

Newsletter ~ March/April 2019

Keeping you up to date with Hounslow Friends of Faith

Dates of Future Events and Activities

Wednesday 10th April 7pm for 7.30 – 9pm Mayor's Reception for HFOF members in the Mayor's Chambers in the Civic Centre in Lampton Road, Hounslow. The Mayor, Councillor Samia Chaudhary, wishes to hold a reception to thank members of HFOF for their support during her year of office particularly for helpful responses following terrorist attacks. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Thursday 2nd May an evening meeting on the subject *Is Death the End?* to be held at West Middlesex Hospital. It is hoped to have a panel made up of leaders of different faiths who will briefly explain their faith's teaching about what happens to an individual after death, with opportunities for Q&A's. Details tbc.

Saturday 22nd June HFOF Annual Walk of Peace and Friendship visiting various places of worship.

Wednesday 24th July HFOF AGM 7pm at Hounslow House (the new Civic Centre) speaker Maqsood Ahmed from Muslim Hands.

Other Dates for the Diary

Saturday 16th March 2 – 5pm Women's International Day All ladies welcome to share in celebrating the role of women in Islam, society and humanity at **Hounslow Jamia Masjid & Islamic Centre**. Guest speakers: Detective Superintendent Shabnam Chaudhry, Dr Shaheen Mughal, Councillor Adriana Gheorge and Journalist Faria from A1 Channel.

12th April – 3rd May Departures a photographic journey through the Islamic World at Asia House, 63 Cavendish Street, London, W1G 7LG 10am – 4pm Mon – Sun (closed for Easter 19 – 22 April)

Saturday 20th July Joint Services Open Day at Bedfont Lakes.

Some Past Events and Activities

Sacré Annual Lecture

On **17th January** 7pm in the Civic Centre Council Chamber MP Seema Malhotra gave an excellent lecture on the subject of ***Religious Education and the rise of identity politics - how do we in Britain see ourselves as individuals and as a society?*** She gave as an illustration her own experiences of growing up as part of a minority culture in the borough which caused her to feel isolated at times. The September 2018 Commission on Religious Education recommended that all state schools teach religion and world views. There is a need for religious literacy for both children and adults and the encouragement of a national identity. Sacré encourages respect for other faiths. The situation in Britain varies in different regions and changes occur over time. The problem of hate and religious hate crimes has to be tackled and bridges built. HFOF helps by giving opportunities for bringing people together and celebrating diversity.

Holocaust Memorial Event

This meeting was held on Monday 28th January 4.30pm at Heathlands School led by Rev'd Richard Frank in the presence of the Mayor. The guest speaker was Professor Philip Spencer who has studied and written about genocide. Those present were challenged to be vigilant in order to prevent such a genocide from happening in our time as it depends on us all. Everyone has the ability to choose between good and evil and knows what can happen if no one acts. We are all bystanders and so pressure must be put on government for action for once a crime against a group has been committed it can happen again. Every attack affects humanity. Following the talk candles were lit in commemoration accompanied by piano music performed by a Heathlands pupil.

Interfaith Tree Planting to celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week

The interfaith tree planting project idea came from the Faiths Forum for London following the Mayor of London's offer of free trees for London. The purpose of such a tree planting event is:

- to bring together faith communities, organisations and wider members of the community to contribute to preserving the environment
- to portray a positive image of faith groups.

HFOF committee decided that it could be done as a celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week during the first week in February and so with the help of the Council and Lampton 360 a hawthorn sapling provided by the Faiths Forum was planted on Tuesday 5th February in Lampton Park, Hounslow by the Mayor of LB of Hounslow Cllr Samia Chaudhary. Twenty six people attended including representatives from the police service, Councillors, council staff and HFOF members. There were brief words and blessings from members of the Sikh, Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Brahma Kumaris traditions. Following the planting everyone was invited for a hot drink and biscuits in the Mayor's Parlour in the nearby Civic Centre.



5th February 2019 Tree Planting

Pathway to Peace Conference

Members of Hounslow Friends of Faith attended this interfaith event on Saturday 9th February which was organised by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association of Hounslow at the Baitul Wahid Mosque, Raleigh Way, Feltham. There were five speakers who shared on the theme *Pathway to Peace* representing Christianity: Reverend Sergy Diduck, Bhuddism: Lopen Tsering Wangdu, Sikhism: Barinder Sandhu, Islam: Imam Ayaz Mahmood Khan and Zoroastrianism: Ervad Jimmy Madon. It was interesting to hear from the different faith perspectives and note many similarities. Peace comes through the daily living out of the teachings of our faiths promoting justice, love and tolerance.

Visit My Mosque Sunday 3rd March HFOF was represented at the following mosques which opened their doors to the public: **Hounslow Jamia Masjid & Islamic Centre**, Wellington Road South, **Feltham Hira Centre** Hounslow Road, Feltham, **Islamic Integration Community Centre** Staines Road, Hounslow and the **Ahmadiyya Muslim Association** Baitul Wahid, Raleigh Way, Feltham.

