



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we begin to embrace the winter season and Scottish weather, we are excited to announce that the Police Scotland Sikh Association is half a year old this month! We are thrilled to share some highlights from our recent endeavours. Our engagement efforts have been vibrant and fruitful, from meeting inspiring individuals to fostering a deeper understanding and awareness of key issues within our community. Promoting equality and diversity remains at the forefront of our mission, and we have been actively showcasing our work to reflect these values. We are grateful for the support that we continuously receive from our members. In this month's issue, we cover the Motherwell Police Office Open Day, REACH Leadership Forum, our meeting with Chief Constable Jo Farrell, and the Bishopbriggs Community Fire Station Open Day. We hope you enjoy this month's edition!

Sikh Facts & History



Bandi Chhor Divas: Day of Liberation

Bandi Chhor Divas is a significant day for Sikhs, celebrating the release of Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, the sixth Sikh Guru, from prison. He was imprisoned by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir for refusing to convert his faith.

Upon his release, Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji also secured the freedom of 52 Hindu kings who were falsely imprisoned with him. The kind Guru Ji refused to leave the fort alone and demanded the release of all the Hindu kings. The Mughal rulers agreed to a compromise: all the kings who could hold onto the Guru Ji's gown could walk out free with him. The Guru Ji ingeniously commissioned a special robe with 52 long strips, allowing all the prisoners to hold onto it as they walked to freedom. On this day, Sikhs visit their place of worship, called a Gurdwara, and light candles to commemorate this event.

Month 6....

Meeting with Chief Constable Jo Farrell



Last month, the Police Scotland Sikh Association had the privilege of meeting with Chief Constable Jo Farrell, and Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Steve Johnson, to showcase to the Chief Constable, the progress of the PSSA so far, the initiatives that we are currently developing, and what our visions and goals are for the future. The meeting reiterated how the progress aligns with the foundations of our association and with the pillars of the Sikh faith. The Chief Constable was keen to understand the various areas of Policing that all respective attendees of the meeting work in! For the PSSA, it is important that the Chief Constable is aware that

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Police Scotland is at the heart of our association, and that we are here to support our Police Force, both internally and externally. Internally, we aim to achieve this by providing a support network to our Police Officers and Staff. And externally, by engaging with the community, understanding their needs and, thus enhancing this crucial relationship between the community and the Police Force.



REACH Leadership Forum for Race, Equality and Cultural Heritage



The REACH Leadership Forum for Race, Equality and Cultural Heritage was recently held at the Scottish Police College. This significant event provided a valuable platform for underrepresented leaders to come together, share ideas, and promote equality, diversity, and inclusion within the police force and beyond. The REACH Leadership Forum is designed to empower leaders from diverse

backgrounds, offering them a space to voice their perspectives and contribute to meaningful change. The PSSA's involvement in this forum underscores its commitment to fostering an inclusive environment within Police Scotland. These discussions provided a valuable opportunity for the PSSA to soundboard ideas and collaborate with other leaders committed to driving positive change. The PSSA's participation in the REACH Leadership Forum is a testament to its dedication to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion. By engaging with other underrepresented leaders, the association is helping to shape a more inclusive future for Police Scotland and the communities it serves. The forum provided a crucial opportunity for underrepresented leaders to share ideas and collaborate on initiatives that promote equality. The PSSA remains committed to fostering an inclusive environment where all members feel valued and respected.

Bishopbriggs Community Fire Station Open Day

Recently, Police Scotland Sikh Association were invited by Watch Commander Cameron MacCallum to attend the Bishopbriggs Community Fire Station Open Day. This event was a fantastic opportunity to showcase to the public, the collaborative work that the Emergency Services are committed to, to keeping our communities in Scotland safe. The day, also, consisted of important fire safety demonstrations, as well as impressive displays of historic fire appliances. To promote safety on Scotland's road's, our very own Police Scotland Roads Policing Unit were also in attendance! In addition to this, the PSSA also met with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), and the Scottish Ambulance Service



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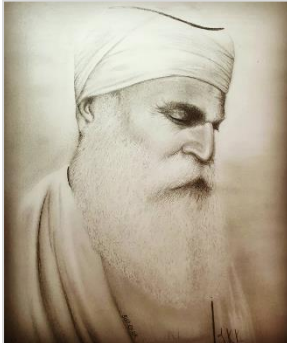
First Responders from Milngavie, who also demonstrated how to perform the crucial life-saving skill of CPR. The Open Day proved to be an excellent opportunity to engage with the public, with the highlight of the day being our very own Jess trying on a firefighter's uniform!

Motherwell Police Office Open Day

The Police Scotland Sikh Association recently participated in the Motherwell Police Office Open Day, engaging with the local community, and showcasing their commitment to diversity and inclusion, as well as meeting with Police Officers and Staff. The event provided an excellent opportunity for the PSSA to connect with residents, share insights about the Sikh faith, and discuss the association's initiatives and goals to promote safety and unity. The warm reception from attendees highlighted the positive impact of the PSSA's efforts in fostering trust and building strong community relationships.



The 555th Gurpurab of Guru Nanak Dev Ji



Next month marks the 555th birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of the Sikh faith. This is a hugely significant event in the Sikh calendar. The PSSA, in partnership with others, is working to commemorate this momentous occasion. Guru Nanak Dev Ji believed in seva (selfless service), and to honour his teachings, we will be organising activities to be held on the day for Police Scotland. Without revealing too much, we aim to showcase Seva at its best in collaboration with our diverse communities. Although this is slightly out of sync with our usual monthly newsletter, we will

be issuing correspondence nearer the time to share how we will be celebrating this wonderful event.

Upcoming Events:

Coming up in our Next Edition...

- Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 555th Gurpurab
- National Police Memorial Day
- Remembrance Sunday
- Black History Month
- Remembering our Colleagues



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Final words...

We are on a pioneering journey to build a stronger, more inclusive network within our policing family. We invite you to join us in this transformative mission. Whether you want to be part of our dynamic team, support our impactful work, or feature in our newsletter to spotlight important organisations and initiatives, we welcome your involvement. Together, we can create a future where every voice is heard, and every community is celebrated. Join us and be a part of this inspiring movement.

Reach out to us at:

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Let's make a difference together!

Police Scotland Sikh Association Team



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