

*People of faith, working together for harmony in Hounslow.*

We find communities in our home borough reflecting back upon months of reckoning with supremely detestable acts of terror, with climate change activism spilling out onto the streets of London, and so many other issues of unimaginable scale and that have recently refracted themselves into our lives with such poignance. Let us try to find the silver lining in these events, in not taking for granted, at least, the capacities and opportunities we have to build ever higher the tower of harmony and hope in Hounslow.

*“What all terrorists have in common is not religion but rather ignorance of religion.”* — King Mohammed VI of Morocco during the visit of Pope Francis to Morocco.

*“The world is indeed full of peril, and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair, and though in all lands love is now mingled with grief, it grows perhaps the greater.”* — J.R.R. Tolkien

8 May 2019

### **Metropolitan Police Firearms and Taser Engagement Team talk**

The Hounslow Friends of Faith Committee were invited to this presentation from the Police on the rationale behind taser use as opposed to other physical restraint methods, the statistics on their effectiveness, and community concerns about their use. As part of their transparency, accountability, and community engagement, the Police publish the taser usage data online, it can be accessed by following [this link](#) and [this other link](#).

Sunday 28 April 2019

### **Memorial service and gathering for Sri Lanka attack victims**



Hounslow Friends of Faith Committee members joined representatives from all backgrounds and belief groups gathered at [Ss Michael and St Martin Church on Bath Road](#) the Sunday afternoon following the tragic killings in Sri Lanka to mourn the loss of life and of peace. Seema Malhotra MP and the Hounslow Mayor Councillor Samia Chaudhary joined those addressing the congregation to pay tribute to those affected.

Speakers from the Sri Lankan Muslim, Sri Lankan Christian, Sri Lankan Buddhist, and Hounslow Christian communities touched upon the hope for future peace and reconciliation both on that island, this island, and for the Sri Lankan diaspora globally.

*Thursday 2 May 2019*

### **Interfaith forum: end of life care — life after death**

At the Education Centre at [West Middlesex University Hospital](#), a thirty-strong multifaith group gathered to consider this most sensitive and sobering of subjects from both personal and social aspects.

The event was chaired by the Revd Michael Sserunkuma, senior hospital chaplain, who was joined by Dr Callum Chapman, consultant cardiologist, and the Revd Sebastian Mani from the hospital chaplaincy team. The need to normalise talking about death and dying emerged as a key theme of the forum. It was noticeable that most participants left to go home with a smile on their face, thanks mainly to Revd Sserunkuma's inspirational summary.

*Every Thursday and Saturday*

### **Free youth boxing classes in TW4**

The Barry McGuigan Boxing Academy, in partnership with Places for People, is running free boxing classes for youth between 10 and 16 years of age, from 6pm on Thursdays and 11:30am on Saturdays, at the HUB Community Centre, 93 Salisbury Road, TW4 7NW.

Professional coaches will be on hand to help guide students. This is a great opportunity to have more energy in your daily life, sleep better, feel fitter, and make new friends.

A vital reminder that community-building doesn't merely have to be a sedentary, intellectual pursuit. How many friendships have martial arts forged between people that would otherwise never have met each other?

Those wishing to register interest or make

further enquiries should email [info@thebmba.org](mailto:info@thebmba.org) or call 07988720175.

*13-19 May 2019*

### **Mental Health Awareness Week**

This annual series of events reminds us of the importance of inner peace and mental wellbeing. The theme for 2019 is body image — how people think and feel about their bodies.

Body image issues can affect anyone at any age. The Mental Health Foundation that is hosting this awareness week, will be publishing new research, considering some of the reasons why body image can impact the way that people feel, will be highlighting campaigns for change and publishing [practical tools and online resources](#).

*Wednesday 15 May 2019*

### **World Congress of Faiths — Annual General Meeting, talk on refugees and religious responses**

An invitation is extended to all, the event begins at 5pm at the The Buddhist Society at 58 Eccleston Square, Pimlico, London SW1V 1PH (close to Victoria station and tube).

