

# Remembering Yusef

JUNE 2009

## WELCOME TO THE YUSEF ABUBAKER MEMORIAL TRUST NEWSLETTER.



### WELCOME

It is hard to believe that a year and nine months has passed since Yusef died so suddenly from Sudden Cardiac Arrhythmia whilst playing football.

The Yusef Abubaker Memorial Trust has been busy over the past year and had managed to raise over £16,500 for various causes. We thank all supporters of Yusef's charity for helping us achieve our goals for the first year, and more. It is so rewarding to know that so many lives have been transformed through the generosity and hard work of so many kind hearted people.

Alison, Abubaker, Haytham, Adam and Jaber

*Always Remembering Yusef*

## FUND RAISING EVENTS

### Sponsored Parachute Jump - 19 April 2009

The weather was glorious for Jump day for Eoin, Haytham, Stewart, Darren and William as they fulfilled their promise to jump from an aeroplane at 10,000 ft in memory of Yusef.

They were very apprehensive at the beginning of the day, and when Eoin left first, having drawn the short straw, the crowd fell silent. When the plane took off, they revelled a bit, and talked of it being "a piece of cake", etc, etc, until the plane soared then its engine cut out! Silence prevailed as they watched with baited breath for what happened next, until we all realised the engine cuts just before the parachutists jump! I cannot repeat Eoin's first words when I asked him how he felt after the jump. I am not sure it is in the English Language - Oh actually maybe it was in Arabic! In between jumps, they managed to have a picnic, chase sheep,



and hold a record-breaking competition to see how many people could fit into Lisa's tiny car! Photos have now been uploaded to the website. All the guys have raised lots of cash and have done Yusef proud.

The next group of jumpers are scheduled to jump at Errol Airfield on Sunday 7 June.

## FUND RAISING EVENTS

### Edinburgh Marathon success

We spent Sunday 31 May 2009 at the Edinburgh Marathon and am so glad we didn't miss this event. Ally Blair and Kim Ogilvie ran the full 26 miles in the sweltering heat and what a performance from both. Very well done for your personal best times Kim and Ally.

Mohammed El-Harm, Sheni Latif, Ailsa McAllister and Dorothy Forsyth ran the marathon relay and again what a performance. I felt so ashamed standing at the finish line making all these excuses to myself that I am unfit, etc. Today I saw people of all shapes, sizes and ages putting in such fantastic performances that I am now on a mission for next year.



A special thanks must go to the families of the runners for all their patience during the past 5 months of training and to the following for coming along today to support us all. So to Carol, Dorothy's mum, Maggie, Anna, Andy, Rachel, Natalie, Farzana and Sheni's

### Autumn Fair

The Autumn Fair was held at the Harris Academy on Saturday 22 November 2008. The Fair was a success once again with a good turnout and a total of £1504.70 being raised.



### International Buffet , Gaza

The atrocities in Gaza, Palestine led us to feel that we really had to do something to help. We held an international Buffet on 10 January 2009 with all the proceeds from this event sent to Gaza. The event was well attended and we raised a total of £1379 which the Trust rounded up to £1500 and sent to Gaza the following week.

### Yusef's Touch Rugby Tournament

Even the constant rain couldn't dampen the mood on Saturday for the Tournament held in memory of Yusef. This is the second tournament organised by Colin Whittaker and it just seems to gather momentum. Touch Rugby enthusiasts are already talking about next year's tournament. Yusef's Touch Tournament is the ideal way to launch the Touch season. We had fun, exercise and a few injuries so Iain and Abi are still hobbling, but the day was enjoyed by all. Colin indicated that we have raised in the region of £500 so many thanks Coco for another successful fundraising day.



### Spring Fair

The Second Yusef Abubaker Memorial Trust Spring Fair was held on Saturday 25 April at Harris Academy. Lots of preparation paid off. Although it was a beautiful day weather wise and there was a few other events on nearby resulting in the day being quieter, it was still a great result with us raising over £1,000 on the day. Many thanks once again to Mr Thewliss and Angela White from Harris for their help and support, and to all who took the time to help in any way.



### Collection Tins

We have distributed collection tins. Pour Homme Westport; Healing Hands Arbroath; Harris Academy Dundee; and Gillian Taylor Kirriemuir have all generously filled tins and returned them. If anyone would like a collection tin please do get in touch.

We are very pleased and touched to say that donations are continuing and we would like to be able to recognise each donation in the newsletter and website. However, we have to be culturally sensitive to the feelings and wishes of all and some of our supporters do not want their donations made public. This makes it very difficult for us to publicly recognise their generosity, but we fully understand their reasons for being so humble. Therefore, may we take this opportunity, once again, to say God Bless you all for your kindness, generosity, prayers and sincerity. Yusef would be so supportive of the charity we have made in his memory and would be so enthusiastic about all the good work your donations are facilitating.

## BENEFICIARIES

### Football Team Strips Sponsorship

The football strips for the pupils at Blackness PS have now been presented. Sport was so important to Yusef and he loved football so much. We are delighted and honored to sponsor strips in Yusef's memory, helping to enhance sport for youth. It is nice to be doing something local again also.



### Funding of books and CDs New Muslim Project, Markfield

This is one of the projects that Yusef was so supportive of, he would be so proud that we have been able to fund the books for the above project. Yusef was so keen to encourage education and I am proud that we are able to help with such a worthwhile and meaningful project in memory of our beautiful son.

