

Newsletter

January 2018

**Keeping you up to date with
Hounslow Friends of Faith**

Best wishes to everyone for a safe, prosperous and peaceful 2018. Welcome to the January newsletter. It contains news of some current events, consultations and advice about funding which I hope will be of interest.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Monday 29th January 10.30am

Holocaust Memorial Day is being observed in the borough this year on Monday 29th January. It is an opportunity for us all, members of all faith communities and concerned citizens generally to remember and be seen to stand up against hatred and intolerance and for a united society. It takes place at the Green School for Girls, Busch Corner, London Road, Isleworth TW7 5BB from 10.30 to 12 with refreshments afterwards.

The school is well served by buses, E8, 235, 237, 267, H28. There is no parking on the school site, but there may be some in surrounding streets. The nearest is Quakers Lane.

The speaker at this important civic event this year is Michael Brown who came to Britain as a child on the Kindertransport. If you hope to attend, please RSVP to tim.durrant@hounslow.gov.uk

Michael is also giving a fuller talk about his life, at Chiswick Library the previous week on 22nd January 6.30 – 8.30pm.

Women's Group 20th January and 28th February

The HFOF Women's Group has planned two events for January and February. On Saturday 20th January at 4pm the group is meeting in the new Community Hall at the Hounslow Jamia Masjid in Wellington Road in Hounslow TW4 5HU. The topic will be 'Loneliness, let's tackle it together'. Come and share your experiences and ideas.

On Wednesday 28th February at 6.30pm Superintendent Shabnam Chaudhri, Faith & Partnership Lead at New Scotland Yard, will be talking about her career in policing. This event will take place at the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Alice Way in Hounslow TW3 3UA.

Steward Training for Public Events

Many religious occasions are marked by a public event such as a procession or fair. In a change to past practice due to cutbacks, the police are no longer able to provide support for such events in terms of arranging road closures and routine stewarding. Organisations planning such events must make their own arrangements which can be very costly. Examples include parades for Remembrance Day, Good Friday Walks of Witness (should they be big enough to require a road closure), the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi, Ganesh processions or large Eid celebrations. This applies also to public demonstrations on political issues.

A way of dealing with this is for groups to train their own members as stewards. With accreditation, they would have the authority to close roads and divert traffic for the duration of the event and once trained, could offer their services to other organisations.

Our colleagues at the Sikh gurdwara in Alice Way in Hounslow have taken the initiative and have arranged a training day on Saturday 3rd February from 10 – 5pm. Refreshments will be served. The address is Sri Gurdwara Singh Sabha, Alice Way, Hanworth Road, Hounslow TW3 3UA.

If you are interested in this training, please email Satwinder Ahdan on spsa@sgss.org.

Visit My Mosque Sunday 18th February

[#VisitMyMosque](#) day is back! On Sunday 18th February participating mosques up and down the country will be opening their doors to the public, all on the same day. Last year 150 took part.

So far two mosques in the borough are joining in. Hounslow Jamia Masjid in Wellington Road TW4 5HU will be open. The centre now has a new Community Hall and great plans for its use for various community initiatives. In addition there will be the opportunity to see the prayer hall and find out about Islam.

The other mosque opening on 18th February is HIRA, the Hounslow Islamic Relief Association, 102 Hounslow Road, Feltham TW14 0AX. Here visitors can see the centre and a display, and ask questions.

Both centres are open from 1pm to 6pm and both will serve refreshments. Just come along, no need to book. To find other mosques taking part see www.visitmymosque.org/find

Consultation on Organ Donation

50,000 people are alive in the UK today thanks to the work of surgeons and the extraordinary selflessness of organ

donors. 80% of people say they would be willing to donate their organs but only 36% register to become an organ donor.

In December the Government launched a consultation into 'opt-out' organ donation system, in a bid to save the lives of the 6,500 people currently waiting for a transplant. It offers a valuable opportunity for the public to have their say on how we can improve the current system, and any impact it may have on people of different faiths.

Every day, three people die for want of a transplant, which is why plans to transform the way organ donation works are so important. Have your say <https://engage.dh.gov.uk/organdonation/> by 6th March.

Refugees Welcome Hounslow update

Three households originally from Syria have now arrived in Hounslow and are settling gratefully into their new homes with the support of a committed band of volunteers. Three more small households are expected soon.

Thank you to all those who paid for items via an Amazon wish list and for all those who donated money at the Carols in the Park in Brentford just before Christmas.

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.

As soon as further two bedroomed properties for rent can be found we should soon reach Hounslow's target of accepting 10 families from that war torn area. Experience suggests that as no agent's fees are involved and rent is covered before the family arrives, this need not be a costly offer for landlords.

