

# Kilsyth CHRONICLE

PRICE 45p

LIFE IS LOCAL

Part of the CUMBERNAULD NEWS  
& KILSYTH CHRONICLE SERIES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

www.kilsythchronicle.co.uk

## Muslims to hold peace conference

### Ahmadi sect aim to break down barriers of prejudice

**A MUSLIM sect is organising an event in Kilsyth in a bid to help break down the barriers of prejudice.**

Members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, which has the motto "Love For All, Hatred For None", will be hosting the event. Imam Ataul Majeed Rashid of the London Mosque will travel to Kilsyth for this occasion, and he will be joined by representatives from churches around the area. The theme of the conference is 'The Role Of Women in a Peaceful Society'.

"The purpose of this conference is to further understanding between all the

 Neil McGrory

neilm@jnsotland.co.uk

various groups in our community to promote peace and harmony through dialogue," said organiser Dr Ata Khalid, a research assistant at Glasgow University and a resident of Kirkintilloch.

#### Exhibition

Ahmadi Muslims from around the Glasgow area recently arranged an exhibition in Kilsyth Library and donated a number of books, including a copy of the Qur'an, to the library so that

anyone can learn more about their beliefs.

Dr Khalid added: "People are shy around us because of the popular image in the media and that is why we are doing this. We want people to understand that we are ordinary people."

Giving an example of his beliefs, Dr Khalid spoke about the Ahmadi understanding of jihad, a word never far away from any report of terrorism.

"For us this is not about bombs and guns, but the internal struggle to make the correct moral choices and do the right thing. We reject violence in all its forms and believe that disputes can be resolved peacefully

through discussion and understanding."

Created in 1889, the Ahmadi sect was founded to promote Islamic moral and spiritual values. In the west it seeks to encourage religious tolerance and educate people about Islam to help rectify certain widespread misunderstandings and stereotypes.

The venue is Burngreen Hall on June 20. Doors open at 5pm. Attendees can simply turn up, but organisers request that people give advance notice via their website, [www.ama-scotland.info](http://www.ama-scotland.info).