### Motor Neurone Disease Association

Martin Wingrove and Chris Kennard, of Shadwell Estate, Norfolk, cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats at the end of May - a distance of around 1050 miles-to raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. We are pleased to be able to sponsor Chris £250 and wish them well for their venture for such a worthwhile cause.

### Other Beneficiaries

#### Motorised water pumps, Pakistan

We have funded 2 motorised water pumps in Pakistan and the work is well underway now. Everyone should have access to clean drinking water. We will provide details and photos of the finished work shortly. Again, a most worthwhile project.

#### Community Library, Nepal

We have funded the building and provision of a **Community Library in Nepal** as part of an Early Child Development project, working with the First Steps Himalaya. The cost of this project is £1,000.00. Work has begun on our part of the project in recent weeks.

#### Surgery for Nasser, Palestine

In December we received a request for funding to help pay for surgery for a 12 year old boy in Jerusalem. The family had raised most of the funds themselves but ran short of time when they were told that the surgery was to be the next Wednesday. Nasser has made a full recovery from the surgery and we are thankful that Yusef's charity has been able to help.

#### Water Well in Bangladesh

**Work is underway** on the first of our **water wells in Juranpur in the Chuadanga district**. The well has been constructed but the water is not yet available for drinking. The well is estimated to cost around **£700**. We also funded the provision of electricity to the local school and the plans for the transformers necessary for this work to be undertaken will be considered by the local authorities.

#### Local hardship

Also in December we had a case referred to us from the Citizens Advice Bureau. The case highlighted the plight of a local family who have a terminally ill child whose medical needs have placed the family in extreme poverty. On request, we made a payment of **£500** to alleviate the poverty and assist in the care of the child.

We donated **£100** to **CHAS** through a collection at Blackness PS.

### BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

The webpage set up in Yusef's memory with the British Heart Foundation has now reached a truly amazing amount of **£3339.46**. Considering the circumstances surrounding Yusef's death, we have decided that all donations, at present, should go towards research into heart disease. Yusef's page can be seen at: <http://www.mygiftofhope.org.uk/BHFWebSiteCS/Hope/ViewFund.aspx?Pageld=341>

Well done to the BHF and to all donating in *memory of Yusef!*

### CANCER RESEARCH UK

Despite the ongoing problems with the webpage, a recent donation has brought the balance to **£650**. Hopefully you will be able to see the details of the newest donation soon. Yusef's page can be seen at: [https://donateinmemory.cancerresearchuk.org/\(v5dm1w55jimp1ut551055asbh\)/DesktopDefault.aspx?tid=2&iid=287](https://donateinmemory.cancerresearchuk.org/(v5dm1w55jimp1ut551055asbh)/DesktopDefault.aspx?tid=2&iid=287)

## About Yusef

It is probably a good idea if we tell you a bit about Yusef, his life, his loves and his personality. He is a much loved son, one of four. On 24 September 2007, he went for a game of after-school football and died suddenly. He was 12 years of age. To date, despite a post-mortem and ongoing DNA testing and family testing, no cause has been found for Yusef's Sudden Cardiac Arrhythmia. He wasn't ill, and he led a very active and full life, thank God. Yusef was healthy, happy, strong and sporty. He loved nothing more than kicking a football or playing for his beloved Dundee Eagles Rugby Club and he had recently started playing for Harris Academy 1st years. He was a keen swimmer also and used to swim lengths of the pool just for fun. Tennis and hockey were amongst his other favourite sports and in general, he liked to try everything to see if he would like to continue with it. He applied a perfect mix of humour and sincerity to his life.

### The Yusef Abubaker Memorial Trust

is a charity registered in Scotland No. SC039367, the aims of the charity are:

- to alleviate poverty
- assist in the provision of medical treatment of the sick
- feed the hungry
- assist in education
- help provide clean running water wherever it is required
- providing sports equipment and funding for the enhancement of public participation in sport.

Basically, where there is a need, the Yusef Abubaker Memorial Trust will endeavour to be of help.

[www.yusefabubaker.org.uk](http://www.yusefabubaker.org.uk)

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**The Yusef Abubaker Memorial Trust welcomes suggestions from the public as to needy causes and our promise to you is that each suggestion will be carefully considered before a decision is made by the Trustees.**

### PROPOSED EVENTS

#### Sightsavers International

Our next sight saving project is in Cameroon. We have agreed to be part of a project to help prevent and eradicate River Blindness, also known as Onchocerciasis. We have pledged £2,000 to this project. Updates to follow

#### The Big Fun Run Dundee

The Big Fun Run has made the Yusef Abubaker Memorial Trust an official charity for the Dundee event. The event takes place on Sunday 16 August at Camperdown Park Dundee. We currently have about 7 participants taking part in Yusef's memory.

To enter, click on [http://www.bigfunrun.com/?pages\\_id=679&sc\[charities\\_id\]=392](http://www.bigfunrun.com/?pages_id=679&sc[charities_id]=392)

The cost is £8. I will shortly be sending sponsorship packs to all participants.

### REMEMBERING YUSEF

We have had a few donations from friends and family who chose to opt out of their family/work Christmas/Eid present dilemma by donating to charity instead. There are numerous proposals in the pipeline and news of these will be printed once these proposals turn into projects. In order to achieve these projects, we ask that you keep on supporting us and The Yusef Abubaker Memorial Trust. By doing this we are keeping the good deeds flowing and **Remembering Yusef**.

To make a donation, please contact Alison on [info@yusefabubaker.org.uk](mailto:info@yusefabubaker.org.uk) or you can donate online through Just Giving by visiting [www.yusefabubaker.org.uk](http://www.yusefabubaker.org.uk)