To find out more, email Refugees Welcome Hounslow on refugeeswelcomehounslow@gmail.com.

Faith Consultative Group Thursday 15th February

Faith and Community Engagement Officer Sgt Dave Turtle is convening the next Faith Consultative Group on the evening of Thursday 15th February 7pm for 7.30pm at Hounslow Jamia Masjid, Wellington Road South TW4 5HU. All faith groups are encouraged to send a representative.

There will be a presentation from Twm Palmer Head of Contingency Planning and Resilience for the London Borough of Hounslow. Twm will be speaking about how faith groups can assist with emergency planning. The catastrophic fire at Grenfell Tower last June has shown how coordination of the relief effort for any disaster is key.

For further information about this event, contact Dave on 07818 640577 or email Dave.C.Turtle@met.pnn.police.uk. Twm can be contacted on 0795 779 3813 Twm.Palmer@Hounslow.gov.uk

Responding to Knife Crime

Across London generally there has been an unfortunate increase in knife crime resulting in serious injury and even deaths. Police are tackling this and would appreciate help to understand the impact that this may have had on communities locally. As part of the Community Engagement Team, Bridget Ford is monitoring any community tensions as a result of this increase.

Bridget would like to hear from faith communities about knife crime and its impact. This will help police allocate the

right resources and plan a suitable campaign to tackle the problem and reduce the number of violent incidents involving knives.

Please contact Bridget by email Bridget.ford@met.pnn.police.uk mobile 07900770757

Mental Health – how Faith Communities can help

Mental health problems are surprisingly common. One in four of us is likely to visit our GP in connection with a mental health problem. Every faith community contains people who have experienced mental health problems either themselves, or within their family and friends.

An event is taking place on 15th February at City Hall, which aims to bring people of different faiths together to discuss mental health in faith communities. Titled 'Thrive Together' the event will focus on young people and young people's mental health. It will provide opportunities to hear what organisations are doing, and to meet people and share ideas. There will be useful learning for communities about what they can do. The details and registration are in the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thrive-together-tickets-41517521023>

There is also a significant and positive role which faith communities can play in the support of those with mental health problems – both within their own congregations and in the wider community. This stems from the position of faith groups as places of community, of meaning, and of connection. For some people, a place of worship may be a first point of contact and can act as a link and referral system to statutory mental health

services and other sources of support in the community.

Faith Action has compiled some practical ideas on how to make your place of worship and faith community more inclusive and supportive of those who are going through pressure with their mental health.

By signing up to the Friendly Places Pledge, a faith group makes a commitment to be a place which welcomes and supports those struggling with their mental health. Information is available to download on <http://www.faithaction.net/portal/our-projects/friendly-places/>. This contains the wording of the pledge along with a summary of tips for being a Friendly Place for Mental Health.

Funders Fair

Faith Communities – churches, gurdwaras, mandirs, mosques, temples who concentrate on the spiritual life of their members may not think of themselves as charities and voluntary groups, but of course they are both. There may well be small projects to help with social need which they would like to undertake if they had the money to do this. Faith leaders and trustees might therefore be interested in a Funders Fair being held on Tuesday 23rd January from 9.00am – 2.00pm at the Civic Centre in Hounslow. The event is organised by Hounslow Council's Community Partnership Unit.

This is a useful opportunity to meet some major funders and to get their expert advice on how to apply for funding for your organisation. There will be a range of specialist stalls providing information about their activities.

In addition to the Big Lottery Fund which some faiths may avoid because of concern about gambling, funding sources will include among others: City Bridge Trust, Heathrow Community Fund, Space Hive and Building a Stronger Britain Together.

Please book in advance to attend the event and reserve the workshops, one for each individual time slot.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hounslow-funders-fair-tickets-41451989015>

Festivals

Best wishes to all those celebrating festivals at this time of year. Below is a list of some of the major ones:

Most Sikhs mark the birthday of the 10th Guru Gobind Singh on 5th January.

6th and 7th January is celebrated as Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in the Orthodox Christian tradition.

18 – 25th January has been designated as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity when dialogue on unity is encouraged and on occasion there are shared services or prayers.

Buddhists will be marking Navam Full Moon Day on 3rd February.

13th February is Shrove Tuesday, the day before the six week period of Lent, a time of abstinence and prayer preceding Easter. In the Orthodox Church Lent begins on 19th February.

Festivals in early March include Purim on 1st (Jewish), Hola Mohalla on 2nd (Sikh) and Holi, on 3rd (Hindu).

For further information on these stories ring
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