After the AGM there will be refreshments at 6pm then at 6:30pm The Revd Bonnie Evans-Hills will present a talk entitled "Refugees and Religious Responses". The Revd has a strong history of involvement on these issues and is Coordinator of UK Coalition – Religions Working Together to Counter Hate Crime and Prevent Genocide. The event will finish by 8pm.

Those wishing to attend, or those with any

questions, should contact Tony Reese, Administrator for the World Congress of Faiths ([tony.reese@worldfaiths.org](mailto:tony.reese@worldfaiths.org), 01935 864055).

*Thursday 16 May 2019*

***XR (Extinction Rebellion) — saviours of the world or naive troublesome hippies?***

West London Humanists and Secularists, as part of their programme of monthly talks, are hosting XR member Lonan Jenkins, a storyteller, writer, teacher, and performer, at Ealing Quaker Meeting House on Woodville Road, Ealing, starting at 7:30pm.

All are invited to come along and find out more about exactly what XR is, what their members stand for, what their aims are and how they justify their tactics of mass civil disobedience with the global backdrop of concerning climate change predictions. Is XR just a passing fad or does it herald a fundamental shift in society's thinking?

Lonan is primarily focused on outreach, in engaging people not already involved in climate activism, and who are uncertain, or unaware, or unconvinced of the climate emergency our planet faces.

For more details, contact AJ ([aj.clhumanists@gmail.com](mailto:aj.clhumanists@gmail.com), 07500046605).

*19-26 May, 2 June 2019*

**Community roots — better green spaces through interfaith gardening**

At the Islamic Integration Centre, 531 Staines Road, Hounslow, TW4 5DP, young people from different faiths will be coming together for 3 days, from

11am to 5pm, to create a community garden for everyone to enjoy. This event is aimed at those aged 16-18. Those completing the 3-day programme will receive restaurant vouchers as an additional reward, in addition to developing their gardening skills, as well as access to further such free training opportunities.

Please contact Farah Mustakeem ([iicc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:iicc@hotmail.co.uk), 020 8570 7978) for further information.

This project is being led by the Faiths Forum for London, as part of the Mayor of London's Team London initiative.

*Thursday 23 May 2019*

**Transform a life — foster for Hounslow**

Foster Care Fortnight, beginning on 13 May, is the biggest awareness raising campaign in the UK for foster care. Run by the leading charity The Fostering Network, it is aimed at achieving the target of meeting the demand of over 8,000 new foster families in the next 12 months to care for children, including particularly children with vulnerabilities, and particularly those from minority ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds.

As part of this national drive, Hounslow Council is spreading the word and is inviting all community groups to do the same. The only key requirement to becoming a foster carer is having a spare room. A loving and caring environment with a roof over their heads is what these children desperately need. Advice and support for carers, including council tax relief, is available.

Those interested should come along to this informal introduction event between 7pm and 9pm in

Room 9, Floor 6, [Hounslow House](#). Many existing foster carers will be on hand to answer questions and concerns.

Further information can be found at [www.hounslow.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/fostering) and on 0800 731 8558.

*Tuesday 21 May 2019*

### **Young Londoners' Fund — support session (Hounslow groups)**

This free community projects training session is taking place between 10am-1pm in the [CAN Mezzanine at the Hounslow Treaty Centre](#).

The London Mayor has created this fund to help children and young adults, with £30 million having been made available for local community initiatives. So far there have been 179 projects with funding already awarded. These include activities ranging from theatre groups and employability training to football clubs and art sessions.

Registration should be made via [this link](#).

*Wednesday 5 June 2019*

### **Women and Girls Network therapeutic support sessions**

The Women and Girls Network charity has been commissioned to run these sessions every week for 6 weeks, with the first session on 5 June 10am-12:30pm at The Spot, Lampton Road, Hounslow, TW3 1JG. The deadline for referrals will be 29 May 2019. There will not be any crèche facilities available.

Referral arrangements, and any further information requests should be directed to [groups@wgn.org.uk](mailto:groups@wgn.org.uk), 020 7610 4678.

The network's website ([www.wgn.org.uk](http://www.wgn.org.uk)) has further details about advice phone lines, including for sexual violence.