Local News and Information

Metropolitan Police Independent Advisory Group seeking new members

The local Police Independent Advisory Group is looking for members from all backgrounds and walks of life to help improve the police services and community engagement. If you are interested please contact Detective Sergeant Neil Fotheringham on 07747630998 or Neil.H.Fotheringham@met.police.uk

'Partners for Health'

London Catalyst, the Hospital Saturday Fund and the Sir Halley Stewart Trust have come together to launch the 2019 **'Partners for Health' grant programme**. Registered charities in London can apply for grants of up to £10,000 for projects that will create positive outcomes for people facing significant barriers to health and wellbeing.

You can find more information, and the online application form, on the website at:

www.londoncatalyst.org.uk/grants The closing date for applications is 5.00pm on Thursday 23rd May 2019

Breaking Barriers is a small organisation which supports refugees into employment and education. Would you be interested in supporting the work as a volunteer?

At the end of March, [a new Delivery Centre in Hammersmith](#) is being launched, and volunteer recruits are being sought to provide 1:1 advice and guidance to refugee clients in this centre. Ideally candidates would have experience of working in London and would be able to share this knowledge with refugees from a range of countries. It is an inspirational and life-affirming volunteer role. It also gives volunteers the chance to develop mentoring and communication skills, and the chance to help somebody gain independence and change his or her life. The commitment is a couple of hours each week or fortnight.

Interested people are invited to attend the group screening induction event on **Wednesday 27th March at 10am**.

Anybody interested should email volunteer@breaking-barriers.co.uk

Or contact Sarah Collings 07741642321 **Breaking Barriers** *Volunteering Enquiries*

Meeting Room for Hounslow Carers Needed

A venue is being sought in the borough to hold daytime meetings for up to 25 people. These meetings are held every other month to provide space where unpaid carers can socialise with each other and try to resolve issues they are currently facing to help ease some of the stress they face day in and day out. Many of the carers are elderly themselves and so the venue needs to be as accessible as possible with parking and transport close by.

The meetings are being held in the Civic Centre but after the council moves in March there will no longer be room available. If you know of a suitable venue which can be offered free of charge please contact Jessica Tippen, Carers' Commissioner on JessicaTippen1@hounslow.gov.uk giving details of the venue, parking and transport available.

The Open Kitchen

If you know anyone struggling with food poverty the **Open Kitchen** at 514 Great West Road, Hounslow, TW5 0TE which was launched on 8th December by *Muslim Hands* is serving free hot meals twice every day, seven days a week: 12pm-2pm and 6pm-8pm. *Muslim Hands* is an international aid agency and NGO dedicated to providing emergency relief and tackling the root causes of poverty around the world reliant on voluntary donations. You can donate by calling 0115 9117222 or visiting <https://muslimhands.org.uk/>

To find out more about the **Open Kitchen** please contact Maqsood Ahmed on masqsood.ahmed@muslimhands.org.uk

Best wishes to all those who will be observing days of special significance:

- **Ash Wednesday 6th March** marks the beginning of 40 days of **Lent** for the Western Christian Church. It is a time of penitence and self-denial preparing for Easter.
- **Monday 11th March** is the first day of **Lent** for the Orthodox Christian Church.
- **Thursday 21st March** is the Jewish festival of **Purim** celebrating the saving of the Jewish community of Persia.
- **Thursday 21st March** is the Hindu spring festival of **Holi** lasting 1 – 5 days when revellers throw coloured powders and dyes over each other.
- **21st – 22nd March** is **Hola Mohalla** which is the Sikh alternative to Holi.
- **Sunday 31st March** is **Vaisakhi Nagar Kirtan** the Sikh Holy Procession from the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Alice Way to the Gurdwara Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha in Martindale Road. All faiths welcome to join in.
- **10th April – 27th April** (8 days) the **Jewish Passover** remembering the liberation of the Israelites and their Exodus from slavery in Egypt
- **Sunday 14th April Vaisakhi** the Sikh New Year remembering the founding of the Order of the Khalsa in 1699 by the tenth Guru, Gobind Singh.
- **Sunday 14th April** is **Rama Navami** a Hindu celebration of the birth of Rama.
- **Friday 19th April** is **Hanuman Jayanti** when Hindus commemorate the birth of Hanuman.
- **Sunday 21st April** is **Easter Sunday** (Orthodox Church 28th April) when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
- **6th May – 4th June Ramadan** the Muslim month of fasting.

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Please advise me of any religious festivals, special events or items of interest which you wish to be included in the next newsletter for May/June by **25th April**.

If you are receiving this newsletter as the named person from an organisation please circulate news within your group and do let me know if there is someone else to whom it should be sent.