

Minutes – The Cambridge Majlis, Michaelmas 2023-24

On the 1st of November 2023, we hosted the inspiring Suresh Singh, a.k.a the Cockney Sikh, in Hidden Rooms, as part of the series of events under the umbrella of arts and dissent. This event took the form of a Q&A hosted by Keirit Dosanjh, our Internal Vice President, followed by an open mic consisting of performances from the attendees.

During the Q&A, Suresh delved into his book “A Modest Living, Memoirs of a Cockney Sikh” and allowed all the audience members an insight into the details of his upbringing. One story that resonated with the audience especially was that of how his father started off in the East End. Going from sleeping in people’s doorways to getting a property of his own, Suresh’s father made sure to host all number of people in his home; to the extent that Suresh could proudly claim “ask anyone who stayed in the East End during my father’s time, I guarantee that they stayed at his house.”

For the open mic section of the event, performances took the form of poetry and singing, as a combination of originals and covers/recitations. The content of these performances ranged from the Trans experience in Cambridge to a Palestinian’s ode to their olive trees. These performances really embraced the themes of dissent and was an amazing opportunity for the audience to showcase their own dissent in an accepting community atmosphere. To end off the performances, Suresh gave us another extract of his book.

After the open mic ended and photos were done, I offered Suresh the opportunity to play the drums in Clare Cellars, and he gladly obliged. What followed was inarguably the most passionate performance to ever grace Cellars unannounced, rounding off the night with the punk spirit Suresh embodies in all aspects of his life.

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Socials officer, The Cambridge Majlis 2023-24