



I want to help people, especially women

We meet Dalya, one of our West Bank students

In October 2022, three of the Scholarship Fund's organising group spent a fortnight touring Jerusalem, the West Bank and Nazareth as members of Tadhamon Singers ('tadhamon' is Arabic for solidarity). Whilst we were staying in Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem, Josie Shields-Stromness and Shirabe Yamada, members of the West Bank Scholarship Fund Committee, introduced us to Dalya Nasser, one of the Fund's students.

Dalya was very happy to talk about herself and her dreams and aspirations. She said she chose to go to Birzeit university because it has the only music department in the West Bank and moreover it has a course that includes rapping. When she started university it had been Dalya's ambition to become a musician, but she now wants to be a music therapist. "I want to help people, especially women, to make their lives better," she told us. So now psychology is Dalya's major subject and music her minor.

Dalya talked about the social pressure three of her friends are under. They were arrested in 2020 and after their release were told by their community that they were strong and being really brave but, she said, "...underneath I can see they are not OK and need help." She told us that there are few organisations that support women, including women whose husbands are in Israeli jails. And she wants to help teenagers, but especially women and girls.



Tadhamon Singers with Dalya and Josie (far right)
and Shirabe (fourth from right)

Dalya lives in the Deheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem. Her interest in rapping began when she was 13, she told us. She and some of her friends turned to Shoruq (an organisation in the camp that works to develop the creative potential of children and young people) for help developing their rapping skills, but the Shoruq staff only wanted to know where their brothers and fathers were. Dalya wrote a rap in response to this, which her mother liked. Then in 2015 and again in 2020 she, and two other girl rappers, visited the US on cultural exchange visits organised by Shoruq. There they were able to learn more about how to write their own raps.

It was a delight to meet Dalya and listen to her story. She then treated us to some of her amazing rapping! Her obvious talent and ambition are inspiring. It was also humbling as we spoke in English with no interpreter.

Val Johnson, Catherine Gaze and Hilary Smith

Meeting Eman

an Arabic language student from the West Bank

It was a historic occasion when, earlier last year – in March 2022 – Kirsty Wright and Josie Shields-Stromness (members of the Scholarship Fund’s West Bank Scholarship committee) introduced me to Eman Al Najjar. This was the first time a member of the Sheffield organising group had been able to meet with one of our students in Palestine.

Eman was born and brought up in the Al Fawwar Camp and when we met – at a restaurant in Hebron – she was making good headway towards the end of her first year at Hebron University studying Arabic Language Teaching. Our get-together was quite an event for Eman who, due to COVID-19 restrictions, had never met any of the other scholarship fund students or even anyone from the West Bank Committee that had allocated the scholarship to her, amidst very stiff competition.



Eman is on the left in a red coat next to her mother (front left) and sister.

Opposite (from front) Shirabe Yamada (West Bank Scholarship Fund Committee), Carolyn Leary (Fund supporter) and Hilary Smith.

Eman is from a family of six daughters, in a single-female-headed household. She was accompanied by her mother and one of her younger sisters. This was the first time the family had been able to hear about the origins of the Scholarship Fund and they were understandably surprised to meet me and two other fund supporters from Sheffield in person. We heard from the family just how tough the last two years had been in Palestine, when the hardships and injustices inflicted by the Israeli occupation were compounded by COVID-19 lockdown restrictions that had lasted throughout

the preceding two years. No furlough schemes existed in Palestine, and the almost total shutdown of tourism, plus the huge decrease in Palestinians being able to work inside Israel, had had a devastating impact on the fragile Palestinian economy.

Kirsty explained to the family how the West Bank committee allocates scholarships and she emphasised what a huge achievement it was for Eman to be one of the students chosen and how proud she should be. Eman herself was a little overawed by the occasion, but she said she was determined to do well and to achieve her dreams. Eman's mother was visibly moved by the

meeting with us and made a short speech in which she explained how hard life was for them as a family, but how proud she was as a mother of Eman. She told us with a beaming smile, 'Eman is very, very clever and she's going to achieve a lot'. Meanwhile Eman's younger sister sat quietly taking it all in and then announced that she would definitely, like Eman, be going to university and she'd try her best to get a scholarship!

