

Newsletter

November 2017

Keeping you up to date with
Hounslow Friends of Faith

Death of HFOF Patron Jagjiwan Singh

We were very sorry to hear of the death on 31st October 2017 of Hounslow Friends of Faith Patron Jagjiwan Singh Rihal. He was 87.

Jagjiwan worked actively for good relations between faiths for many years. He was an early member of the group which set up Hounslow Friends of Faith and supported the organisation as both chair and treasurer. He was active in interfaith circles at national level, serving for a time as Co-Chair of the Inter Faith Network for the UK.

Within the Sikh community he was a sponsor for the foundation of the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Alice Way in Hounslow, where he acted both as Chairman of Trustees and subsequently as President. He was involved with a number of local community groups, such as the Pensioners' Alliance among others and a school governor.

The funeral took place at the gurdwara on 7th November. We send our condolences to his widow Kuldeep Kaur and his family.

Inter Faith Week 2017

Inter Faith Week is marked across the UK each year in mid November with a wide range of activities, all designed to bring people of different faiths together and show the positive contribution faiths can make to society.

Below are some events open to the public taking place locally.

Women's Group 15th November

The HFOF Women's Group is holding a Bring and Share Food Evening for women on Wednesday 15th November. The event is hosted by the Ladies Section at Baitul Noor, Ahmadiyya Association Mission House, 327 Martindale Road, Hounslow TW4 7HG and starts at 7pm. Bring a small dish of food to share, sweet or savoury. We would love also to have the recipe!

Please note that as the meeting is on this occasion at a Muslim centre, please no dishes containing pork or ham, or, of course, alcohol.

The Bundle – An Asylum Seeker's Story 18th and 19th November

Based on the true story of a woman and her three young children, The Bundle follows Adilah's abuse and denial of human rights in Chechnya. Escaping her forced marriage she arrives in the UK, where she has to face the Home Office's 'hostile environment' with regard to asylum seekers and refugees.

The performance is at Brentford and Isleworth Quaker Meeting House, Quakers Lane, London Road, Isleworth TW7 5AZ. Running time is 65 minutes with tea and coffee after the show.

Tickets are free but must be booked via Eventbrite on www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-bundle-tickets-39141254546. Donations are requested for Refugees Welcome Hounslow, a project initiated by Hounslow Friends of Faith.

Inter Faith Celebration 18th November London Buddhist Vihara

Also on 18th November a celebration for Inter Faith Week takes place at the London Buddhist Vihara in Chiswick. The theme is 'Bringing Communities Together through Interfaith Dialogue'. The Vihara is in The Avenue, W4 1UD and the event starts at 4.30pm.

The Vihara recently marked Founder's Day in September, when a memorial lecture was given by Dr Elizabeth Harris entitled 'Early Buddhist pioneers bringing Buddhism to the West'.

Dr Harris, from the Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion, Birmingham University and Visiting Professor, Department of Theology, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Liverpool Hope has researched the encounter between Buddhism in Sri Lanka and the West for many years.

Younghusband Lecture 16th November Rehumanising Public Space?

An event in central London which may be of interest is the annual Younghusband Lecture, organised by the World Congress of Faiths. It is being given from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Thursday 16 November at the Montagu Centre, 21 Maple Street, London W1T 4BE.

Professor Chris Baker of Goldsmiths University and Director of Research at the William Temple Foundation will discuss the contribution a renewed interest in religion and spirituality gives to political and civic regeneration. Rabbi Tony Bayfield, Professor of Jewish Theology and Thought at Leo Baeck College will reply, followed by buzz groups for sharing ideas among the audience.

The event is free, with a retiring collection for the work of the Congress. To register your place, please go to www.wcf-yhl2017.eventbrite.co.uk

Other events

The Remembrance Day Service at Richmond Synagogue on Saturday 11th November will have contributions from a range of faith traditions.

Hounslow faith representatives on Richmond Interfaith Forum and Richmond SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) will be attending the Mayor of Richmond's Tea Party to mark Inter Faith Week at York House on 13th November.

There will also be special events to mark the week at schools and colleges and places of worship. Students at West Thames College will have a variety of activities specially chosen to highlight the week. At the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha the children will be sharing the story of Guru Nanak and his Hindu and Muslim disciples.

The aims of Inter Faith Week are to increase awareness of the different faith communities in the UK and celebrate the contribution their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society. It is also an opportunity to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs. These events all play their part in achieving this.

Refugees Welcome Hounslow arrivals

By the time you read this the first family with children is due to have arrived with another coming later this month. A group of volunteers has been busy preparing the house. Thank you to all those who have donated money and

goods. No more items are needed for the moment, but may be later when new families arrive.

Refugees Welcome Hounslow is now an independent association with two trustees nominated by HFOF. A bank account has now been opened. If you would like to make a financial contribution towards a few new things for the new arrivals or for the work generally please let our treasurer know on treasurer.rwh@gmail.com.

