

## Newsletter ~ April - May 2023

Keeping you up to date with Hounslow Friends of Faith

### Future Dates to note:

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July HFOF AGM at 6pm - guest speaker after the business:  
Mr Jeremy Rodell will share about *Humanism and Interfaith***

**It is hoped HFOF's Walk of Peace and Friendship can take place on  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August**

More details to follow nearer the time.

### Progress on the Interfaith Greening Project at Osterley Library gardens

Debbie Brenner writes:



The daffodils are out, in all their glory, planted by a group of interfaith volunteers on a chilly day in early January. The tulips are showing their buds and will be out soon. The bulbs were all donated by local garden centres and the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association.

There are also two wildflower areas, planted by the Council, which are starting to grow.

I am delighted HFOF has been awarded £1500 towards the project

from the Council's Neighbourhood Grant, which is part of Hounslow's Thriving Communities Fund. Thanks go to Tony Louki, the local Ward Councillor, who supported our application. The money will go towards buying two tons of compost, having new wooden planters made and rehabilitating fencing.

HFOF has been given a number of shrubs which will be planted as soon as the compost arrives, then more hardy plants will be bought to provide colour and interest.

The prunus tree planted in memory of Pat Trollope is now in bud so we look forward to seeing the blossom.

More news as the garden develops.

## Ramadan Mubarak to members of our Muslim Community

Fasting during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is one of the five pillars of Islam. Ramadan is considered the holiest month in the Islamic calendar as it is believed that the first verses of the Quran were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad during this month. Muslims all over the world observe Ramadan by fasting, praying, and engaging in acts of charity and kindness to all, regardless of faith.

Ramadan is a time for self-reflection and it is common to have a meal (known as the Suhoor) just before dawn and another (known as the Iftar) directly after sunset. At the end of the fast - when the sun has gone down - families and friends will get together for Iftar to break their fast. May all Muslims have a wonderful Ramadan and a delightful Eid when it comes.

Thanks to **Najeeb Ahmed**, Prevent Coordinator Hounslow Community Partnerships Unit for this information about Ramadan.



"Fasting is not only abstaining from eating and drinking. When you fast, your tongue must abstain from speaking lies, your hands and limbs must abstain from doing evil, your ears must abstain from listening to slander and gossip, and your eyes must abstain from seeing obscenity."

– Imam Ali

Copied from website of Hounslow Jamia Masjid

***Hounslow Friends of Faith* members and supporters are invited to share an Iftar meal on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April at Hounslow Jamia Masjid, Wellington Road South, TW4 5HU the evening will start at 7pm.**

**RSVP to Shafiq Rehman on 07791 802786 or [shafiq@adam-mercer.com](mailto:shafiq@adam-mercer.com)**

## Past Event:

### **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 6.30pm a Joint Interfaith Iftar was held at West Thames College organised by Hounslow Friends of Faith and the Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust**

Despite heavy rainfall about 45 people attended this event in Spring Grove House. This beautiful venue had been generously made available for the Iftar by West Thames College. Five Student Ambassadors from the college attended and assisted in welcoming and showing guests the way to the Music Room where the meeting took place. There was a strong media presence taking photos and filming the event.



The Mayor and Cllr Rajawat with the student Ambassadors and Barinder Sandhu, a governor of the college Zubair Awan, Joint Secretary of Hounslow Jamia Masjid and the host for the evening, gave a welcome and introduced each speaker and shared some of his reflections on the Ramadan fast month.

- Charanjit AjitSingh, Chair of *Hounslow Friends of Faith*, welcomed everyone on behalf of HFOF and spoke about HFOF. She joked that the Iftar meal to be served was probably unique being the vegan one in the country.
- The dignitaries present: The Mayor, Cllr Raghwinder Siddhu, the Leader of Hounslow Council, Cllr Shantanu Rajawat and MP Seema Malhotra each shared greetings and words of support for interfaith activities and reflections on the diversity of Hounslow and the Ramadan fast month.
- Michael Michaelides, Executive Director of Resources and Student Experience at West Thames College spoke about the benefits of the college being such a diverse community with over 100 languages spoken. A short film was shown which had been produced by students from West Thames. In the film three local places of worship: St John the Baptist Church of England, Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha and the Hounslow Jamia Masjid were visited and leaders and members interviewed. Charanjit AjitSingh, a governor of the college, had facilitated the making of this film.
- Rizwan Latif, Islamic Scholar and Founder Trustee of Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust spoke about Ramadan and reflected among other things that the Ramadan lights in Oxford Street give a sense of inclusive community. She shared a story about St Yunus which



demonstrated God the Creator's love, care and respect for all humans whether they had faith or not.