Hilary Smith

The Power of Education

Four Gazan students tell us about their families and the importance of education

I'm **Mona Banat**, I'm nineteen and in my second year at Al-Azhar university studying computer engineering. I live with my mother and father and I have seven siblings. My mother doesn't work and my father is a self-employed builder, which means he doesn't have a secure income and we sometimes have to ask relatives to help us out. My father also has medical issues. He had an accident two years ago and this affects how much he can work.



I do as much as I can at home, but my parents understand that studying takes time and effort. Neither my parents nor my grandparents went to university, but my family believes in the power of education and how it can help build a better future. I have an older brother, who was given a scholarship to study medicine, and my younger sister and three brothers all hope they will find support to go to university. A university education is very important to my family. If we can graduate and get jobs, we can help out family members and build our community and country.

My name is **Iba'a Hamoda** and I am studying engineering. My father passed away in 2018 and I live with my mother. We have had no source of income as she is unemployed and my two brothers and sister, although university graduates, have no jobs because of the difficult situation in Gaza.



It's very important to my mother and my family that I continue my university studies. I am grateful to them for always being supportive. I'm hoping that when I graduate I can do postgraduate studies and hopefully find a job and build a career. I am from a family of university graduates. We believe in studying and pursuing our dream careers.

Since my father died and my younger brother moved abroad and my older brother married, my mother needs my help more at home and it can be difficult to keep up with my studies, but I do

my best and I'm still able to get high scores. The one thing that gives us hope in Gaza is that we can build a future for ourselves. All I want is to finish my studies at university and find a job to support my family.



I'm **Hana Ahmad**, I'm nineteen and in my second year studying Multimedia Technology at the Islamic University. I come from an educated family. My father holds a master's degree in accounting, my mother a degree in education. One of my brothers is already a graduate and I have a brother and sister at university. My younger sister is still in high school, but she's hoping to go to university.

My family felt indescribable pride and joy when, having finished school successfully, I gained a place at university. My family supports me in my university studies and I organise my time so I can help at home without neglecting my studies.

Having three children at university has added a lot of cost to my family. Our only income is what my father earns and his office was destroyed during Israeli bombardment of Gaza. He has not received any compensation (we have also not received compensation for the damage to our house in 2014). Despite this, my parents are happy and proud, and they look forward very much to celebrating my graduation.

I am very glad that I have been able to go to university. I really love my specialty and I also feel a responsibility to achieve my parents' dreams. So I put a lot of effort into studying and increasing my knowledge of multimedia technology.

My name is **Noor Rayan**. I'm twenty-two and in the last year of a dental degree. My father died in 2014, my mother is unemployed and I have four siblings, all of them still at school. We are reliant on government support and it's been difficult paying the dental college fees because they are very high. However, my mother is very proud of me and she was determined that I complete my education as a dentist. She is now encouraging my siblings to follow me and become medical students.



It takes time to study but I am trying to find a balance between studying and helping my family. I hope that my graduation and my work as a dentist will relieve the hardship we face and I'll be able to support my younger siblings to complete their degrees. I will do my best to overcome all the difficulties we encounter as a family and I hope to become an active person in my community.

Our thanks, as always, to Wafaa El-Derawi for these interviews.

This year's scholarships



We awarded **62** scholarships this year! **55** scholarships to young women in Gaza and **7** to young women in the West Bank. This was a smaller number than last year because we are coming to the end of the large donations and legacies we've received in recent years. In fact we'd been starting reluctantly to consider that we may have to scale down our scholarship programme, in the absence of larger funds, when in February 2023 we received an anonymous legacy of £10,000 from a long-standing supporter. This very generous bequest, together with the Arwa Memorial Fund, set up after the death of Arwa Abu Haikal Havard, friend and supporter of the Scholarship Fund, will mean that – with the regular standing orders and fundraising efforts of our loyal supporters – we should be able to continue to fund similar numbers of scholarships in both Gaza and the West Bank next year (2023-24).

