

GOOD NEWS STORY 1

Qtr-1

This year we are pleased to report we had the busiest Chand Raat. We had nearly 40 stall holders booked, selling ladies stitched and unstitched clothing, food, cupcakes, fashion accessories and much more.

We had 12 henna artists booked for the evening, offering different designs using traditional henna and the modern cosmetic versions.

This fun filled family event was attended by over two thousand people, which started at 4pm and finished in the early hours of the morning.

Chand Raat is normally held on the eve of EID. It marks the start of celebration of the end of Ramadhan in preparation of EID.

Over the years the Chand Raat at Castlemere Community Centre has grown from strength to strength becoming the most popular venue in Town for Celebrating EID.



For the second year running Castlemere Community Centre has been host to THE CHALLENGE programme by the NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE (NCS) working with 15 to 17 year old boys and girls.

NCS is a government funded initiative that supports community engagement, social action and social mixing among young people with the aim of bringing together young people from all different backgrounds in a common purpose.

The programme is spread over several weeks with carefully planned activities offering new experiences and opportunities to learn new skills, helping youngsters discover their own talents and realise their potential whilst having fun.

The programme offers an opportunity to meet new people, make life-long friends, grow your confidence and gain new skills for your CV.

Over 150 youngsters were enrolled for this year's Summer Programme which started on 03/08/2015 and finished on 26/09/2015.

Castlemere Community Centre is committed to identifying and providing for the needs of the local community. As part of this commitment, Castlemere regularly holds consultation and listening sessions with the local community.

One of the identified needs through this channel was problems and issues faced by the people of Pakistani origin in renewing or applying for ID cards for Overseas Pakistani's.

Castlemere was able to provide a solution for this by discussing the issues with the Consul General at the Pakistani Vice-Consulate in Manchester and initiating surgeries locally.

Castlemere Community Centre was the first to hold these surgeries which have spread regionally. The surgeries are hugely popular providing a valuable service for all, especially the elderly and disabled, who find travelling to Manchester very challenging to say the least.

Only ONE surgery was held this quarter on 02/08/2015 accommodating 150 people applying for a NiCOP card, 5 visas applications and 2 passport renewals.

The praise and appreciation we receive from the community for this valuable service are priceless.