



# Community News

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**2020 Boys Camp**  
See p2 for details

## *The House of Wisdom - How the Arabs Transformed Civilisation*

**"The House of Wisdom - How the Arabs Transformed Civilisation"** by Jonathan Lyons is a fantastic book that traces how Muslims were fundamental to the scientific and technological revolution that brought the West back off its knees after the Dark Ages. The Muslim contribution must be recognised for its considerable role in delivering the West its Renaissance; from an age of superstition to building some of the finest universities in the world.

In order to understand this transition, we need to look firstly at **The Crusades**. When Pope Urban II called for Holy War, armies swept down from Europe to conquer Jerusalem. Though this led to clashes and battles with all the necessary propaganda for hearts and minds, The Crusades did indeed open up channels for trade, communication and learning. For the first time, the Christian world came face-to-face with what they perceived as the technologically advanced Muslims.

**So what was the situation in Europe?** Greek learning had virtually vanished from Eu-

rope apart from some isolated centres in cathedral cities. There was no concept of the number zero, an inability to measure time or to calculate planetary alignment. The scientific method that the Greeks espoused was shunned by the philosophy of St Augustine who diagnosed 'the damning disease of curiosity.' Here the Christian world understood there to be a clash between Theology and Scientific endeavour. A philosophy of superstition abounded, famines and epidemics were seen as scourges from God whilst a popular 7th Century book by the Bishop of Seville taught that the world was flat.

**At that time what was the situation in the Muslim world?** Meanwhile the 8th Century Abbasid empire had grown to the east and the west absorbing the knowledge of the Persians, Jews, Christians, Zoroastrians, Hindus and the Greeks. Caliph Al-Mansur built Baghdad as his capital with its magnificent libraries and reading rooms whilst generously funding the study, translation and further development of these texts.

Here was established the **House of Wisdom in Baghdad**.

As the the Quran states that Allah made signs for keeping time and for navigating, all while praising people of knowledge; observatories were built, astrolabes were refined on Greek principles and the sciences of Astronomy, Medicine and Philosophy flourished amongst others. Muadhins did not just call to prayer but had expert knowledge of astronomical instruments and produced almanacs (from the Arabic almanakh) listing prayer times in different cities.

Al Khwarizmi born in 783, built upon Hindu/Indian knowledge to produce Astronomy tables that were used in Egypt for 1000 years. His Latin translations and further development of Indian knowledge brought our current number system to the West; an improvement on Roman numerals! He named the science of algebra which was used to solve inheritance and Zakat calculations, leading to the derivation of root numbers and the calculation of pi.

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## *Dua of the Month*

'Ali (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:

A slave who had made a contract with his master to pay for his freedom, came to me and said: "I am unable to fulfill my obligation, so help me." He said to him: "Shall I

not teach you a supplication which the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) taught me? It will surely prove so effective that if you have a debt as large as a huge mountain, Allah will surely pay it for you. Say: 'Allahumm -akfini bihalalika 'an haramika,

wa aghnini bifadlika 'amman siwaka (O Allah! Grant me enough of what You make lawful so that I may dispense with what You make unlawful, and enable me by Your Grace to dispense with all but You)." [At- Tirmidhi].

اللهم اكفني بحلالك  
عن حرامك، وأغنني  
بفضلك عن سواك



## Upcoming Events

### **AIG ANNUAL SHARED MEAL SAT 15TH FEB 7:00PM**

Guest speaker: GhanshyamNabar (member of the Hindu Community)

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys: Marlborough Road, Altrincham WA14 2RS

