaching instruments.

LAC also provides a drop in centre from it office in Lodge Lane during weekdays to deal with endless issues affecting members of our community. The office is the base for a number of health and education projects.

During Taher's leadership role, he played a key part in creating a highly motivated and effective team. The team managed to take Arabic Community organisation functions to a higher level, where through positive engagement with the Bluecoat and other city Art organisations resulted in developing the Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival which ranked the biggest in the UK and possibly in Europe.

LAC work was not limited to Liverpool, but it built bridges with other community organisations UK wide which resulted in creating the Coordination Council of Yemeni Community Organisations currently chaired by Taher. Internationally, LAC participated in events and conference in Yemen and Egypt.

Based on the above, you can understand why I resisted and hesitated to take on LAC leadership, but I believe that I am determined to continue building on past achievements and I am in no doubt that the team and Taher included will continue to deliver future successes and high quality service for our community.

WORK FOR US

إعمل لدى المركز

We are currently seeking to recruit sessional bank workers to operate in a number of roles. If you have skills and experience of working in the field of Formal and informal Education, Youth Work, Community Arts (performance and visual)

Community and Health

We would like to hear from you.

Sessions will often be offered at short notice and outside office hours.

Applicants will require current enhanced CRB. For further details and an application form contact Anne

0151 734 0550

A.Thwaite@liverpoolarabiccentre.org.uk

رئاسة المركز العربي وطاهر علي قاسم

بعد تردد طويل وتفكير عميق قبلت بمصيري الذي يفرض علي أن أتحمل مسؤولية قيادة المركز العربي للإثني عشر شهرا القادمة ولكن منيع قلقي لم يكن من حجم المسؤولية التي يتطلبه هذا الدور ولكن هل بإمكانني أن أعطي الدور الذي لعبه الأستاذ طاهر علي قاسم ليس فقط في قيادة المركز الذي بدأ من نشاط عدد من الأباء في إيجاد غرفة لتعليم أولادهم اللغة العربي ووصولاً إلى بناء منظمة فعالة ذات تأثير وصدى تجاوز ليفربول وإنجلترا تقدم أنشطة رائدة تشمل مدرسة لغة عربية متميزة بكفاءة هيئة تدريسيها وحدائثها منهجها ووسائله التعليمية بالإضافة إلى الشراكة الرائعة مع مدرسة سانت سايلاس والتي تمكننا تعليم أطفالنا في بيئة آمنة تخضع لأحدث معايير التدريس المعاصر. كما أن المركز ولسنوات عديدة قد أوجد مكتب في لودج لاين مفتوح طوال أيام الأسبوع للتعامل مع قضايا أفراد الجالية العربية ويقدم المركز عدد من المشاريع ذات الطابع التعليمي والصحي. وخلال قيادة طاهر للمركز العربي لعب دوراً محورياً في بناء فريق متقاني ومتفاهم تمكن من القفز بنشاطات المنظمات العربية في بريطانيا إلى مستوى جديد تمخض عنه خلق مهرجان ليفربول الثقافي العربي والذي يعد أكبر مهرجان ثقافي عربي في بريطانيا وربما الأكبر في أوروبا. ولم يقتصر نشاط المركز على ليفربول فحسب بل بنى جسور عمل مع منظمات خيرية أخرى تمخض عنها تشكيل مجلس تنسيق منظمات الجالية اليمنية في عموم بريطانيا والذي يرأسه طاهر حالياً. وعلى المستوى المحلي لعب المركز العربي دوراً رئيسياً في تشكيل شبكة منظمات الأقليات العرقية التي يرأسها طاهر حالياً. ودولياً شارك المركز العربي في عدد من الفعاليات في صنعاء والقاهرة. ومما سبق سيوضح القاري أسباب ترددي في الماضي ولكنني مصمم على الاستمرار في البناء على النجاحات المذكورة وليس لدي شك من أن الفريق الذي حولي وعلى رأسهم الأستاذ طاهر لن يتوانوا عن الاستمرار في تحقيق نجاحات مستقبلية.