As always, we thank our partners in Palestine, who administer the Fund often in very difficult circumstances. And we are so proud of our students, who have such enthusiasm for their studies and who are so determined to use their education to make a better life. We offer our heartfelt congratulations to the **19** students who graduated this year in Gaza.

	Name	Address	University	Subject	From	Amount (\$)
Gaza students we are continuing to support from 2017						
1	Iman Arrar Mohamed El-Atawna	Nuseirat	Al-Azhar University	Pharmacy	2017	1000
2	Anwar Saed Sobhi Abu Jalhom	Gaza City	Al-Azhar University	Teaching Arabic	2017	200
Gaza students we are continuing to support from 2018						
3	Nehad Raed Ahmed El- Jadbah	Gaza City	Al-Aqsa University	Chemistry	2018	200
4	Norhan Khaled Tawfiq El-Ghafari	Nuseirat	Al-Israa University	Business Administration	2018	200
5	Nahla Mohammed Hassan Ahmed	Gaza City	Palestine University	Law	2018	600
6	Noor Mohammed Ibrahim Rayan	Deir El-Balah	Al-Azhar University	Dentistry	2018	1000
7	Hadeel Gamal Abdullah Abu Haya	Nuseirat	Al-Aqsa University	Psychotherapy	2018	500
8	Lamia' Anwar Abdulhameed Abu Hezien	Nuseirat	Al-Aqsa University	Business Administration	2018	500
9	Samaher Akram Abdulsalam Ali	Jabalia	Al-Azhar University	English Education	2018	600

supporting women in Palestine to access education

10	Marwa Mamdouh IbrahimBa'alousha	Zwaida	Al-Azhar University	Engineering	2018	1000
11	Iba'a Yosif Mohammed Hamoda	Khan Younis	Palestine University	Engineering	2018	1000
Gaza students we are continuing to support from 2019						
12	Rasha Ahmed Zaher Farj Allah	Nuseirat	Al-Aqsa University	Business Administration	2019	400
13	Amal Abdulhalim Mutleq Ashour	Nuseirat	Palestine University	Pharmacy	2019	1000
14	Shadia Yasir Mohammed Ahmed	Nuseirat	Palestine University	Basic Education	2019	600
Gaza students we are continuing to support from 2020						
15	Hala Mohamed Mosa Al-Ramadi	Deir El-Balah	Al-Aqsa University	Design and decor	2020	500
16	Sabreen Salah Nada Al-Rabiah	Beit Hanoun	Al-Quds University	Health Department	2020	600
17	May Mohammed Mohammed Madi	Gaza City	Palestine University	Pharmacy	2020	900
18	Donia Loay Saadi El-Zaanin	Beit Hanoun	Al-Quds University	Information Systems	2020	600
19	Shahed Zead Alyan Darwish	Zwaida	Palestine University	Pharmacy	2020	900
20	Randa Rami Fathy Al-Dawahid	Nuseirat	Al-Aqsa University	Mathematics	2020	400
21	Dima Darwish Abdel-Razek Al-Majdalawi	Nuseirat	Al-Quds University	IT	2020	600
22	Zikraa Ezat Ahmed Abu Swireh	Zwaida	Al-Azhar University	Pharmacy	2020	1000
23	Bayan Yoseef Mohammed Abdel Aal	Deir El-Balah	Al-Aqsa University	nursing	2020	500
24	Mai Hassan Abdel Salam Al-Hamlawi	Bureij	Islamic University	Telecom Engineering	2020	600
25	Mona Atef Hassan Salaha	Deir El-Balah	Palestine Technical College	Computer Engineering	2020	400
26	Aya Akram Hussain El Edeni	Deir El-Balah	Islamic University	Engineering	2020	1000
Gaza students we are continuing to support from 2021						
27	Dima Hashem Hussein Barakat	Nuseirat	Al-Azhar University	Pharmacy	2021	1000
28	Raeda Saeed Izzat Al-Buhaisi	Deir El-Balah	Palestine University	Law	2021	600
29	Engy Nidal Mohamed Shaheen	Nuseirat	Al-Aqsa University	Business Administration	2021	400