Adults £10, Seniors/unwaged £8, Children 5+ £5, Family £25

Tickets from your AIG representative



### **AHMA TALK: HIS OWN MAN SAT 22ND FEB @ 5:00PM**

A Victorian 'Hidden' Muslim. The Life & Times of Robert 'Reschid' Stanley

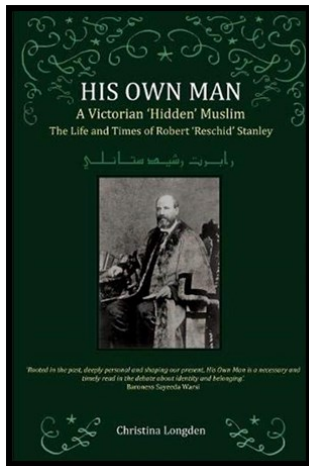
A talk by Christina Longden. "Islamic Cultural Centre Hale WA15 8JG (All Welcome). Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

### **AHMA BOYS CAMP 13-15 MARCH**

This is a fantastic opportunity for your child to experience a week-end trip away with children from the AHMA community, as well as supervision from trained PGL staff we will have members of the AHMA attending.

With everything on site needed to keep your child busy, with plenty of adventure activities on land and water, a purpose-built sports hall, all the study space you need, what more could you want?

We will have a wide range of fun activities planned, as well as Salah pray and Islamic workshops. **Contact Br Amjad on 07796 607231 for an application form.**



## Pearls of Wisdom

### **Ayahs of the Day:**

They receive good tidings of favour from Allah and bounty and [of the fact] that Allah does not allow the reward of believers to be lost

Those [believers] who responded to Allah and the Messenger after injury had struck them. For those who did good among them and feared Allah is a great reward

[3: 171, 172]

### **Hadith of the Day:**

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: The best person is he who has a long span of life and whose action and conduct are good.

Al-Tirmidhi HadithHadith 108 / Narrated by Abdullah ibn Busr al-AslamiWise

### **Quote of the Day:**

All humans are dead except

who have knowledge, and all those who have knowledge are asleep except who do good deeds, and all those who do good deeds are deceived except those who are sincere, and those who are sincere are always in a state of worry. [Imam Shafi]

### **Guidance of the Day:**

As for the cure for arrogance, there are several aspects. First, we should remember our humble organic origin. This will suppress any uprisings of arrogance and conceit.

In Islam we have religious heroes for a reason. To study the personalities of the Companions of the Prophet is to study incredibly great people who were humble. Scholars say the following, "If you are not like the real people, at least mimic them." It is better to simulate humility than to

be an outright arrogant person.

The cure for arrogance owing to beauty is to realize that beauty can be the most illusory of things. Social conditioning impacts our sense of beauty more than we would admit. Why should beauty ever be a cause of arrogance? First of all; God is the fashioner; It is He who gives all things their shapes and forms. Second, beauty wanes, as the pressures of age and stress tear down flesh. And what we are left with is what we should have focussed on in the first place, the content of our character, our beliefs, and our deeds. [Purification of the Heart].

### **Food for Thought**

Nothing so conclusive proves a man's ability to lead others as what he does himself from day to day to lead himself.



### **Mosque Tea Party**

Mosque responds to hate by inviting EDL to a tea party

## *The House of Wisdom (continued)*

Al-Idrisi was commissioned by King Roger II of Sicily to etch the most up-to-date map in the world onto silver discs along with writing a textbook 'The Book of Roger' describing different lands, cultures and peoples.

So advanced was Muslim map making and geography that Vasco De Gama was guided to India by a Muslim-made map and perhaps even a Muslim pilot.

Meanwhile Andalusia competed with its own centre of learning where Arabic was the language of high culture and learning. Here an amazing green revolution occurred with fantastic advances in irrigation (Arabic words linked with irrigation remain in the Spanish language), plant grafting, weather predictions, the cultivation of beautiful gardens as well as scientific advances.

The amazing research by giants such as Ibn Al Haytham on Optics, al Biruni on geometry, Ibn Sina on Medicine, Az-Zahrawi to name but a few, ignited learning, scientific endeavour and a Renaissance in the West. The West came back to life!