Members & Staff News أخبار أعضاء وموظفي المركز

Amceerah Hassan in Sudan أميرة حسن في السودان

Amceerah Hassan member of LAC Executive Board member is spending some time with family and friends in the Sudan and will be back in the new years.

السيدة أميرة حسن عضو هيئة إدارة المركز العربي تقضي حالياً إجازة بين أوساط الأهل والأقارب في أرض السودان الشقيق وستعود بان الله في بداية العام القادم.

Najeeb Al-Hakimi in Yemen نجيب الحكيمي يعود من اليمن

Najeeb Al-Hakimi – off LAC & PCT has spent a well earned quality time with his family and friends in the Yemen. He has returned to England before Christmas.

السيد نجيب الحكيمي الموظف لدى لخدمات الصحية ولدى المركز العربي قضى وقتاً ممتعاً بين أوساط الأهل والأقارب في اليمن وقد عاد بالسلامة في نهاية شهر ديسمبر 2010.

Taher Ali Qassim طاهر علي قاسم

Taher Ali Qassim, Executive Member of LAC and Chair of Arabic Arts Festival, the BRM network and the Yemeni Community Coordination Council is planning to spend time with his family and friends in Yemen. We wish him a very happy break.

السيد طاهر علي قاسم عضو مجلس إدارة المركز ورئيس المهرجان العربي وشبكة الاقليات العرقية والسوداء ومجلس تنسيق منظمات الجالية اليمنية في بريطانيا انتقل إلى أرض الوطن لقضاء وقتاً ممتعاً مع الأهل والأقارب. نتمنى له إجازة سعيدة.

Congratulations to Elham Ali الف مبروك إلهام علي

Elham Ali, A former chair of LAC and chief exec of Active8 has completed with distinctions her Masters in Business Administration BMA at Liverpool University. Family and friends gathered to celebrate this outstanding achievement.

السيدة إلهام علي الرئيس السابقة للمركز العربي والمديرة التنفيذية لشركة أكتيف آيت حصلت بإمتياز على درجة الماجستير في إدارة الأعمال من جامعة ليفربول وقد تجمع الأهل والأصدقاء للاحتفال بهذا الإنجاز الكبير

A New Location for LAC activities

Preparations are under way for some of our activities to be delivered from our new locations at Beaumont Street (rented for the Merseyside Yemeni Community Associations MYCA). LAC has invested a significant amount to refurbish the building and hopefully the whole community will benefit from this resource. The MYCA will continue to deliver its activities in the building. It is worth mentioning the two Boards met on Friday 10 December 2010 to finalise the move arrangements and develop a closer working relationship.

موقع جديد لأنشطة المركز العربي

تجرى حالياً الترتيبات النهائية لإنتقال بعض أنشطة المركز العربي إلى موقعنا الجديد الكائن في بيومونت ستريت (مستأجر من منظمة الجالية اليمنية). وقد أستثمر المركز العربي في عملية تحسين وإصلاح المبنى لكي يستفيد منه الجميع. وستستمر منظمة الجالية اليمنية أنشطتها في نفس المبنى والجدير بالذكر من أنه قد تم عقد إجتماع مشترك بين إدارتي المركز والجالية نوقشت فيه العديد من القضايا وتطوير ترتيبات للعمل المشترك في المستقبل،

Working in Partnership to Pool Skills for Development of New Service Provision.

The BRIDGES drop-in has been developed as a response to the need to improve access to mental health services (*Voices for change (2003)*). BRIDGES is not a counselling or advice service, or a place where an individual could receive medical assessment, treatment or intervention, neither is it a place limited to one visit only. It aims to provide communities with information such as; referral criteria and how to access mental health services and ways to improve and maintain emotional wellbeing. It aims to improve choice and signpost communities. The initiative aims to provide a personalised service to community members, in other words an individual will not be 'just handed a leaflet and expected to get on with things', it is a confidential service, an informal environment where an individual can come to chat about service needs.

The project is being overseen by a multi-agency steering group whose main aim is to drive forward the development of the Bridges project by ensuring that people from Black Minority Ethnic Communities (BME) / Black and other Racial Minorities (BRM) have improved access to mental health services, other activities and organisations that can contribute to the improvement or maintenance of their physical and emotional well-being.