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30	Enas Bassam Abdul Razzaq Shaath	Rafah	Al-Aqsa University	English Literature	2021	500
31	Baraa Asaad Harb Abu Lehya	Khan Younis	Al-Aqsa University	Nursing	2021	500
32	Shahed Khaled Hassan Shaheen	Khan Younis	Al-Aqsa University	English Literature	2021	500
33	Malak Hassan Mohammed Al- Daour	Jabalia	Al-Azhar University	Law	2021	600
34	Malak Khudair Jaber Ali	Jabalia	Al-Azhar University	Nursing	2021	600
35	Hajar Hatem Ramadan Al-Masry	Beet Lahia	Al-Azhar University	Engineering	2021	1000
36	Lama Ayman Khidr Karim	Nuseirat	Al-Azhar University	English & French	2021	600
37	Nourhan Yaqoub Salman Abu Sneimah	Rafah	Al-Aqsa University	Teaching English	2021	500
38	Aya Baheej Deeb El- Hummus	Rafah	Al-Aqsa University	Psychotherapy	2021	500
39	Eman Mohammed Ahmed Abu Taima	Khan Younis	Islamic University	English Education	2021	600
40	Nesma Abdel- Fattah Ahmed Al- Sharafi	Gaza city	Al-Aqsa University	Arabic Language Edu cation	2021	500
41	Mona Zakaria Hood Saqr	Khan Younis	Islamic university	Teaching English	2021	500
42	Shahed Ismail Ibrahim Qandil	Gaza city	Al-Aqsa University	Applied Technology	2021	500
43	Aya Ahmed Mahmoud Abu Al- Saud	Bureij	Al-Aqsa University	Public Relations	2021	400
44	Donia Ahmed Suleiman Abu Marahil	Nuseirat	Al-Aqsa University	Business Administration	2021	600
45	Mona Muhammad Yahya Banat	Gaza city	Al-Azhar University	Computer Systems Engineering	2021	1000
46	Reham Zaki Abdel Nabi Ikrim	Gaza city	Islamic University	Multimedia	2021	600
47	Saja Maher Ali Abu Nabhan	Nuseirat	Al-Aqsa University	Gymnastics	2021	400
48	Fatinaa Sohail Al Nadeem	Gaza city	Al-Aqsa University	Basic Education	2021	400
49	Heba Raed Ahmed Abu Khater	Nuseirat	Islamic university	Law	2021	600
Gaza students we are supporting from 2022						
50	Raghad Maher Mohamed Sweidan	Khan Younis	Al-Aqsa University	Computer Engineering	2022	500

51	Alia Rashid Hussein Abu Jriban	Deir El-Balah	Al-Aqsa University	Chemistry	2022	500
52	Dina Hassan Musa Musa	Jabalia	Al-Aqsa University	Basic Education	2022	500
53	Hana Majed Khalil Al-Araj	Almoghraqa	Applied college	Multimedia Technology	2022	500
54	Hana Hani Mohammed Ahmad	Nuseirat	Islamic university	Multimedia Technology	2022	800
55	Abeer Yahya Mohammed Khalil	Nuseirat	Applied college	Multimedia Technology	2022	500
West Bank students we are continuing to support from September 2020						
56	Fatma Abbas	Amari Camp	Bir Zeit University	Economics	2020	
57	Dalya Nasser	Deheisheh Camp	Bir Zeit University	Psychology Music	2020	
58	Wiam Hameidan	Nablus, Beata	Al-Najah University	Computer Engineering	2020	
West Bank students we are continuing to support from 2021						
59	Qamar Hazem Mohammed Abu- Kharoub	Habla near Qalqilya	Al Quds Open	IT	2021	
60	Nagham Nayif Ibrahim Khalayleh	Al Samoa	Hebron	Nursing	2021	
61	Eman Ali Hasan Al Najjar	Fawwar Camp	Hebron	Arabic Language Teaching	2021	
62	Asma Basil Fathallah Dakhee	Jericho	Al Quds (Abu Dis)	Nursing	2021	