### **The Transfer of**

**Knowledge.** Andalusia was on the border of Catalonia and Spain and this border proved to be busy with knowledge transfer. For example an Andalusian Jew named Petrus Alfonsi understood Astronomy and Maths and introduced this knowledge to England. He also introduced the concept of "a tale within a tale" which inspired Chaucer's Canterbury tales.

The story of Adelard of Bath, an English monk who lived between 1080 to 1152 is fascinating. He travelled to France to learn as much as possible but realised that in order to learn more he would have to set out on the *Studia Arabum* and learn from the Muslims. He was fluent in Arabic and had great respect for Muslims; wearing flowing robes of green. In Muslim lands, he delved into the study of Astrology, Medicine and Alchemy. He translated books by Al-Khwarizmi, wrote "On the Use of the Astrolabe" and laid to rest the theory of the Earth being flat. The Arabic works of the Greek astronomer Ptolemy and geometry Euclid were translated by Adelard to reach the West bringing about changes in

architectural design.

### **Everyone should know about The Translation Movement!!**

It was The Translation Movement that was pivotal in bringing about change. In the 1200s and 1300s books written by Muslim scientists were translated into Latin and sent to The West. The first Qur'an was also translated into Latin as well as Ibn Sina's "Canon of Medicine."

Imagine the court of Frederick II; a lover of Muslim learnings, his court played an important role in transmitting Muslim works to the west. Both Frederick II and his grandfather Roger II were keen lovers of Muslim learning; they were fluent in Arabic, had Muslim physicians and were against the ethos of the Crusades. Here scholars like Michael Scott translated Arabic works.

**What happened with all these books that arrived in the west?** Well Masters and scholars who had congregated in centres of learning and formed groups in cities like Bologna, Paris and Oxford were flooded with books from The Translation Movement. These books called for

analytical skills and enquiry. From Philosophy to Astronomy and from Medicine to Literature, these works fuelled a revival and a Renaissance-such that the West would never be the same.

Sometimes the Muslim scientists were recognised and at others their names were erased- Jonathan Lyons describes is as an intellectual theft.

At Oxford University, the works of Ibn Sina and Ibn Rushd were taught for centuries. In 1214, Oxford's first Chancellor Robert Grosseteste taught the works of Ibn Sina, Al Ghazali, Al-Haytham and Al-Kindi amongst others.

The knowledge flooded these centres of learning to create the great universities in Oxford, Paris and Bologna-knowledge translated from Greek, Persian and other languages into Arabic by Muslim scholars who were unafraid to take, improve, preserve and share. It was this very knowledge that was then translated into Latin during the Translation Movement to raise the West up off its knees and create a scientific and intellectual revolution!

## *Community News: Schools Team*

The Spring term has seen many requests for assemblies and mosque visits. AGGS invited us to deliver seven assemblies so the School Team delivered presentations on the message of "Building Bridges through Social Movements and Kindness."

In times of strife, communities can pull apart. We discussed powerful movements, sometimes started by just one person, that snowballed to promote kindness, love and peace. The 2014 "I will ride with you" hashtag as a gunman held people hostage in a Sydney cafe was one such moment. A lady on public transport commented that the Muslim woman sitting next to her started to take off her scarf as the news broke out. This lady ran after the Muslim woman and begged her to put her scarf back on reassuring her, "I will ride with you" and keep you safe.

We highlighted many other examples of communities holding vigils, creating human chains to protect worshippers at centres of worship, the love bombing of mosques in Sweden and protests for peace; with a focus on faith communities who understand what it means to sometimes feel marginalised.

When the EDL organised a march in Birmingham, mosques responded by holding tea parties where communities could talk to one another. Their response to hateful and divisive tactics was to build bridges and build ties.

We talked about the tremendous Power of One; that each and everyone of us can stand up to make a difference and inspire others to build cohesive societies where respect and dignity are afforded to all.