- Sadaf Javed, Trustee and Director of Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust, gave a brief outline of the extensive work of the Trust in 22 countries. There is eye screening and eye surgery, also support for the homeless, and in Care Homes, prisons and hospitals. Aid is given to people in disaster areas for example after the recent earthquake in Turkey. A short but comprehensive film was shown about the Trust. Those present were reminded that the Trust is locally based in Hounslow High Street. Those who are donors have the possibility of visiting projects.
- Shamama Latif, Trustee and Director of Al-Mustafa Trust, gave a vote of thanks to all the speakers and those attending.



Seated front row from the Left: Cllr Rajawat, MP Seema Malhotra, The Mayor, Cllr Raghwinder Siddhu, Abdulrazzaq Sajid, Ajit Singh & Cllr Afzaal Kiani

The meal was served in the Winter Garden Room, a glass domed conservatory, next to the Music Room. There was a room set aside for Muslims who wished to pray. The delicious vegan meal was supplied by Cha Chaz restaurant in Feltham courtesy of the Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust.

All who attended commented on the welcoming inclusive atmosphere and the beautiful surroundings.

## Mulberry Centre Bereavement Support



**The Mulberry Centre** based on the West Middx Hospital site has been commissioned to provide bereavement support for Hounslow residents for the next year. As well as counselling and financial advice the centre offers a range of exercise classes and wellbeing activities. For more information contact: [indra.wallace@themulberrycentre.co.uk](mailto:indra.wallace@themulberrycentre.co.uk) or [julie.quinn@themulberrycentre.co.uk](mailto:julie.quinn@themulberrycentre.co.uk)

The Mulberry Centre, as a Community Solutions' bereavement partner, will also be based on the ground floor of Hounslow House every **Friday morning from 10am – 1pm**, delivering support to residents. They can see people in a non-judgemental and confidential space to provide a holistic service including specialist counselling and welfare advice.

If you need support, come and see them or get in touch on **020 8321 6300** or via [talk@themulberrycentre.co.uk](mailto:talk@themulberrycentre.co.uk)

### Best wishes to all who will be observing days of special significance during April and May 2023

More information about Religious Festivals can be found on the Inter Faith Network UK's website under Resources: [www.interfaith.org.uk/resources](http://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources)

#### APRIL 2023

**2 (Sunday) to 8 (Saturday) Christian**

HOLY WEEK

**4 (Tuesday) Jain**

MAHAVIR JAYANTI

**5 (Wednesday) Hindu**

HANUMAN JAYANTI

## APRIL 2023

6 (Thursday) - 13 April (Thursday) Jewish	PESACH / PASSOVER
7 (Friday) Christian (Western Churches)	GOOD FRIDAY
9 (Sunday) Christian (Western Churches)	EASTER DAY
14 (Friday) Christian (Orthodox)	GOOD FRIDAY
14 (Friday) Sikh	VAISAKHI / BAISAKHI
16 (Sunday) Christian (Orthodox)	PASCHA / EASTER
18 (Tuesday) Jewish	YOM HA-SHOAH <i>Holocaust Day</i>
18 (Tuesday) Muslim	LAILAT-UL-QADR <i>Night of Power</i>
21 (Friday) Muslim	END OF RAMADAN
21 (Friday) - 2 May (Tuesday) Baha'i	RIDVAN
21 (Friday) Zoroastrian (Shenshai / Parsi)	ADAR MAH PARAB
22 (Saturday) Muslim	EID-UL-FITR

## MAY 2023

9 (Tuesday) Jewish	LAG B'OMER
19 (Friday) to 26 May (Friday) Buddhist	VESAKHA PUJA / WESAK
23 (Tuesday) Zoroastrian	ZARATOSHT NO DISO
24 (Wednesday) Baha'i	ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF THE BAB
26 (Friday) Buddhist	BUDDHA DAY / BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY
26 / 27 (Friday / Saturday) Jewish	SHAVUOT [The Feast of Weeks]
28 (Sunday) Christian (Western Churches)	PENTECOST
29 (Monday) Baha'i	ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASCENSION OF BAHA'U'LLAH

Anyone wishing to receive a personal copy of the HFOF newsletter by post or email please contact Barbara McIntivey on 07928345959 or [info@hounslowfriendsofffaith.org](mailto:info@hounslowfriendsofffaith.org)

If you are receiving this newsletter as the named person from an organisation please **circulate within your community**. The next newsletter will be issued at the beginning of June.