Students receiving their scholarships at the annual award ceremony at Afaq Jadeeda in Gaza.

I feel so proud 🇵🇸

Below is a letter we received in September 2022 from **Dr Mona El Farra**, the Scholarship Fund's founder and our longstanding partner in Gaza.



Dr Mona El Farra, left, awarding a scholarship

Today was a special day. We held the annual Scholarship Fund award ceremony at Afaq Jadeeda, the organisation that administers the Fund in Gaza. I feel so proud of our Scholarship Fund and so proud of the 55 students who received a scholarship this year, 6 of whom are new students.

It was an informal and warm meeting. I acted like a granny giving out pieces of advice. We discussed the importance of reading and time management and I shared some of my own work and life experiences. We also spoke about the importance of volunteering and community participation. It was a round table discussion.

Most of the young women were shy, but in the end they were encouraged to speak. We joked together. I passed on your good wishes and messages of solidarity to them. I told them about the start of the Women's Scholarship Fund and how happy I feel when I meet doctors, nurses, teachers and other professionals in different places and they turn out to be our Scholarship Fund graduates.

To my great pleasure four of our Scholarship Fund students excelled academically this year and were the top student at their universities. The hard situation in Palestine, and the individual hardships they face, bring out the best in these less privileged young women, as does your belief in them, your belief in humanity and social justice and your continuing activism.

The Scholarship Fund is not only about providing young women with a scholarship, which is extremely important in shaping their future lives, it is also about listening to their stories of hope, to their stories of daily challenges and obstacles, and to their stories of success. I left the meeting on a promise that they will write down their stories for you and Wafaa, our volunteer, will help with that. The parents were so pleased and involved in the discussion. It was such a friendly atmosphere. We joked and laughed.

Thank you for giving me this chance to be part of this work and to see the smiles on the young women's faces despite all the difficulties they face. I felt so good. You made one of my days in Gaza, under siege, occupation and social constraint, very special.

From Gaza with love

Mona El Farra

Gaza students who graduated in 2022				
	Name	Address	University	Subject
1	Rouand Jaber Ibrahim Saeed	Bureij	Al-Quds University	Basic Education
2	Noor El-Huda Amin Esmat El-Borno	Gaza City	Al-Aqsa University	Business Administration
3	Yasmin Baker Ismail Shaheen	Bureij	Al-Aqsa University	Basic Education
4	Rania Khaled Tawfiq El-Damagh	Beit Lahia	Al-Aqsa University	Medical Tests
5	Rima Fayez Ali Al-Thawabta	Nuseirat	Al-Aqsa University	Accounting
6	Asmaa Iz EL- Dien Abdeen	Khan Younis	Al-Aqsa University	Teaching Arabic
7	Abeer Anwar Khalil Maleha	Gaza City	Al-Quds University	Accounting
8	Nihal Fouad Nabhan Salama	Nuseirat	Palestine University	Teaching English
9	Ghalia Ghalib Gabr Abu Khaled	Zwaida	Islamic University	Nursing
10	Manar Nafez Mahmud Al-Saidy	Bureij	Islamic University	Nursing
11	Hanady Mahmud Khalil Abu Shawish	Nuseirat	Al-Azhar University	Nursing
12	Rola Borhom Mohammed El-Quraan	Zwaida	Al-Aqsa University	Nursing
13	Malak Ibrahim Ibrahim Qnanish	Khan Younis	Al-Azhar University	Engineering
14	Ola Khairi Abdulrahman Abu Harbid	Jabalia	Al-Azhar University	Pharmacy
15	Alaa Maher Fahmy Al-Ghreez	Nuseirat	Palestine University	Information Technology
16	Lama Hussain Nady Hamad	Jabalia	Al-Azhar University	Accounting
17	Ola Ibrahim Mohammed EL-Shaltawi	Jabalia	Al-Quds University	English Education
18	Noor Yasser Mohammed Abed	Khan Younis	Al-Aqsa University	Nursing
19	Alaa Mohamed Hassan Matar	Jabalia	Al Azhar University	Pharmacy