*Friday 7 June 2019*

### **Hounslow Volunteers' Fair**

This annual event organised by the London Borough of Hounslow focuses this particular year on the unique contribution that volunteers make to their community.

It is free to attend, registration is kindly requested by using [this link](#). It will run from noon to 3pm at [Hounslow House](#), and there will be an awards ceremony to celebrate outstanding contributions from volunteers. The same link above can be used to contact the organisers in order to nominate someone for an award.

To book a stall at the fair for a particular voluntary organisation, joining other community organisations from across the borough, [this separate link](#) should be used.

*Saturday 22 June 2019*

### **Hounslow Friends of Faith Annual Walk of Peace and Friendship**

A series of visits to various places of worship in the borough to share stories and refreshments. The group will visit the Zoroastrian Centre on Hanworth Road, Feltham; the Sikh Gurdwara on Martindale Road, Hounslow; the Islamic Integration Community

Centre on Staines Road, Hounslow; and St Mary's Church of England in Bedfont.

The event programme will start at the Zoroastrian Centre at 11:15am.

*Wednesday 24 July 2019*

### **Hounslow Friends of Faith Annual General Meeting**

This will be held at 7pm at Hounslow House (the new Civic Centre). The guest speaker will be Maqsood Ahmed from Muslim Hands.

### **Paul Kennerley appointed as Deputy Lieutenant of Hounslow**

Paul Kennerley qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in the City of London and worked in the City 1971/2012. He has held many roles including Master 2008/9 Parish Clerks' Co, Honorary Ward Clerk and Parochial Church Council member for St Margaret Lothbury. He was in the Reserve Forces 1971/2009 attached to the London District and was Honorary Surveyor of the Guards' Chapel. He has been Governor of the London Nautical School and Emanuel School and a Trustee of various charities for clergy, education and the Jubilee Sailing Trust also Chairman of John Rice Charity. He enjoys ocean sailing, choral music and maintains a strong interest in world affairs and military matters.

Paul Kennerley arranged a meeting in April with members of the Hounslow Friends of Faith Committee and expressed his interest in and support of our group and its aims and asked to be kept informed of our activities.

**Best wishes to all those who will be observing these days of special significance at this time of year:**

*2 May 2019*

### **Last day of Ridvan**

Bahá'í celebration of the arrival of Bahá'u'lláh, the religion's founder, at a sacred garden.

*6 May to 4 June 2019*

### **Ramadan**

Ninth month on Islamic calendar, devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur'an. The event begins when authorities in Saudi Arabia sight the new moon of the 9th month. It is the holiest period of the Islamic Year. There is strict fasting from sunrise to sunset. The Muslim month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community spirit.

*23 May 2019*

### **Declaration of the Báb**

Bahá'í recognition of the declaration in 1844 by Ali Muhammad that he is the anticipated "Coming One" of all religions.

*5-7 June 2019*

### **Eid-ul-Fitr**

Islamic event marking the close of Ramadan. It is a festival of thanksgiving to Allah for enjoying the month of Ramadan. It involves wearing the finest clothing, offering prayers, and fostering understanding with other religions.

9-10 June 2019

**Shavuot**

Jewish celebration of Moses' descent from Mount Sinai with the ten commandments. Plants and flowers are used in decorations.

20 June 2019

**Corpus Christi**

Roman Catholic) celebration in recognition of the Eucharist - the Blessed Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. The real presence of the body and blood of Jesus is honoured.

29 June 2019

**Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh**

Bahá'í recollection of the death of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder. Observed by prayers and readings.

We provide [hyperlinks](#) to the relevant organisation/event web page in each case wherever possible, these should be checked for full details full details before attending/RSVPing to an event listed in this newsletter. This is especially important for respecting food, dress, and behaviour codes that differ between faith and belief traditions, and even between premises of the same faith and belief community.

The deadline for contributions to this two-monthly newsletter must reach the Editor by the 25th of the previous month. For instance, submissions for inclusion in the March - April newsletter must be received by 25 February. Deepest thanks and appreciation are extended to all volunteers and contributors of all backgrounds and beliefs in Hounslow and beyond, without whose tireless help the production of this newsletter to serve our community would not be possible.

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