The project has created a variety of volunteer opportunities for individuals to gain experience in the field of advice & guidance, mental health, advocacy or field work. To conduct face to face, confidential interviews & support people to make informed choices.

If you are interested in getting involved in the project and have the ability to:

- Listen, & demonstrate discretion .
- Deal with people with problems in an empathic way, open minded & non judgemental.
- Maintain a regular weekly commitment to shifts & training.
- Experience of mental Health.
- Good interpersonal skills
- As well as being able fluent in the English lanaguage, being able to speak an additional language fluently would be highly desirable. We are particularly interested in those who can speak Polish, Arabic, Mandarin/chinese, Somali, Punjarbi or Banglideshi.

Please contact Thomasina at the Liverpool Arabic Centre on 0151 734 0550 or email

t.afful@liverpoolarabiccentre.org.uk for further information.



Cultural Award Champion

On Friday 3rd December, Razak Mossa, Chairman of the Liverpool Arabic Centre and Careline Adults Service Manager was recognised at the Arts and Business Awards for his contribution to the cultural scene in the city.

Razak was awarded with a Cultural Champion Award for showing outstanding support for Arts and culture in Liverpool through his support for the Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival for the past 12 years. The event which took place in Tatton Park involved high level representatives from the Art and business scene from across the UK and was hosted by Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne.

David McElhinney said: "This news is a great achievement in particular for Razak. I am extremely pleased that Razak has been acknowledged for his hard work and commitment to the Arts and Culture in Liverpool. His positive support has finally been recognised with this award."

During the event, Razak took the opportunity to talk with George Osborne about the work of the Liverpool Arabic Centre, the Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival and the contribution of the Arabic community to the City of Liverpool. In return George Osborne was keen to attend the next Festival in 2011.

تكريم رئيس المركز العربي

في يوم الجمعة الموافق 3 ديسمبر 2010 تم تكريم السيد عبدالرزاق موسى رئيس المركز العربي في مدينة ليفربول والذي يعمل مديرا لدى الخدمات الإجتماعية في المدينة في حفل كبير وذلك تقديرا لإسهامه البارز تجاه النشاط الثقافي والفني في المدينة.

وقد تم منح عبدالرزاق جائزة العطاء الثقافي لمجهد غير العادي في دعم الأنشطة الفنية والثقافية في ليفربول عبر دعمه الطوعي للمهرجان الثقافي العربي خلال الإثني عشر سنة الماضية. وقد جرى حفل التكريم في حديقة تاتون بارك بحضور ممثلين من كبار من رجال الأعمال والمنظمات الفنية من ربوع بريطانيا وتحت رعاية السيد جورج أوزبورن وزير المالية البريطاني. وبهذه المناسبة قال السيد ديفيد ماكلهيني - المدير التنفيذي لمجلس مدينة ليفربول: "إن هذه الأخبار تعتبر منجز عظيم وبشكل خاص لعبدالرزاق. إنني سعيد جدا من أنه تمت عملية تكريم عبدالرزاق لجهده الدؤوب وإخلاصه للأنشطة الثقافية والفنية في مدينة ليفربول وأنه قد تم أخيرا تكريمه بهذه الجائزة إعترافا بدعمه الإيجابي"

وخلال وقائع الحفل تمكن الأخ عبدالرزاق موسى من الحديث مع السيد جورج أوزبورن شارحا له أنشطة المركز العربي والمهرجان الثقافي العربي في المدينة وإسهامات الجالية العربية تجاه مدينة ليفربول وبالمقابل عبر السيد جورج أوزبورن عن رغبته في حضور المهرجان الثقافي القادم والذي سيقام في يوليو 2011

LAC SERVICES المركز خدمات

Advice: تقديم النصيحة

We hold Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) drop in sessions every Wednesday morning between 10am - 12pm at the LAC main office. Anyone needing advice or information on issues such as housing and benefits are welcome to attend the drop in. We also provide help with filling in various forms and an Arabic translator is available during the sessions.