Rotherham Friends of Palestine

Rotherham Friends of Palestine had its own stall at the Rotherham Show in September 2022. Members gave out information and talked with local people to raise awareness about what is happening in Palestine and to let them know about Rotherham Friends of Palestine and the Scholarship Fund. In the photo you can see member Maurice Bartley (on the left) and Jon Smith (on the right) with local boxing champion Kash Ali (in the centre).



Bolton Socialist Club

Throughout last year, alongside all our other activities, the Club has continued to raise money for the Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund. We've also kept members informed about the progress of students and discussed Palestinian issues more generally.

In July we held a packed concert at the club, featuring, among others, the fabulous Claire Mooney. The concert raised over £500.

Together with individual donations and direct debits, the club contributed a total of £1,158 this year. We are proud to be part of such an important campaign and we intend to continue raising funds and showing our solidarity throughout the coming year.



Claire Mooney

Neil Duffield



Derbyshire Dales Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund

In November 2022, with support from the Sheffield Scholarship Fund organising group, we organised a fundraising walk in Derbyshire. The walk started at the National Stone Centre in Wirksworth, was about 6 miles long and took in the High Peak Trail and part of the Cromford canal. We were lucky to have clear blue skies and could take advantage of the views. Before setting off we had time in the Stone Centre café to gather and share information about the Fund and the situation in Palestine. The walk raised a total of £720 plus £122.50 in gift aid.



Supporters of the Scholarship Fund enjoying the sunshine during the fundraising walk in November

Seni Seneviratne, Kathryn Taktak, Carole Sedgewick



Saddleworth Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund

This year we held three live events, something we couldn't have imagined back in 2020! We reached out

to our long-standing supporters, brought new ones on board, and raised almost £8,000.

In the spring we held a **Solidarity Stroll**. This heart-shaped guided walk of about 5 miles through some of Saddleworth's lovely countryside was designed to be inviting to everyone. We split into two groups and did the same walk in opposite directions, meeting in the middle for a picnic lunch. The weather was kind and the walk a very sociable event of about 30 people. We returned for tea and cakes and a fascinating and moving talk by our own Jacqui Greenfield and supporter, Anne Webster. They spoke about their recent experiences in the West Bank, which had included walking some of the Palestine Heritage Trail (phtrail.org). We took £605 in donations on the day and a further £1236 (including Gift Aid) went directly into the Fund's Give As You Live account. The event raised a total of £1841.



Supporters on the Solidarity Stroll (also in photo above)



Haneen Jadallah

Our Autumn fundraiser: **Keeping Hope Alive**, was a return to a more typical format of an afternoon of refreshments, shopping and speakers. Over 40 people attended and were treated to an inspirational talk and slideshow by Haneen Jadallah, an English teacher from Gaza, currently studying in England, who spoke about her work with the Hands

Up Project (www.handsupproject.org). This project connects teachers and pupils in UN refugee agency schools in Gaza and the West Bank with international volunteers. There are weekly online classes with games, storytelling, drama and discussion, providing an opportunity for inter-cultural exchange and for Palestinian teachers and pupils to have their voices heard. The event raised £736.