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful  
**Altrincham & Hale Muslim Association**  
Registered Charity Number 1101378

## Prayer Schedule February 2020

Day	Date	Fajr	Fajr Jama'at	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Dhuhr Jama'at	Asr	Asr Jama'at	Maghrib	Isha	Isha Jama'at
Sat	1	6:24	7:00	7:55	12:23	2:00	2:27	3:00	4:52	6:17	8:00
Sun	2	6:23	7:00	7:53	12:23	2:00	2:29	3:00	4:54	6:19	8:00
Mon	3	6:21	7:00	7:51	12:24	1:30	2:30	3:00	4:56	6:21	8:00
Tue	4	6:20	7:00	7:49	12:24	1:30	2:32	3:00	4:58	6:23	8:00
Wed	5	6:18	7:00	7:48	12:24	1:30	2:33	3:00	5:00	6:25	8:00
Thu	6	6:18	7:00	7:48	12:24	1:30	2:33	3:00	5:00	6:25	8:00
<b>Fri</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6:15</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>7:44</b>	<b>12:24</b>	<b>1:40</b>	<b>2:37</b>	<b>3:00</b>	<b>5:04</b>	<b>6:29</b>	<b>8:00</b>
Sat	8	6:13	7:00	7:42	12:24	2:00	2:38	3:00	5:06	6:31	8:00
Sun	9	6:12	7:00	7:40	12:24	2:00	2:40	3:00	5:08	6:33	8:00
Mon	10	6:10	6:30	7:38	12:24	1:30	2:41	3:30	5:10	6:35	8:00
Tue	11	6:08	6:30	7:36	12:24	1:30	2:43	3:30	5:11	6:36	8:00
Wed	12	6:06	6:30	7:34	12:24	1:30	2:44	3:30	5:13	6:38	8:00
Thu	13	6:05	6:30	7:32	12:24	1:30	2:46	3:30	5:15	6:40	8:00
<b>Fri</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6:03</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>7:30</b>	<b>12:24</b>	<b>1:40</b>	<b>2:47</b>	<b>3:30</b>	<b>5:17</b>	<b>6:42</b>	<b>8:00</b>
Sat	15	6:01	6:30	7:28	12:24	2:00	2:49	3:30	5:19	6:44	8:00
Sun	16	5:59	6:30	7:26	12:24	2:00	2:50	3:30	5:21	6:46	8:00
Mon	17	5:57	6:30	7:24	12:24	1:30	2:52	3:30	5:23	6:48	8:00
Tue	18	5:55	6:30	7:22	12:24	1:30	2:53	3:30	5:25	6:50	8:00
Wed	19	5:53	6:30	7:20	12:24	1:30	2:55	3:30	5:27	6:52	8:00
Thu	20	5:51	6:30	7:18	12:24	1:30	2:56	3:30	5:29	6:54	8:00
<b>Fri</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5:49</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>7:16</b>	<b>12:23</b>	<b>1:40</b>	<b>2:58</b>	<b>3:30</b>	<b>5:31</b>	<b>6:56</b>	<b>8:00</b>
Sat	22	5:47	6:30	7:14	12:23	2:00	2:59	3:30	5:33	6:58	8:00
Sun	23	5:45	6:30	7:11	12:23	2:00	3:01	3:30	5:35	7:00	8:00
Mon	24	5:43	6:30	7:09	12:23	1:30	3:02	4:00	5:37	7:02	8:00
Tue	25	5:41	6:30	7:07	12:23	1:30	3:03	4:00	5:39	7:04	8:00
Wed	26	5:39	6:30	7:05	12:23	1:30	3:05	4:00	5:41	7:06	8:00
Thu	27	5:36	6:30	7:02	12:23	1:30	3:06	4:00	5:43	7:08	8:00
<b>Fri</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5:35</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>12:22</b>	<b>1:40</b>	<b>3:08</b>	<b>4:00</b>	<b>5:45</b>	<b>7:10</b>	<b>8:00</b>
Sat	29	5:33	6:30	6:58	12:22	2:00	3:09	4:00	5:47	7:12	8:00
<b>Jumma Khutba will start at 1:15pm</b>											