Meanwhile there is still a need for offers of two bedroomed properties which could be rented for up to two years. Experience suggests that as no agent's fees are involved and void costs are covered, this need not be a costly offer for landlords. To find out more, email Refugees Welcome Hounslow on refugeeswelcomehounslow@gmail.com.

Bicentenary of the Birth of the founder of the Bahá'í faith

The bicentenary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í religion was celebrated locally and nationally on 22nd October. Members of different faiths joined local Baha'is at Isleworth Public Hall for an evening of colour, music and story about the Baha'í community. This was followed by a magnificent buffet supper.

Celebratory events were also held at the Houses of Parliament and in many other centres across the UK.

Deputy Lieutenant visits mosque

Maria Pedro, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Hounslow recently visited Hounslow Jamia Masjid in Wellington Road where she met General Secretary Shafiq Rehman, Imam Rafique and other

senior representatives. She was able to see the progress of the new extension which should be fully completed next year. The masjid has recently been registered for civil weddings and the first ceremony takes place this month.

A report of the visit with a photo can be found on the Lieutenancy website here: <http://greaterlondonlieutenancy.com/boroughs/hounslow>.

Consultation on Borough Future

The Hounslow Together Board, the local strategic partnership board of public, private and voluntary sector organisations, is refreshing the long-term, overarching partnership strategy for the borough, the Future Borough Strategy.

Below are links to the three summary papers created to stimulate discussion on these issues:

- [Paper 1 People based outcomes.docx](#) ([open link](#))
- [Paper 2 Place based outcomes final.docx](#) ([open link](#))
- [Paper 3 Relationship Outcomes.docx](#) ([open link](#))

Each paper looks at current data and information, future trends and the potential impact of factors such as Brexit and changing technologies. A programme of public workshops is being held across the borough to plan for Hounslow's future and decide on priorities for the next 10 to 20 years. These events are open to all. Register via Eventbrite online or by email: hounslowtogether@hounslow.gov.uk.

Date: Monday 20th November, 6.30pm
Location: Feltham Assembly Hall, Feltham Park, Hounslow Road, Hounslow, TW14 9DN. Eventbrite registration: [Feltham FBS Workshop registration](#)

Date: Tuesday 21st November, 6.30pm
Location: Isleworth Public Hall, South Street, Hounslow, TW7 7BG

Eventbrite registration: [Isleworth FBS Workshop Registration](#)

Date: Wednesday 22nd November, 6.30pm
Location: Montague Public Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, TW3 1LD
Eventbrite registration: [Central FBS Workshop Registration](#)

Date: Monday 27th November, 6.30pm
Location: Heston Community School, Heston Road, Heston, Hounslow, TW5 0QR
Eventbrite registration: [Heston FBS Workshop Registration](#)

Date: Wednesday 29th November, 6.30pm
Location: Chiswick School, Burlington Lane, Hounslow, W4 3UN
Eventbrite registration: [Chiswick FBS Workshop Registration](#)

For further information contact Iche Ahmadi on 0208 583 2416.

Hate Crime Awareness Week

A multi-faith event for diversity and against hate took place at Montague Hall in Hounslow during Hate Crime Awareness Week 16 – 20 October.

Hate crime is harassment and abuse, verbal, physical or online of people just for being who they are – whether because of their race, faith, gender, age or sexual orientation.

At the faith event there was information about hate crime and how to report it and reassurance from the police that all reports are followed up. Messages of support were given by Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh faith leaders.

Also during the week there was a pop-up stall highlighting LGBTQ hate crime at the Brentford Campus of the University of West London and a session at the Civic Centre led by Speak Out which works with people with learning difficulties. There were also stalls at

Barclays Bank and the Treaty Centre in Hounslow High Street.

Refugee Experiences – bringing communities together 21 November

The Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA) works with refugee communities to improve integration and provide valuable services and support networks. They run ESOL classes, specialist women support groups, a mentoring programme, after-school clubs for children, as well as offering free legal advice on a number of topics.

The group are running an evening of discussion and positivity on issues relevant to refugee women in the area. The takes place on Tuesday 21st November at Hounslow Arts Centre in the Treaty Centre TW3 1ES from 5 – 8pm. Book through Eventbrite on <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/refugee-experiences-bringing-communities-together-tickets-38764695247?aff=es2>

Afternoon Tea with Hounslow CCG

Are you a resident of Hounslow Borough? Have you or a relative received cancer treatment? You are invited to meet with Hounslow Clinical Commissioning Group on Wednesday 15th November from 2 to 4pm and share both good and bad experiences over afternoon tea. The venue is The Mulberry Centre, West Middlesex University Hospital, Twickenham Road, TW7 6AF. To find out more and to book a place (essential), contact Martha Flann on 020 8321 6304 or email martha.flann@themulberrycentre.co.uk.

For further information on these stories ring **020 8560 5887 or 07812 833635** info@hounslowfriendsoffaiht.org www.hounslowfriendsoffaiht.org or follow us on Facebook.