The Keeping Hope Alive event

In December, partnering with Manchester Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), we put on our third event of the year: **A Winter Supper**, held at Jaffra, a Palestinian restaurant in Manchester. The restaurant owners were pleased to support us, providing food at cost whilst Manchester PSC advertised the event as their Christmas social and provided a stall, as they do at all our events. Over 80 people attended, enjoying a wonderful buffet supper. Ticket sales, together with raffle and donations from supporters who could not attend, raised over £1,500.



Supporters enjoying the Winter Supper

Once again we have been amazed this year by people's generosity and continued support for the Scholarship Fund. Individual supporters have donated goods for us to sell and given us ideas for events. £4706 was raised from 39 standing orders. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our wonderful supporters.

2022 marks ten years of our involvement with the Scholarship Fund. It has been and continues to be an honour to be part of such a fantastic project. Our current committee are Michele Abendstern (secretary), Ann Forster, Jacqui Greenfield (treasurer) Sarah Hey (co-chair), Catherine Holland (co-chair), Maggie Magner, Sue Piper, Magda Sachs and Sue Warrington.

Michele Abendstern (for Saddleworth PWSF)



Small Park BIG Run 2022

Finally, in mid-summer 2022 the Small Park BIG Run (SPBR) was on in person again in Meersbrook Park.

The theme was refugees. An estimated 6 million Palestinians are refugees. They include those families and their descendants who are still looking to return to the homes that were taken from them over 70 years ago and also those who

have been displaced or forced to leave Palestine or their home in Israel since 1948. When Alexi Dimond, the local councillor for Gleadless Valley ward, opened the event, he spoke very movingly about the importance of striving for justice for all refugees.

We were delighted that SPBR raised £4200 this year, half of which went to the Scholarship Fund and half to children's projects in Gaza. This was a little less than in the last couple of years, because there are more expenses when you run an event in person but bringing people

together of all ages and experiences – and doing so in tandem with linked activities in Palestine – definitely makes SPBR the very special event it is.

The day opened with Sheffield Extinction Rebellion Samba band, which played as its members walked round a first lap of the park. They were joined by Musheir, Chair of Sheffield PSC, a long-time resident of Sheffield whose homeland is in Khan Younis, Gaza. Musheir and a few others started their run from the city centre, raising the Palestine flag along the way, and they arrived in the park just on time at midday. This year we paid tribute to Musheir's youngest son, Qayis, a much loved and admired young activist, who died in the autumn of 2021. The Never Stop Dreaming Children's Centre in Gaza has been renamed the Qayis Healing Centre in his honour.



It was a wonderful weekend. There were cups of tea and delicious cakes in the beautiful walled garden, an exhibition and a film about Palestinian refugees. The lanterns that lit the route through the woods during the night were magnificent as was the singing from several choirs. There was also great music along the route during Buskers' Hour. Kites were flown from the top of THE HILL, famous now with runners, and walkers – because it is so steep!

The Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards, congratulated the runners, especially the two amazing runners who kept going for the whole 24 hours. She also congratulated the children who ran the one-lap Fun Run and all those who ran in Palestine. Sheffield's Lord Mayor has attended every year and we'd like to pay tribute to Councillor Anne Murphy, who was at the first SPBR in 2017. Anne, who sadly died just before Christmas, had been a councillor in the city from 2014 and she was a great supporter of the Scholarship Fund.



Before the Fun Run, the Lord Mayor joined in our usual live link up with Gaza. Although technically challenging (the electricity supply in Gaza is very uncertain), this – as always – was a brilliant way to be in touch with our friends and those doing parallel running events in Gaza.

In 2023 SPBR will be held on 17-18 June. Everyone is very welcome to come along. For more information see: <http://spbr.sheffieldpsc.org.uk/>

Caroline Poland



A BIG thank you

In July 2022 we sent **£32,000** to Gaza to cover scholarships (this sum included a 5% admin fee to Afaq Jadeeda) and **£5,000** to the West Bank (this covered **7** scholarships – we pay no admin fee in the West Bank). We are very grateful to everyone whose generosity made this possible, including:

- ✚ All those who have maintained or taken out a standing order. These regular donations are the backbone of the Fund and enable us to plan ahead.