Information point: تقديم المعلومات

We provide a range of leaflets and information on local activities and services for all members of the community. We are also able to signpost and refer you on to other organisations both locally and nationally.

Children's Education project المدرسة العربية

Delivery takes place on Saturdays at St Silas School during term-time. For further information contact LAC main office.

Fathers and Sons Project: مشروع الاب والابن

LAC delivers workshops that enable fathers and sons to build upon their relationships. Story telling sessions, cultural games and discussion groups are held on a regular basis at a number of venues in the community.

Volunteer opportunities: فرص للمتطوعين

Gain skills and experience in working with the local community in a range of service provision. Projects are delivered within LAC and on an outreach basis.

Young Peoples Music sessions

فصول موسيقية للشباب

Will be part of our service delivery in early 2011. Young People will have the opportunity to develop skills in playing a range of Arabic musical instruments. More information will be posted Jan 2011.

Community Awareness and activity events

فعاليات إجتماعية وثقافية

LAC will be delivering a number of community events starting January. Community members will be invited to come along to LAC events being held at MYCA. Sessions will include health awareness, employment opportunities and information from support agencies.

Women's time: Wednesdays 1pm – 3pm an opportunity to take part in a range of activities as crafts and Arts. This is a time to meet friends and learn new skills. Workshops will be held at MYCA from January 19th 2011.

مشروع المركز التعليمي Children's Education Project

المدرسة العربية

LAC provides quality learning and development opportunities for children, our Education project currently operates on Saturdays during term-time. Children experience a range of curriculum including Arabic Language, Culture and ICT. The programme is delivered to motivate children towards learning and achieving, developing confidence, communication skills and future aspirations.

Parents Participation: مشاركة الآباء

We have implemented a process of enabling parents to have a voice informing the programme delivery. A recent participation event enabled parents to discuss the needs of their children and feed into the development of the curriculum. We value parent and children's contribution and are currently in the process of identifying and agreeing means of incorporating ideas and vision into our service model.

For information on accessing the Education Project please contact Mohammed Jumei 0151 734 0550

Useful Numbers

National Gas Emergency Service

0800 111 999

NHS Direct – 0845 4647

UK Passport Service/Advice Line

0870 521 0410

Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111

Victim Supportline – 0845 30 30 900

Liverpool City Council – 01512 333 000

Careline – 0151 233 3800 (Adults)

- 0151 233 3700 (children's)

Police, Fire & ambulance services: 999

Free Telephone Operator: 100

Royal Liverpool University Hospital Trust,:

0151 706 2000

Liverpool NHS Walk In Centre,

0151 285 3535

To receive more details on any of the above opportunities please call LAC main office on 0151 734 0550, call into our office 163 Lodge Lane or email A.Thwaite@liverpoolarabiccentre.org.uk

Food For Thought

Negative Person الشخص السلبي	Positive Person الشخص الإيجابي
Thinks about the problem. يفكر في المشكلة	Thinks about The solution. يفكر في الحل
Always has excuses. لا تنضب أعذاره	Never short of ideas.. لا تنضب أفكاره
Expects others to help them يتوقع المساعدة من الآخرين	Helps others. يساعد الآخرين
Sees a problem in every solution. يرى مشكلة في كل حل	Sees a solution for every problem. يرى حل لكل مشكلة
The solution is possible but difficult. الحل ممكن لكنه صعب	The solution is difficult but possible. الحل صعب لكنه ممكن
Accomplishment is not more than a promise. لا يرى في الإنجاز أكثر من وعد يعطيه	Considers accomplishment as commitment. يعتبر الإنجاز التزاما يلبيه
Has illusions and bundles of scattered dreams. لديه أوهام وأضغاث أحلام يبدها	Has dreams to achieve. لديه أحلام يحققها
Slogan: deceive people before they deceive you. شعاره : أخدع الناس قبل ان يخدعوك	slogan: treat people as you like them to treat you. شعاره: عامل الناس كما تحب ان يعاملوك
Sees pain in the work يرى في العمل ألم.	Sees hope in The work يرى في العمل أمل.
Looks at the past and thinks of what is impossible. ينظر الى الماضي ويتطلع الى ما هو مستحيل	Looks at the future and thinks of what is possible. ينظر الى المستقبل ويتطلع الى ما هو ممكن
Says what he/she chooses يقول ما يختار	Chooses what he/she says.. يختار ما يقول
Discusses weakly in a rude language. يناقش بضعف وبلغة فظة	Discusses strongly in a delicate language. يناقش بقوة وبلغة لطيفة
Adheres to trivial and gives up values. يتشبث بالصغائر ويتنازل عن القيم	Adheres to values and gives up trivial. يتمسك بالقيم ويتنازل عن الصغائر
Events make him/her تصنعه الأحداث.	He/she makes events يصنع الأحداث.



Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival flies to Cairo

المهرجان الثقافي العربي بشارك في مؤتمر المغتربين العرب في القاهرة
 Three organisations, Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival (LAAF), Liverpool Arabic Centre (LAC), and the Yemeni Community Coordinating Council (YCCC) UK were represented by Taher



Ali Qassim MBE at the first Conference of the Arab Expatriates titled “A Bridge for Communication” from 4 till 6 December 2010 at the Arab League Head Quarter in Cairo, Egypt. Taher had a chance to meet the general secretary of the Arab League Mr Amr Moosa who chaired the conference as well as Sir Majdi Yaqoob the well known Worldwide

Egyptian/British heart surgeon. Mohammed Jumeih attended the conference as well.

The purpose of the conference was to invite Arab emigrants around the world to contribute to three current themes which are at the top of the Arab League’s agenda. These were:

- 1) The role of the Civil Society Organisations in the advancement of the Arab Communities
- 2) The role of the Arab expatriates in the development and strengthening of the dialogue of civilizations, cultures and religious
- 3) Towards establishing an Organizational and Information Framework for Arab Expatriates

During the entire three days, the conference discussed some issues in the above themes more than any other issues. Some research papers were presented. The quality of these varied. Some of these papers were presented in the name of Arabs while the contents were about an individual Arab country. Arabic language was raised repeatedly and its importance for the second and third Arab generations as well as teaching it to groups and individuals within the countries of residents. The conference also discussed the important role of Arabs in their new country of residents to promote the positive contributions of the Arabs to civilizations and models of good examples to replace the negative stereotype image about the Arabs.

Collaborative work was also discussed to keep Arabs connected between their countries of origin and the countries of residents. Extremism and the role of imams in their speeches at mosques were raised and suggested to re-educate imams about “wasatia” balanced religious message instead of hate message. Women issues and how some women are forced to go to their country of origin and domestic violence were discussed.

The conference finished with seven headline recommendations around: 1) the role of civil societies in countries of residents 2) contributions of Arabs in their new country of origin to capacity build counterparts in their country of origin 3) culture and have dialogue with the “other” 4) involvement of the Arabs in local and national politics in their new countries 5) building cultural bridges between new generations and their parents country of origin 6) Arabic language is the corner stone for Arabs to connect with others and finally 7) establishing a reasonable system for Arabs to connect with one another in countries and between countries.

What does the conference mean to LAC, LAAF, and YCCC UK?

LAC and LAAF has been ahead of the game and recognized some of the above issues and acted on them with our limited resources over the past 12 years. LAC had the vision to work with partners and create LAAF. The results of this vision have been outstanding. The conference in Cairo was like a recognition of the work we have done in Liverpool. However, it is time to look for new opportunities and work with other organizations within the UK and Europe to strengthen our local work with national and international dimension. LAC and LAAF are models for a vision of collaborative work between on the one hand local community and voluntary work and on the other hand public bodies to develop and run a programme of excellence such as the annual LAAF. But this is not enough. How about considering the model of the Arab Institute in Paris? It has become a tourist attraction in addition to its cultural, educational, and research services it offers to its visitors. Can it be replicated here in Liverpool/UK?

We are now building these principles to develop the YCCC UK as a starting point before connecting with other Arab organizations in the UK. Our local experience has been very well received in the conference and we plan to explore new opportunities and build new collaborative work within our business plans which are aligned very well with what the conference of the Arab League discussed.