If you're a Fund supporter, and in a position to do so, would you consider leaving money to the Scholarship Fund in your will? The legacies and large donations we've received in recent years have transformed what the Fund has been able to do. In particular they enabled us to develop a scholarship programme in the West Bank. We'd love to continue to award greater numbers of scholarships in both Gaza and the West Bank, but we will need more significant donations to be able to do so.

- ✚ Our supporters in Bolton, Saddleworth, Rotherham and the Derbyshire Dales.

- ✚ Anyone who has made a one-off or annual donation.

- ✚ The anonymous supporter who bequeathed the Fund £10,000.

- ✚ Sara Gowen, the Fund's

Secretary, who trained to swim a mile across Lake Windermere as part of the Great North Swim in June 2022. Disappointingly, the Swim was cancelled due to high winds but Sara, and a band of swimming friends, swam a mile in a river in the Peak District in July, raising over £2000 for the Fund.



Sara Gowen, 3rd from right, swimming to raise money for the Scholarship Fund

- ✚ Everyone who took part in the **Small Park BIG RUN** in June 2022. See page 14-15 for more details and <https://en-gb.facebook.com/smallparkbigrun/>
- ✚ All the organisations that support the Fund, including Wooldale Quakers. *If you're in an organisation and would like someone from the Scholarship Fund to speak at a meeting, please get in touch.*
- ✚ Maggie Norman for selling cards on her Stall Over the Wall in Grindleford.



Thinking of raising sponsorship for the Scholarship Fund?

We are now registered on the fundraising platform **Give As You Live**. It's very easy. You can set up a fundraising page, or simply donate. Go to <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/sheffield-palestine-womens-scholarship-fund/1133499/0>

How the Fund works

The Fund is managed in Sheffield by a small coalition of women working in partnership with the Sheffield Palestine Solidarity Campaign, and in Gaza by a panel drawn from the Board of Directors of the Red Crescent Society and the Union of Health Work Committees, with administrative support from Afaq Jadeeda. In West Bank we work with a committee of women, all of whom are active around women's education and employment. We route our payments for scholarships in the West Bank through the Teachers Creativity Centre based in Ramallah.

In Gaza candidates for scholarships are nominated by their local community centre and are either ready to enter university or are in the first or second year of a course but unable to continue for financial reasons. There are strict selection criteria for the Scholarship Fund, which include having attained 65% or above in high school grades, socio-economic background, commitment to the community, and personal and family circumstances such as a recent home demolition, or war injuries.

Our partners in the West Bank have adapted these criteria for their own student selection process and, as in Gaza, they keep in contact with the scholarship students and help them overcome problems in completing their courses, i.e. not being able to afford transport, books, equipment etc. Our partners can sometimes access other small amounts of funding to cover these additional costs.

In Britain the Fund's supporters make donations or monthly contributions through a standing order and/or by organising or taking part in fundraising events. Any contribution is much appreciated. Standing orders are particularly welcome as they enable us to estimate our income more accurately and to plan.



The Fund's organising group

How to contact us

You can contact the Scholarship Fund on sheffieldpwsf@yahoo.co.uk or by writing to SPWSF, 124 Clifffield Road, Sheffield S8 9DN.

If you wish to take out a standing order with your bank, our bank details are:
Yorkshire Bank, account name: Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund
Sort code: 05 08 68
Account number: 33288777
Reference: your name.

Please contact us if you do take out a standing order. In order for the Fund to claim back any tax you may have paid on your donation/standing order, can you please supply your name, address and postcode and indicate that you are a tax payer and wish the Fund to claim gift aid. Our charity number is 1133499.

Thank you for your support.